

Alexander Elementary

The Voice of the Tiger



5602 N. Lois Avenue , Tampa, FL 33614
 (813)872-5395
<http://alexander.mysdhc.org/>

A Message from the Administration

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year at Alexander Elementary!

In order for your children to be successful, we want you to understand the importance of your child's education as we start the year. Not only do we want our students to be successful, we want them to excel to their highest potential. We are asking each parent to pledge to have your child in school on time each day in uniform (masks are required)! It is also important that they stay the entire school day. We understand there may be times when you have an emergency and need to sign your child out of school early. However, this should be on rare occasions and will be monitored very closely. Every time a parent signs a student out of school early, it interrupts instruction for all students. On the rare occasions when you need to sign your child out of school early, you must arrive at the school before **1:25 p.m. (12:25 on early release Mondays)**. Please make certain that you support us in the achievement of your child by checking bookbags, homework, and Canvas on a daily basis. This communication between school and home is vital in the success of your children.

As a reminder, any time you or an authorized adult come to pick up your child early, a valid ID is required and you must remain outside until we bring your child to you. This is for the safety of our students and staff members.

Wishing you and yours an outstanding Fall break!

Sincerely,

Kristina M. Alvarez

Principal

Thesha M. Garcia

Assistant Principal

2020-21 Hotline Supports

 General Calls 813-272-4788	 Technology 813-272-4785	 Mental Health 813-272-4787
 Spanish 813-272-4789	 School Choice Options /Magnet 813-272-4692	 Hillsborough Virtual K-12 813-983-7278



Remember:

REPORT CARDS are only available online. Parents and guardians can prepare now by visiting <https://reportcards.sdhc.k12.fl.us/>

Quarter 1 Report Card distribution will be Monday, November 16th.

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 Alexander Elementary, students and parents must agree to comply with the uniform policy in place.

Mark Your Calendars

November 2020

- 11/3 Election Day
- 11/11 Veterans' Day – No School
- 11/16 Picture Day; Report Cards released electronically
- 11/23 Fall Break – No School
- 11/27

December 2020

- 12/21 Winter Break- No School
- 1/1



Congratulations to our Staff who were voted for the following award:

Teacher of the Year
 Alecia Vathakos

Instructional Support Employee of the Year
 Julie Rivera

Ida S. Baker Diversity Educator of the Year
 Yanet Cantero





The Alexander Pre-K team was excited to welcome over 25 students to our program this school year! Mrs. Deb Scibilia is teaching online, while Mrs. Bobbie Perez and Mrs. Gabby Beck are teaching brick & mortar. The students have enjoyed making new friends, learning social skills, and all the fun academics pre-k provides!

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is adjusting well to our new "normal"! Not only have we learned new routines, we have learned about letters, our 5 senses and the numbers 1-10. It is hard to believe the first 9 weeks is already over. Congratulate your child for finishing up this quarter. They have worked hard to follow all of our new rules!! Due to large class sizes, we have added a new teacher, Mr. Trujillo. He will be welcoming some of our eLearners back to Alexander and absorbing some of the students currently in Kindergarten. Welcome back to Kindergarten, Mr. Trujillo!!

1st Grade

This quarter in Science, our first graders have been learning about motion! They have built a model boat, playground equipment, and even invented their own toy! In Reading, students have been reading a variety of stories and discussing main idea and key details. They have used this information to retell the beginning, middle, and ending of stories. In Math, our first graders have been very busy practicing their addition and subtraction in a variety of ways! We have had a busy quarter learning something new every day!



It's hard to believe that the first nine weeks of school have ended. In September, our school held its first ever virtual Conference night to discuss student progress. Math routines keep us busy talking about different strategies to solve equations that apply to real world problems. Through our reading logs we have been busy reading outside of the school day. In class, students have explored various genres that have guided their own writing experiences. Our science notebooks describe our observations of physical forces of nature through our direct study of magnets. Our long term investigations keep us excited in conversation as we observe and collect data of nature such as temperature and wind tracking- all which happens "outside our window".



