

January & February 2021

Alexander Elementary

The Voice of the Tiger

5602 N. Lois Avenue , Tampa, FL 33614

(813)872-5395



A Message from the Administration:

Dear Alexander Families,

Unless we take time to remember our own learning challenges, we tend to forget that all beginnings are difficult. Adults tend to forget this fact because they do not continually challenge themselves with new learning as often as they should. However, children face the introduction of new skills at a constant pace.

With testing under way, it is important that we continue to encourage our students. Parents and children, alike, feel the pressures of testing, however, there are ways that you can downgrade the stressors. We must be very careful in the way we encourage children to attempt tasks.

Always remember the following few suggestions, especially during testing:

Eat a hearty breakfast. We provide a free universal breakfast to ALL students here at school.

Come to school every day and on time. This way the student does not feel rushed and disorganized.

Get plenty of sleep. On average, a child needs between 8-10 hours of sleep each night.

Students and teachers have been preparing diligently for testing. I am confident that the students will perform to the best of their ability, for we are the Tigers and we will prevail! GO TIGERS!

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

Electronic Devices— Students are not permitted to have any electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, smartphones, and smartwatches, at any time during testing OR during breaks (e.g., restroom), even if they are turned off or students do not use them. If your student is found with an electronic device, his or her test will be invalidated.

Calculators— Calculators are not allowed. If your student is found with a calculator, his/her test will be invalidated.

Testing Rules Acknowledgment— All FSA tests include a Testing Rules Acknowledgment printed in the student's test and answer book that reads, "I understand the testing rules that were just read to me. If I do not follow these rules, my test score may be invalidated." Prior to testing, test administrators read the rules to students, and students acknowledge that they understand the testing rules by signing below the statement in their test and answer book.

Discussing Test Content after Testing— the last portion of the testing rules read to students before they sign below the Testing Rules Acknowledgment states, "Because the content in all statewide assessments is secure, you may not discuss or reveal details about the passages or items after the test. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting online, for example, on websites like Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram." Please make sure your student understands that "discussing" test content includes any kind of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting to blogs or social media websites. While students may not share information about secure test content after testing, this policy is not intended to prevent students from discussing their testing experiences with their parents/families.

Working Independently— Students are responsible for doing their own work during the test and for protecting their answers from being seen by others. If students are caught cheating during testing, their tests will be invalidated. FDOE employs a test security company, Caveon Test Security, to analyze student test results to detect unusually similar answer patterns. Student test within a school that are found to have extremely similar answer patterns will have their results invalidated.

Leaving Campus— If your student begins a test session and leaves campus before completing it (for lunch, an appointment or illness, etc.), he or she WILL NOT be allowed to complete that test session. If your student does not feel well on the day of testing, it may be best for him or her to wait and be tested on a make-up day. Please remember not to schedule appointments on testing days.

Testing Accommodations— If your student has an IEP or Section 504 plan, please contact the school to discuss the testing accommodations that will be provided for your student.

Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging them to do their best during this test administration.

Kristina M. Álvarez

Thesha N. García

UNIFORM POLICY

In the spring of last school year, Alexander parents voted, with an overwhelming majority, for mandatory school uniforms. Please note that your child **MUST** wear a red, white, or navy blue collared polo shirt with black, navy, or khaki pants (or jumpers/skirts for girls). If your child is out of dress code compliance, you are required to complete the Uniform Waiver and meet with the school administrator to discuss this. Please understand that in order to attend

Upcoming Dates

March 2021

3/8	No School
3/9-3/12	Dental Sealants (Gr. 2 & 3)
3/15-3/19	Spring Break
3/25	Chick-Fil-A Night
3/26	End of 3rd Grading Period

April 2021

4/2	No School
4/6-4/7	FSA (Gr. 3, 4, & 5)
4/16	Spring Pictures
4/19	Report Cards released
4/29	Chick-Fil-A Night



Mark Your Calendars for Required Spring Testing!

April 6-7	Gr. 3 Reading
April 6	Gr. 4 & 5 Writing
May 3-4	Gr. 4 & 5 Reading
May 5-6	Gr. 3, 4, & 5 Math
May 12-13	Gr. 5 Science



All students (including eLearners) are required to take state tests on-site on the dates listed above. Please do not make travel plans during this time.

