



It's personal

Names, not numbers

At Bel Air, teachers and staff get to know each of their students personally. That's a big reason why students feel connected to their school.

- 84 percent of families say their students feel connected to Mounds View Public Schools teachers.

Personalized instruction

Class sizes can be deceiving. While average homeroom class sizes can vary from 22 to 32 students depending on the grade level, students receive small group instruction every day in math and reading with group sizes of five to 15 students. Instruction is aligned to the same set of high standards, yet instructional approaches vary – because student learning needs vary.

Data-driven decisions

Every student's test scores and achievement data is stored in a comprehensive online database. Access to this timely information helps teachers tailor their daily instructional approach to match their students' individual needs and goals.

- Bel Air identifies specific students who are below proficiency and provides personalized intervention support while setting growth goals for all students.



It's challenging

Bel Air has earned a reputation for high expectations and outstanding achievement, along with the rest of Mounds View Public Schools.

- 98 percent of families say the District's challenging curriculum is important to them.
- The top three reasons why families choose Mounds View Public Schools are "quality teachers," "academic excellence," and "academic opportunities" that can't be found elsewhere.
- Bel Air's diligent focus on learning helps students achieve both academically and socially.

It's safe

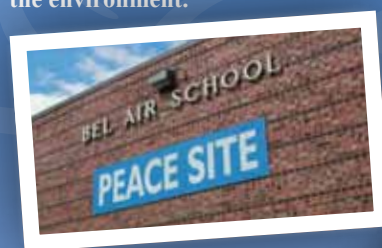
- A code of conduct requires respectful behavior from every student.
- In a recent Bel Air parent survey, 91 percent reported Bel Air provides a respectful and safe classroom environment.

It's a popular choice

There's never been a time when families had more school choices available than today. Yet year after year, Bel Air consistently enrolls 80 percent of the students in its attendance area – an impressive market share for a second-ring suburban school.

It's fun

Bel Air is a community of rich diversity, with students from numerous countries and cultures. The school is committed to promoting intercultural understanding and celebrating diversity. Bel Air is also an International Peace Site school requiring its students to uphold the principles of seeking peace within themselves and others, being a responsible citizen of the world, promoting intercultural understanding, celebrating diversity, reaching out in service and protecting the environment.



The Bel Air Experience

The program

Bel Air students are guided through a comprehensive program that focuses on:

- Reading
- Language Arts
- Math

Every student participates in unit studies courses which include:

- Spanish in grades four and five
- Social Studies
- Science

A carefully designed specialist program also provides abundant experiences in:

- Science Lab
- Art
- Media/Technology
- Music
- Physical Education

The curriculum is based on the District's learner outcomes which incorporate state and national academic standards. Teachers concentrate on skills-based lessons at all levels of learning and differentiate their instruction to meet the learning needs of each student.

Before- and after-school care

Bel Air offers fee-based before- and after-school care programs for students in kindergarten – fifth grade. The programs provide learning opportunities and enrichment activities year-round, with a full-day program available in the summer. In addition, students can participate in Elementary Targeted Services programs that offer a variety of after-school academic enrichment offerings.

Transportation

Mounds View provides free bus service for Bel Air students living two miles or more from their school. In addition, the District offers fee-based bus service within two miles, to accommodate parents' requests for transportation assistance.



Nutrition services

Bel Air teaches healthy eating habits by introducing students to a wide variety of food choices. Students can enjoy breakfast and lunch daily. All menus meet nutrition requirements established by the USDA. Families may apply to receive free or reduced-price meals based on need.

Kindergarten Plus

Kindergarten Plus is a full-day, fee-based program that can be chosen instead of a half-day kindergarten session. The class is taught by the same certified teacher to the same children every day of the week, and it is designed to reinforce the kindergarten curriculum already offered during half-day sessions. Sections of Kindergarten Plus are typically available if there is sufficient interest and if the projected Kindergarten Plus class size is approximately the same as class sizes in the half-day sessions.

BENEFIT

Orchestra and band

Unlike area non-public schools, Bel Air boasts an orchestra with instruction available to students in fourth and fifth grades. Band instruction begins in fifth grade. Each student receives one instrumental lesson during school and one group practice session each week before school.

BENEFIT

World Languages

In recognition of a global society, Bel Air provides Spanish instruction to all students in grades four and five. The World Languages program incorporates Spanish lessons into unit studies time during at least one quarter of each school year.