ELA: In reading, we have been working on using key details to identify the main idea, character traits, and sequence of events. In Writing, we have been using text evidence and insight to write a four paragraph informative essay.

Math: We have been working on understanding multiplication, division, patterns in multiplication, and finding area. **Students should be practicing multiplication facts at home daily to build fluency.**



Fourth grade is flying by!!! Our reading program is in full swing. Your child should be reading every night. This year we will be using a new program called Book IT! where students can read books to earn free pizza from Pizza Hut. This will be taking place of our old Reading Counts program. Battle of the Books is also starting. Students will have a list of 15 books to read and test on in order to participate. The testing site is called Reading Taco and Ms. Lipstein will be giving the information out soon. In writing, the students are learning to write paragraphs and focusing on a prompt. In math, we have been learning about place value and rounding (estimation). All students need to be practicing their multiplication facts and working on IReady at home. Science has been all about energy! We all need the energy for all the learning that we are doing. STEM Fair projects will be starting soon. Be ready to have some fun with an investigation of your choice.

5th Grade

ELA: We have just wrapped up a non-fiction unit, students focused on making inferences, analyzing different types of text structures, and explaining relationships in scientific texts. We also began our fiction unit with plays and are excited to read other texts like historical fiction and poem pieces.

Math: We are working on Applying Understanding of Multiplication to Multiply Fractions: Students will multiply a fraction by a whole number and by a fraction and use area models to multiply fractions. Please make sure your child knows his/her multiplication facts.

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. This nine week our students will learn about **RESPONSIBILITY**. Responsibility is being accountable in work and deed, having a sense of duty to fulfill tasks with reliability, dependability and commitment. Talk with your child about what **responsibility** 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:

- Dependable – Capable of being depended on
- Obligation – An act of make oneself responsible for doing something
- Thoughtful – Considerate of the needs of others

Quote for this Quarter:

“It is not only for what we do that we are held responsible, but also for what we do not do” ~ Moliere



Mrs. Lipstein's Book Nook

Fall is here and the Media Center is in full swing with media lessons being taught and book check out in classrooms. Students reviewed book care rules, enjoyed fall themed read alouds, and researched spiders. Hispanic Heritage Month was recognized by reading biographies, creating a Hispanic Heritage collaboration poster, and listening to books written and illustrated by Hispanic authors and illustrators. Also, we strongly suggest students read MyON books. MyON is an online library providing thousands of books. Your child can read online anytime, anywhere there is an internet connection!



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

We are thrilled to begin a new school year at Alexander! We are happy to see all the smiling faces again in-person and on eLearning. Advice from your Student Services Team at the beginning of the school year is to establish routines. It is helpful for children to follow daily routines so that they know what is expected of them. This helps children to become more responsible and independent. Establish a routine for your children to complete his/her homework. Set a time for homework to be completed, find a quiet place to complete work, and take mini breaks to ensure success. It is also important to have your child to school on time! Create a morning routine with your child to ensure they are to school before the bell rings, or that they are able to log in to Zoom before class begins. However, please keep your child home if they are experiencing any sickness or symptoms of COVID-19. Please remind your children to wear their mask and sanitize their hands often. Attendance matters, so we must make germs scatter!

Shannon Pedrero Psy.S.
School Psychologist

Jessica Karwoski
School Social Worker

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!



Resource



Your child should read or be read to every day. The key is to have a routine that you and your child can look forward to thus, creating quality family time. Reading should be an enjoyable experience and children's interests should be considered when choosing books.