A Message from the Administration:



Estimadas familias de Alexander,

A menos que nos tomemos el tiempo para acordarnos de nuestros propios desafíos al aprender, tendemos a olvidar que todos los comienzos son difíciles. Los adultos tienden a olvidarse de este hecho puesto que no se imponen retos de aprendizaje tanto como debieran. Sin embargo, los niños se enfrentan a la introducción de nuevas cosas que aprender constantemente.

Ahora que se están llevando a cabo las pruebas, es importante que continuemos impulsando a los estudiantes. Tanto padres como hijos sienten la presión de los exámenes. Sin embargo existen formas de reducir la tensión nerviosa. Debemos que ser muy cuidadosos en la forma en que impulsamos a los niños a que se enfrenten a sus tareas.

Recuerde siempre las siguientes sugerencias, especialmente durante los períodos de pruebas:

Comer un buen desayuno. Nosotros proveemos un desayuno universal a TODOS los estudiantes aquí en la escuela.

Venir a la escuela todos los días y llegar puntualmente. De esta forma los estudiantes no se sienten apurados ni desorganizados.

Dormir bien. En promedio, un niño necesita de 8-10 horas de sueño cada noche.

Los estudiantes y las maestras/os se han estado preparando de manera activa para las pruebas. Tengo confianza en que los estudiantes tendrán un buen desempeño puesto que somos Los Tigres y Los Tigres vencerán. ¡QUE VIVAN LOS TIGRES!

Por favor revise las siguientes políticas con su estudiante antes de la prueba:

Aparatos electrónicos— A ningún estudiante se le permitirá aparatos electrónicos, durante el examen o durante receso (ir al baño), esto incluye todo tipo de teléfonos celulares y relojes inteligentes (smartwatches), aun si el aparato este apagado o el estudiante no lo utilice. Si su estudiante tiene algún aparato electrónico durante el examen, el examen será invalidado.

Calculadoras— No se permite usar calculadoras. Si su estudiante tiene una calculadora durante el examen, el examen será invalidado.

Reconocimiento de las reglas del examen— Todo examen FSA y libro de respuestas tienen imprimido el reconocimiento de las reglas del examen que dice, “Yo entiendo las reglas del examen que se me han leído. Si yo no sigo estas reglas, mis calificaciones del examen pueden ser invalidadas.” Antes de tomar el examen, el administrador, leerá las reglas a los estudiantes y los estudiantes reconocerán que entienden las reglas de prueba mediante la firma debajo de la declaración en su examen y libro de respuestas.

Discutir el contenido después del examen— Antes que los estudiantes firmen el reconocimiento de las reglas del examen, la última sección de las reglas del examen que se les lee a los estudiantes dice, “Dado a que los exámenes estatales es segura, no puede discutir o dar detalles acerca de los pasajes después del examen. Esto incluye todo tipo de comunicación electrónica, como mensaje de texto, correo electrónico, o publicar en línea, por ejemplo en sitios de internet como Facebook, Twitter, o Instagram.” Favor asegúrese que su estudiante entiende que “discutir” el contenido incluye todo tipo de comunicación electrónica, como mensaje de texto, correo electrónico, o publicar en línea o en redes de medios sociales. Mientras los estudiantes no pueden compartir información acerca del contenido del examen después del examen, esta política no está destinado para evitar que los estudiantes discutan sus experiencias con sus padres o sus familias.

Trabajar independientemente— Los estudiantes son responsables de hacer su propio trabajo durante el examen y de proteger sus respuestas de ser vistas por otros estudiantes. Si los estudiantes son sorprendidos haciendo trampa durante la prueba, sus exámenes serán invalidados. El Departamento de Educación del Estado de la Florida (FDOE) contrata una compañía de seguridad de exámenes, Caveon Test Security, para analizar los resultados de los exámenes y detectar patrones de respuesta inusualmente similares. Los exámenes de los estudiantes dentro de una escuela que se encuentran patrones sumamente similares de respuestas tendrán sus resultados invalidados.