Choosing a public school brings benefits not always available in non-public school settings. Look for the "BENEFIT" icon indicating a benefit of attending Bel Air.



*Bel Air CARES: Cooperation,
Assertion, Responsibility,
Empathy and Self-control.*

Parent participation

Parents are encouraged to play an active role in their child's school experience. Bel Air offers many opportunities for parents to support learning. Several volunteer options are available, from classroom, clerical and IMC positions to school picture day volunteers, field trip chaperones and PTA involvement.

BENEFIT *Instructional technology*

The District is committed to implementing the technologies that best align with instructional needs. All schools have wireless internet access and all instructional spaces are equipped with ceiling-mounted LCD projectors. Specific technology tools available at Bel Air Elementary School include the following.

• **SMART Boards**

Visual and written lessons have moved to the front of Bel Air's classrooms with the introduction of SMART Board technology. Bel Air's multiple SMART Boards give teachers and students instant front-of-the-classroom access to the internet and bring worksheets, applications and images to life on a wall-mounted interactive board. These tools have increased student participation in group activities and lessons.

• **Mobile technology**

Bel Air brings laptop computers and wireless keyboards to every classroom via a mobile computer cart. Handheld devices including iPads and iPods are also available for classroom use.

• **READ 180**

This literacy technology tool helps Bel Air students read to the expectations of their grade-level. Microphone headsets are used for interactive computer lessons, and read-a-long audio book stations are incorporated with small-group instruction to individualize reading instruction.

BENEFIT *Communications*

Bel Air can deliver emergency notifications in a matter of minutes to all families in the event of a school closing or critical situation. The Mounds View Messaging system sends personalized voice mail and text messages to parents' phones and e-mail addresses simultaneously. Ongoing communications about District and school news and events is delivered to parents and subscribers regularly via paperless e-newsletters.

BENEFIT *The Laurentian experience*

A highlight of every year, Bel Air fifth-graders have the opportunity to attend a multi-day environmental learning experience at the District's Laurentian Environmental Center in the Superior National Forest in Northeastern Minnesota. Students participate in hands-on activities like navigation and mapping to learn science, math and environmental lessons. More importantly, students also learn leadership and problem-solving skills by participating in team-building missions amid acres of wilderness and diverse wildlife habitat.



Every student has different academic and social needs.

Bel Air realizes this, and provides a variety of services tailored to all students.

BENEFIT *Special education*

A full complement of mandated Special Education and related services are available for students with educational disabilities. The Special Education team is comprised of teachers licensed in Special Education, speech pathologist, school psychologist, school nurse, school occupational and physical therapist, adaptive physical education specialist, principal and others. Special Education includes services designed to meet the needs of children experiencing academic, social, emotional or behavioral needs.

BENEFIT *High performance*

Bel Air offers high performance (HP) learning groups in math and language arts. Teachers deliver instruction at a higher level of challenge, in greater depth and at a quicker pace than in the other instructional groups at the grade level. HP groups are part of the regular instructional program, and they occur during the literacy and math instructional blocks of time. HP groups typically are taught in grades two through five. Assessment is ongoing throughout the year, and changes in instructional groups are made based on student performance and adjustments.

Majority in the middle

All students receive individualized attention from Bel Air, not simply the at-risk students and the high performance groups. Bel Air ensures that students who fit into the "majority in the middle" receive the attention and guidance they need to make decisions regarding their secondary program and post-secondary options. Each student has a Personal Learning Plan created by staff who know their students personally and customized to their unique achievements and goals.

BENEFIT *Student support*

As a public school district, Mounds View can offer a variety of student support resources not available in non-public school settings. The District provides state-mandated services from birth to age 21 as well as in-school support services for school-age students. Services include: Title I, English Language Learning, Indian Education, developmental adapted physical education, speech and language services, psychological services, occupational/physical therapy, school health services, social work services, chemical health services and emotional-behavior disorder education.

Summer school

Mounds View Public Schools offers a variety of summer learning opportunities for students in grades two – 12. Basic academic skill classes are offered to students who can benefit from additional academic support. This program accepts students based on teacher recommendations. A summer academic enrichment program is available to students in grades two – eight. Instrumental music lessons are also offered to students in the band or orchestra programs.

