

- Feb. 2-Awards Assembly
- Feb. 8-Class Picture Day
- Feb. 12-Progress Alerts Sent
- Feb. 16-No School
- Feb. 23-Student of the Month, Freestyle Friday
- March 4-No School
- March 7-Conference Night
- March 8-Field Day
- March 11-15 Spring Break
- March 20-End of 3rd Qtr
- March 21-4th Qtr begins
- March 22 PTA Walkathon and Freestyle Friday
- March 28 Student of the Month
- March 29-No School
- April 12-Awards Assembly
- April 22-Progress Alerts Sent
- April 25-Student of the Month, Talent Show
- April 26-PTA K-5 Science Field Trip (in house)

tentative and subject to change

Anderson Elementary School
Lydia G. Sierra, Principal



Staff Spotlight

I am Darby Embry. I am a Tampa native and graduated from USF with my degree in Elementary Education. Go Bulls! I have been a teacher in Hillsborough County for 14 years and this is my 7th year at Anderson Elementary. I have taught VPK- Fourth Grade. I love teaching reading. One of my favorite things about teaching is discussing and learning about new topics with my students .

Anderson Elementary School



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Tampa, FL 33611
(813) 272-3075
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A Hillsborough County Public School

Dear Anderson Families,

Each week, we recognize students for their progress on iReady and Imagine Learning. As we move into standardized testing, our game plan is to continue to meet students' needs through planning and instruction. Many staff members are pulling academic groups to support instruction.

Please support our school by attending school regularly, arriving on time and continued communication between home and school. Regular attendance is so important. We have many students with excessive attendance needing improvement.

Lydia G. Sierra, Principal

Dear Anderson Families,

I can't believe we are already halfway through the 3rd quarter of the school year! Students are given progress monitoring assessments throughout the year to give teachers the necessary information to plan for instruction and learn what skills students have mastered, as well as which skills students need more practice. In the next few months, students will take end of the year district and state assessments to assess student performance. The state assessments are how our school grade is determined as it is an indicator of student performance & gains for the entire year.

A calendar with specific dates will be sent home once we get the final direction from the state, however, I want to share with you the months the assessments will take place.

March/April- District Specials Testing- Art, Music, PE

April- FAST Writing (4th and 5th)

April/May- STAR Early Literacy (Kindergarten) STAR Reading (1st-2nd), STAR Math (K-2)

May- FAST Reading (3rd-5th), FAST Math (3rd-5th), Science (5th)

The character focus for February is community building where students are learning to maximize and prioritize positive relationships and embrace everyone. March will focus on being a goal getter/go -getter. We will focus on the importance of working through situations even when there are obstacles or challenges in the way, & to always finish what you start even if you have to try again. By teaching these qualities schoolwide, we are instilling skills to lead to students' success in academics and behavior.

We encourage you to continue to communicate with your child's teachers and discuss ways you can support learning at home.

Mrs. Kim, Assistant Principal

First Grade

First Grade Families,

We are very proud of our 1st Graders for working so hard and showing gains in all subject areas!

In Reading and Writing, your child has been working on Topic and Key Details of an Informational Text and Retelling of Literary Texts and writing the B,M,E.

In Math, your child has been learning about "Equality and Equations to 20" and "Place Value". Our next topics will be "Plotting, Comparing, and Ordering Numbers 10 100" as well as learning how to measure the "Length" of objects and "Exploring Addition and Subtraction within 100".

In Science, we have been learning about Earth Science. Some of the topics include Identifying the Beneficial and Harmful Properties of the Sun, Natural Resources, and Fast & Slow Changes on Earth. Our next topic will be Differentiating Between Living and Non-Living Things.

In Social Studies, we will be learning about "Yesterday and Today", i.e. Schools in the past and present. Next step, we will be learning about and celebrating African American History.

Mrs. Zaritsky, Mrs. Corr and Ms. DiGiangi

Second Grade

Second Grade is moving and grooving through the year. We have so much more learning to absorb. Our United Skates field trip is going to be so much fun! We wonder who will have the most laps and who will face their fears and try skating for the first time. Please remember to read every night with your student. It is so valuable. Also, please ask your child about their day and what the best part was. We can't wait to kick off the last few months of school as we inch closer to summer. Mr. Behrens, Ms. Holtrup, & Ms. Vadala

Third Grade

Hi all you terrific Third Graders and families! We are doing a lot of learning this school year! In Reading, we are learning about the author's claim/author's perspective, character development/character perspective, comparing/contrasting texts, and text features/structures and how they contribute to the meaning of the text! In Writing, we are really focusing on how to form an opinion and respond to a prompt here opinions are stated and supported by text evidence. In Math, we are building our fact fluency with facts 0-12s. As well as identifying and describing 2D shapes, measuring in customary and metric and using measurements to create line plots, and learning about perimeter! In Science, we have been leaning about how the Sun is Earth's closest star, the different forms of energy produced by the sun, and we will be learning about the different plant structures and their roles in food production, water/nutrient absorption, structure and reproduction!