Salir de las instalaciones— Si su estudiante empieza una sesión del examen y sale de la escuela antes de terminar lo (para almorzar, una cita o enfermedad, entre otras cosas), él o ella NO podrá terminar esa sesión del examen. Si su estudiante no se siente bien el día del examen, será mejor que espere a tomar el examen el día asignado para los que estuvieron ausentes. Favor de recordar las fechas de examen y evitar hacer citas en esos días.

Adaptaciones para tomar examen— Si su estudiante tiene un IEP o plan Sección 504, favor de comunicarse con la escuela para hablar de las adaptaciones para tomar examen que se le proveerá a su estudiante.

Gracias por apoyar a su estudiante y por animar lo a que haga su mayor esfuerzo durante los exámenes.

Kristina M. Álvarez

Thesha N. García



Kindergarten

Kindergarten started off strong in 2021!! We've completed our Winter iReady Diagnostic. Our ESOL K-students began a new computer program for children who are learning English and they are learning a lot! We are

learning about the sun and the moon in science and how day and night are a recurring pattern. We also noticed the recurring patterns when we counted to 100 and by 1's and 10's. Keep up the good work!! We are getting ready for First Grade!!!

1st Grade

Reading: Students have been reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. They have been learning how to make connections between what they are reading and their own lives. They have especially loved reading "Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel!"

Math: Our first graders have been learning new strategies they can use to solve problems with 3 addends. They have just started learning about halves and fourths and love to identify them in everyday life.

2nd Grade

Can you believe we are well into the second half of 2nd grade?!?! We completed our mid-year iReady diagnostic for reading and math. Conference night went well! We were so excited to share your child's growth from the beginning of the year. We are continuing to learn and grow. In math, we are learning how to add three-digit numbers. Exciting thing are happening in science, we are learning about the weather. Keep up the great work! We are getting ready for 3rd grade!

3rd GRADE

In math, we have worked on building understanding of fractions, explored equivalent fractions, and compared fractions using $>$, $<$, and $=$ symbols. We just wrapped up identifying and sorting quadrilaterals based on their attributes. We are now beginning our linear measurement unit where we measure to the nearest whole, fourth, and half inch and plot these measurements on a line plot. We will also be learning to identify the perimeter of polygons in the next month. In science, we explored the Law of Gravity by demonstrating that gravity is a force that can be overcome, properties of stars, identified the Sun as a star that emits radiant energy, some in the form of light and heat, and described the parts of a plant and their roles. In writing, we have been creating opinion essays. In reading, we have been able to tell the relationships between paragraphs and sentences whether it is cause and effect, sequence, or comparisons. Remember to continue iReady usage at home, read independently every night for 20 minutes, and study multiplication facts to build fluency! Testing season is here, so please make sure your child is here every day and on time for success!

4th grade

ELA- All students are completing lessons on Achieve 3000. They are striving to meet their goal of 75% or higher on their first attempt on the lesson. They must focus and put in good effort in order to achieve their goal.

MATH- All students completed the Mid-Year Test, which covered everything we have learned this year as of this point. A few reminders when taking a test: show all work, if you get stuck—move on to the next question and come back, and do your best work. We are starting angles and measurement in March.

SCIENCE- The students are working on a Design Challenge in small groups at school. They are designing and building a prototype of a vehicle that can be used on the moon using recyclable materials. We are also learning about Earth's place in the Solar System and the constellations.

Remember to read every night and complete 45 minutes of iReady for math and reading!

5th Grade

ELA: In ELA, students worked hard to complete the Midyear district assessment, as preparation for FSA. They recently completed a fiction unit involving poetry and plays, and began a nonfiction unit this week. They will continue to read and learn about the human body, how animals hear, and the invention of the telephone, while adding words to their vocabulary knowledge, and challenging themselves to understand various texts.

Math: We have just wrapped up the unit on multiplying and dividing decimals. Students worked diligently on their multiplication facts to help them successfully multiply and divide decimals. Please continue to work on the multiplication facts with your student. We are now beginning our next unit on Place Value. Students need to know the relationship between place value positions. For example, 200 is 10 times more than 20 and 50 is 100 times less than 5,000. We will also be learning about Exponents and Powers of Ten.