Bel Air facts

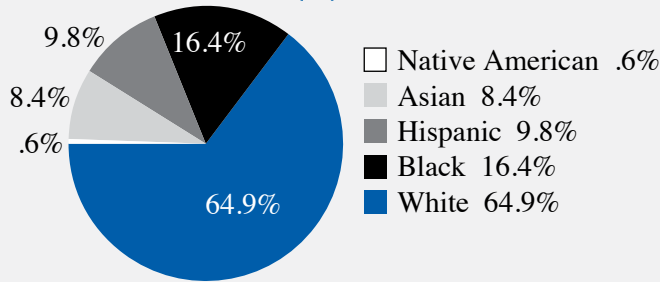


Principal: Sheila Eller
 sheila.eller@moundsviewschools.org
Grades: K-5
Total enrollment: 726
School hours: 8:45 a.m. – 3:25 p.m.
Office hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Bel Air at a glance

Average daily attendance
 96.0%

Diversity of student population



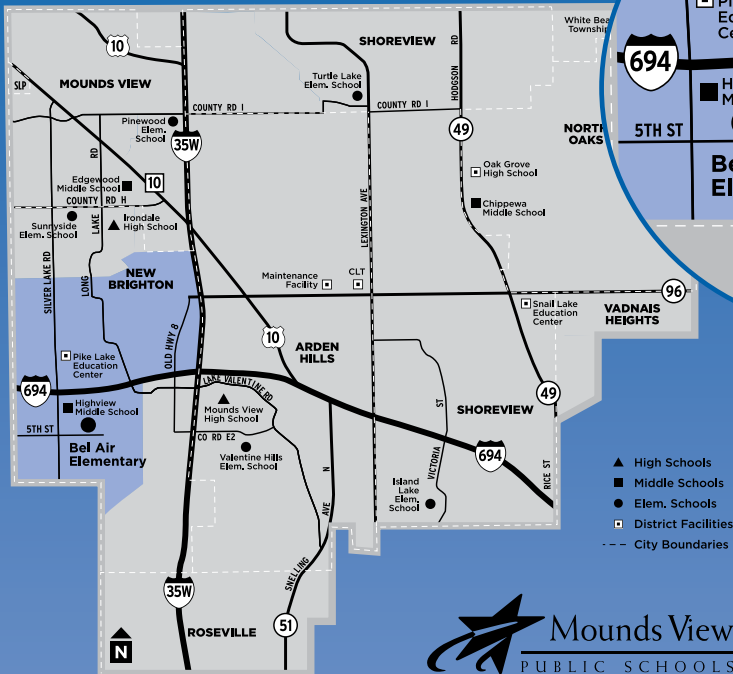
Students eligible for free or reduced price lunch
 39.7%

Students receiving special services

Special education 7.3%
 Title I 7.6%
 English as a second language 12.5%

Data compiled from the 2010-2011 school year.
 Published: November 2011

Bel Air attendance area



Educational path

Bel Air Elementary
 Highview Middle School
 Irondale High School

Mounds View Public Schools

Bel Air is a member of Mounds View Public Schools, a school district of more than 9,500 students whose test scores routinely rank in the Top 10 of metro districts. Mounds View matches the performance and opportunities of area private schools, yet offers the value of public schools. Mounds View Public Schools: 651-621-6000.

How to enroll

Each year, Mounds View Public Schools enrolls hundreds of new students at all grade levels. Bel Air welcomes students in its attendance area which includes New Brighton and Arden Hills. To enroll at Bel Air, District residents can call 651-621-6300. Non-residents can inquire about openings at 651-621-6013.

Assessments Results

Assessment Year: 2010-2011

District Northwest Evaluation Association: Measures of Academic Progress Reading

RIT	K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
School Median	160	180	195	207	212	218
National Median	155	173	190	200	207	212

District Northwest Evaluation Association: Measures of Academic Progress Math

RIT	K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
School Median	164	184	199	215	223	230
National Median	158	178	191	203	211	220

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment: MCA Scale Score

	Gr. 3 Reading	Gr. 3 Math	Gr. 4 Reading	Gr. 4 Math	Gr. 5 Reading	Gr. 5 Math
School Average	367.0	360.5	457.5	456.7	569.2	549.4
State Average	364.3	356.9	458.7	456.3	560.3	550.0

To compare Bel Air's performance with other schools in Minnesota visit <http://education.state.mn.us>