Kristin Manck
ELL Resource

Lorraine Campolongo
Reading Resource

Mary Ellen Walker
Math Resource

MUSIC NOTES



Hello from the Music Department! What an interesting year this has been so far. We started out with 3 music teachers and are now down to just 1. Mrs. Frick and I were excited to welcome Ms. Molner, a music intern from USF, who spent 6 weeks with us here in the music room. She was wonderful with our students and I know she enjoyed every second of her time at Alexander. We wish her great success in the future! Unfortunately, we just found out that Mrs. Frick, our second music teacher, will be leaving us as well. Mrs. Frick has been at Alexander for the past 6 years and was an amazing asset to our school. She will be missed by all and her absence will surely be felt school-wide. That leaves me, Mr. Q! I just want everyone to know how proud I am to be your child's music teacher and how lucky I feel to be able to continue to work here at Alexander making music with our smart, creative and talented students!

Coach's Corner



WOW! Between PE eLearning and the Brick and Mortar PE classes, it has been an unusual start to the school year. But I love the challenge. We started with Rules and Procedures, and then moved on to Fitness testing, bike safety, and locomotor skills. During the middle part of October, we worked on our dance unit. And by the way, our kids have some rhythm. They should be able to show you and more importantly teach you the dance we have learned in PE class. As we move forward, we will begin to work on our Soccer unit as well as our Throwing and Catching unit. And remember this, let's all stay healthy by staying active for 60 minutes every day!

Coach Etherton



Art

Greetings from the art room. It's so nice to be back communicating with our Alexander family - whether it be in person or by e-learning. I'd like to thank the parents who supplied our students with art materials, They've been a big help. To the students that are e-learning, you are creating excellent artwork. In fact, I look forward to opening my emails each day in order to view wonderful pictures. Keep up the great work!



A Note from the School Nurse

Dear Parents:

We are asking you for your continued cooperation in assisting us to control the spread of communicable diseases. Our goal is to make our school a healthy and safe place for both students and employees. We will call you immediately if your child becomes ill during school hours. You are expected to arrange for your child to be picked up as soon as possible. Our school clinic is not equipped or staffed to handle ill children for long periods of time.

Please inform us immediately if telephone numbers or other contact information on your child's emergency card changes. The information on this card is vital for the safety and well being of your child.

Please do not send your child to school if any signs/symptoms listed below are present:

1. Vomiting or diarrhea within past 24 hours
2. Fever $\geq 100.4^{\circ}$ within past 24 hours
3. Chills
4. Sore/red throat and/or congestion
5. Persistent coughing, sneezing, or shortness of breath
6. Loss of taste or smell
7. Red watery eyes
8. Rash
9. Earache, drainage from ear
10. Excessive mucus from nose (runny nose), particularly greenish-yellow mucus

Your child may return to school as soon as all signs/symptoms are gone for 24 hours without the use of medication to treat the above signs/symptoms or when your healthcare provider provides a written statement indicating your child is ready to return to school.

If suspected COVID-19 exposure, please follow isolation or quarantine procedures as directed by your healthcare provider and/or the Department of Health. Please notify your school if you are tested or test positive for COVID-19.

If your child has a communicable disease, please call the school and tell us the nature of the illness and when we can expect his/her return to school.

Thank you for working with us.

Sincerely,

The Office of School Health Services

Congratulations Students of the Month

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



Publix.

LifeTouch VALIC

Horace Mann

Chick-fil-®

Walgreens

T-shirts



Hillsborough County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Preparing Students for Life

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Addison Davis
www.sdhc.k12.fl.us

October			
PK	Jhorvin M. Vida W. Christian V.	3rd	Yeleny L. Alicia M. Briana D.
K	Kamilah C. Melissa D.	4th	Jazmin G. Natalie R. Daniel S.
1st	Sofia F. Izabelle N. Angelo R.	5th	Darwin C. Alejandro V. Emmanuel R.
2nd	Kaylee V. Kelsey G. Fabian O. London C. Lucia T.		Lily D.



Both eLearning & on-site families should check CANVAS daily for information from teachers. This is the primary location to contact teachers and receive school information.

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 Boy 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

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.