Pre-K

The Pre-K students just completed a unit on "Our Neighborhood" The students learned how to "shop" in our classroom grocery store. students demonstrated how to prepare a shopping list, how to locate items, and counting money. We also celebrated the Super Bowl with a tailgate activity for all to enjoy! The students had hotdogs, played corn hole, tossed a football through a goal post, and cheered for the Bucs!

A Message from the Guidance Counselor -Mrs. Melendez

Did you know...? Our school has a Character Education Program. It is through this Character Education Program that we teach students about Respect, Responsibility, Kindness/Caring, and Honesty. These nine weeks our students will learn about RESPECT. Respect is treating others as we want to be treated, listening to authority figures, value everyone and taking care of ourselves and others. Talk with your child about what respect means to you. Then provide support and encouragement for your child when they demonstrate the character trait. If you have questions or would like more information about our school's Character Education Program, please call Mrs. Melendez, School Counselor. Together we can build student's skills that will help them become well rounded citizens.



Words for this Quarter:

- Considerate – Thoughtful of the rights and feelings of others
- Tolerance – To have patience with and to be fair to others
- Appreciate – To be grateful for

Quote for this Quarter:

"Respect for ourselves guides our morals; respect for others guides our manners" ~ Laurence Sterne



Mrs. Lipstein's Book Nook

Happy New Year Alexander Families! This year is quickly flying by and our Tigers are doing a wonderful job reading and applying literacy information skills. During the month of January, students read about penguins, polar bears, hibernation, formation of snowflakes, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In honor of Celebrate Literacy Week, students participated in activities such as a Book Character Raffle, wear Black and White Day, and teachers passed out "You were Caught Reading" tickets in the classroom. Students returned the tickets to me and received a treat! February reading and research topics included Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, presidents, African American leaders and their important contributions to the world.



Exceptional Student Education

Child Find is a free service assisting parents and schools with early identification of children who have, or are at risk of having, a disability. Every child develops at his or her own pace. However, some children experience disabilities that can hinder their potential progress. Child Find assists families of children, birth to age 5, exhibiting developmental delays by offering services to parents helping in identifying, screening, evaluating, and finding resources. If you have concerns about your child's development, visit the FDLRS Child Find website <http://fdlrs.mysdhc.org/> or call (813) 837-7723 for information about a Developmental Screening.



News from Student Support

Assist your child with good study habits, creating good study habits now it will hopefully carry over to middle school, high school, and advance education. Children should have an assigned quiet place with good lighting in the home to complete homework. Teach your child how to plan for what is needed and organize their materials. Teach your child to be aware of what materials are needed to complete the homework. Materials should be laid out on the table where homework is completed. Discuss with your child how long it will take he/she to complete homework. Ask the child after the work was completed if he/she was correct in estimating how long it took to complete the homework. Have your child explain the skill of the homework assignment with you, while you review the work. This will reinforce learning and what was taught to the child.

Shannon McCullough, Psy.S.
School Psychologist

Jessica Karwoski
School Social Worker



Resource

We have completed all our mid-year assessments for reading, writing, and math and we are happy with the progress our students have made. Please make sure your child is getting 45 minutes of iReady reading and math instruction per week. Also, our ELL students are in the process of WIDA/ACCESS testing until the end of the month.

Kristin Manck
ELL Resource

Lorraine Campolung
ELA Resource

Mary Ellen Walker
Math Resource



MUSIC NOTES

Mr. Q's Music Notes

If you're hearing snapping fingers and tapping feet, it's because the music room has been swinging and grooving with the lively, soulful sound of JAZZ! Students are learning all about the roots, sound, instruments and musicians of the African American artform. From Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong to Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday, we've listened to some of the greatest Jazz and Blues tunes ever composed. Students are learning how to "SCAT" like Ella and dance "The Big Apple" like Frankie Manning and his Lindy Hoppers. Stay tuned for more from the music department...



