MADISON METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Thoreau Elementary

Grades: **4K - 5th Grade** | Enrollment: **404** | Staff: **67**

Madison West Attendance Area: Cherokee & Wright Middle Schools ▶ West High School

Join Thoreau Elementary School and become part of a thriving, supportive community dedicated to the success of every student!

Learn.

Thoreau Elementary proudly earned **3 stars – Meets Expectations** on the State Report Card!

Thoreau Elementary has a focus on academic excellence. Our school's **English Language Arts proficiency rate is nearly 67.6%**, and **Mathematics proficiency is over 69.7%**. Both of these **rates surpass state averages**.

We support diverse student groups by making efforts to address achievement gaps and support students with disabilities, English learners and economically disadvantaged students. These efforts contribute to a more equitable learning environment.

Belong.

Families feel a strong sense of connection, trust and engagement with teachers and staff. According to the 2023-24 Climate Survey:

- **90%** of students feel that staff and teachers are willing to help them
- **90%** of students have positive relationships with teachers
- **89%** student engagement
- **88%** of students feel they are treated fairly

Thrive.

Thoreau students leave with strong reading skills with the support of the Reading Fluency Tutoring Program and other reading initiatives. We offer numerous opportunities for students to build social and emotional skills through morning community-building meetings and various after-school clubs. These opportunities help students feel connected, confident and capable.

Students thrive through teacher and family collaboration, which supports academic and personal growth.

Start: 8:25 a.m.
Monday Early Release Dismissal: 2 p.m.
Dismissal: 3:20 p.m.

3870 Nakoma Rd., Madison, WI 53711
thoreau.madison.k12.wi.us

“Thoreau is truly a special place where students value learning and are kind to one another.”

– Emily Jensen, Principal

What Makes Thoreau Special
Thoreau’s dedication to literacy is one of the standout features of our school. With a strong emphasis on reading, staff use data-driven approaches to support students in becoming proficient readers. Our Reading Fluency Tutoring Program have made a significant impact, helping over 90% of students meet their fluency benchmarks. Our school’s focus on literacy ensures that every child is prepared for future academic challenges.

Inclusivity & Community Engagement
Thoreau’s commitment to inclusivity is evident in our daily practices. From morning meetings that encourage community building to after-school clubs that promote belonging, we foster an environment where every student feels valued. Families also play a vital role in supporting the school’s success, with events like science nights and school dances bringing the community together. This strong partnership between staff, students and families creates a positive and supportive atmosphere for all.

Partnerships for Student Success
Thoreau thrives due to its strong partnerships with local businesses and community organizations. These collaborations provide valuable resources, such as the Thoreau Food Market Program and summer reading initiatives, which ensure that students have the support they need inside and outside of the classroom. We work with organizations like Second Harvest to provide additional resources and opportunities for students, further enhancing their learning experience.

Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) is the place where your child will truly thrive. We welcome all children and foster a strong sense of belonging, ensuring every student feels valued and supported.

At MMSD, we believe in exploring a wide range of interests and providing opportunities that help students discover their passions, talents and unique potential. From arts to sciences, technology to sports, there’s something for every child to explore and grow!

We’re proud to have the support of our community, with newly renovated high schools, a new elementary school and 10 new buildings coming soon. These modern spaces create an environment for future-ready opportunities that will set your child up for success!

87%
Graduation Rate

43
National Merit Semifinalists (most in Wisconsin)

64%
of students graduate with some college credits

4,200
Advanced Placement Taken in 2025 with 80% scoring 3 or higher

12
State Championships for Career and Technical Student Organizations

190
WIAA Team State Championships (most in Wisconsin)