Important dates coming up:

February 2nd- Q2 Report Card Awards Ceremony

February 16th- Non-Student Day

February 23rd- Free Style Friday/ Student of the Month Awards

March 4th- Non Student Day

March 7th- Conference Night

March 11th- March 15th- Spring Break

March 29th- No School

If you haven't already, it is not too late to join PTA! Be sure and join today!

Ms. Schulz, Mrs. Gray-Flint & Ms. Embry

PTA

The PTA works hard to support the staff and all Anderson students, but we can't do it without your help. Please join our Facebook page at Anderson PTA to keep up-to-date with relevant school information!

2023-2024 PTA Board:

- President - Valerie DiVecchio
- Vice President of Ways and Means - Michael Ulsh
- Vice President of Membership - Paige Darrigo
- Treasurer - Megan Jacobs
- Recording Secretary - Crissy Troutman



Please support our PTA by becoming a member for only \$7 per individual or \$12.00 per family (2 adults). You can join on-line at: <https://anderson.memberhub.com/store>.

Make sure your child arrives to school on time.



Students look great in their school uniforms!

PTA/SCHOOL EVENTS

Please see PTA's tentative list of event dates for Spring semester (subject to change).

Please Like Us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/AndersonPTA>. Keep up to date on all the details throughout the year, including changes to the calendar, upcoming events and shoutouts to our staff and students on doing great things!



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7 ways to boost your child's vocabulary By Ginny Osewalt

1. Describe the word.

Provide a description of each new word you introduce. For example, maybe you're teaching your child the word merchant, which is common in upper elementary social studies textbooks. You can talk with your child about the local merchants in your town. What kinds of stores are in your town? What do they sell?

2. Say it your way.

Once you've described a new word, it helps to ask kids to come up with their own way to describe it. For example, after explaining how fortunate you are to have such a nice family, your son or daughter might explain how fortunate they feel to have the latest video game.

3. Act it out.

By acting out a word, your child is bound to better understand it. This may be particularly helpful if your child has lots of energy and loves to run around. The new word frolic, for example, can come alive through jumping around like a puppy, goat, or lamb. Why not bring the fun outdoors as well? Frolic in the garden, yard, or along the sidewalk.

4. Quick draw.

Get some pencils and paper. Without using actual words, draw a quick sketch of what the new word is. For the word reluctant, you might decide to represent it by drawing a person standing at the edge of swimming pool with only one toe in the water. Your child, who is reluctant to eat vegetables, might draw a big bowl of broccoli and a frowny face next to it.

5. Analyze this.

Teach your child the meanings of common prefixes, suffixes, and root words. For example, the prefix multi- means many and the suffix -less means not or without. Geo is a root word that means earth, as in geology. Recognizing these patterns will help your child with word meanings and understanding.

6. Write a story.

Using a list of new words, ask your child to be an author and write a story. In order to do this well, your child will need to use all of the words correctly. Bringing words together into story form from a list will take imagination. Encourage your child to be creative and have fun.

7. Tell me once, tell me twice...

Use the new word all the time. So, if the word is essential, you might discuss what is essential to pack for a camping trip or talk about what is essential for happiness. A checklist of essential chores might help remind your child to walk the dog, do homework, and set the table before dinner.

Mrs. Tasso, Reading Coach

Thank you to the following business partners for supporting our school:

Walmart-Gandy Location

Leroya Sheffield

Carrabba's

Tijuana Flats

Pin Chasers

Little Caesar's



AGP-Gifted By Ms. Hope AGP Teacher

Our AGP writers are focusing this month on being an editor. They are improving their writing by planning, revising, and editing using feedback from their teacher and peers. Together, students work to improve their final copy of their written response. This is a lifelong skill that we use daily in all subjects, to challenge ourselves with integration of academic vocabulary, skillful use of varied sentence structure and appropriate use of standard English (grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling). We are using Florida's B.E.S.T. (Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking) Writing Rubric to self-assess and score our writing. Using the rubric allows us to highlight our strengths and improve in target areas of growth. We would like to share a writing sample from one of our AGP students, Achilles Serrano.

TEAMWORK By Achilles Serrano, 4th Grade AGP Student

In Ms. Hope's class teamwork means, Together Everyone Achieves More!!! Teamwork is on Tuesdays and that's when AGP (Academically Gifted Program) students work together on a project-like the stem fair or like a letter to give to our principal, Mrs. Sierra. Another example of using TEAMWORK is when we're doing vocabulary for "Word A Day" and I am trying to figure out what a word means. We can work together to use context clues to find the meaning of the unknown word. Teamwork was used to revise and edit this response! These are some examples of ways we use teamwork in our AGP class. How do you use TEAMWORK?

We used teamwork for our engineering design challenges.



Four hands are better than two!



Guidance Events

Upcoming Events for February and March

Students of the Month Assemblies: February 23 and March 28
Students will be recognized at an assembly in our Reading Courtyard.

Character Trait of the Month (December): Community Builder

Character Trait of the Month (January): Goal Getter