Coach's Corner

We are off to a great start this new year! Online students are doing a great job with keeping up on their 60 minutes of exercise each day. Our brick and mortar students are also working hard with Coach. During the last part of January and the beginning of February, our school participated in the Kids Heart Challenge sponsored by the American Heart Association. We were able to raise \$3,368 to help find a cure for heart disease. Well done Alexander!

We have just completed units covering soccer and jump roping. We are now turning our attention to basketball and then eventually on to golf. Lots of fun is coming our way. Remember as a family to find time to exercise during these times. It is important to show our children that staying healthy is a team effort! -Coach



Art

Congratulations to Yanet Alonso! She represented Alexander elementary in the Young at Art display at the Tampa Art Museum in January 2021. Her work was a watercolor and crayon resist that represented a Spring rain shower. It was absolutely lovely. Way to go Yanet, keep up the excellent artwork.



If you have a child between the ages of BIRTH—5 years of age. . .

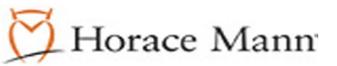
PLEASE CALL 813-837-7723 (English) or 813-837-7714 (Spanish) to schedule an appointment for a developmental screening. SERVICES ARE FREE!

Congratulations Students of the Month

January	
PK	Jordan Herrera Isaac Carlin Fankie Chapman
K	Kayla Camejo Mia Tprres-Marrero Kylie Martinez Angelina Hernandez Edgard Nival
1st	Eleanor Colon Yeileiny Ledesma Michael Perez Jayden Matias
2nd	Juan Puerto Hernandez Dominick Rivera Juliet Ortiz Royce Perez Jarvis James
3rd	Caleb Perez
4th	Alejandro Rojas Stacie Gutierrez-Rosales Daniel DeLoyola-Castellanos Miviel Bernal Alonso
5th	Robert Churchin Deborah Cruz Ortega Gerald Hodge

February	
PK	Jhovin Majano Rodriguez Xavier Ortiz Jade Del Risco
K	Kaleb Donegan Ronaldo Vasquez Ninel Carnel Ramirez Emily Rodriguez Leah Perez
1st	Naythan Hurtado Daniela Rodriguez Leah Ruiz Angelina Guerra Pena
2nd	Shadday Navarro Isabella Llerena Rojas Ian Orozco Tatiana Smith
3rd	Leah Lovenzo Lilianne Figeredo Melissa Morejon
4th	Kaylee Reyes-Baez Julia Salgado Melanie Osorio-Vences Dylan Palenzuela
5th	Yayah Acosta Gonzalez Ariana Garcia Sandra Hernandez

Alexander students and staff express our appreciation for your continued partnerships...




CANVAS

Connect to your child's grades, classroom assignments and teachers!

Continuous Notification of Nondiscrimination

The School District of Hillsborough County does not discriminate nor tolerate harassment on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, genetic information or pregnancy in its educational programs, services or activities, or in its hiring or employment practices; and it will take immediate action to eliminate such harassment, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects. The district also provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other patriotic youth groups, as required by the Boys Scout of America Equal Access Act. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

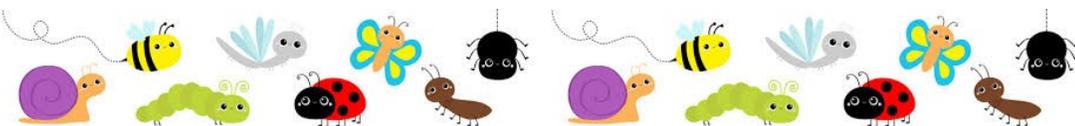
Dr. Pansy Houghton, Executive Officer, HR Compliance
Division of Human Resources
901 East Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33602
(813) 272-4097 pansy.houghton@sdhc.k12.us



Hillsborough County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Preparing Students for Life

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Karen Perez
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Superintendent of Schools
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SCHOOL VISION: Alexander will provide students with lifelong skills that promote creativity and foster independent thinking through an integrated curriculum in a safe environment.

SCHOOL MISSION: Alexander will create a caring and nurturing environment, motivating staff and students to work as a community to learn, grow and achieve their goals together. Our learning community will provide opportunities for personal growth and academic success for all students.