



## Anderson Elementary School The

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A Hillsborough County Public School

Dear Anderson Family,

Please follow Anderson Elem. on Twitter/X, Anderson Elem. PTA on Facebook & HCPS on social media for important information. HCPS has adjusted the academic calendar to account for instructional time missed due to Hurricane Milton. In the event a teacher is absent without coverage of a substitute teacher, students may be divided among multiple grade levels. Trunk or Treat was so much fun for our families! "Costco" Trunk won. Way to go Mrs. McIntyre, Mrs. Tasso and Ms. Hope. Nov. 15 is our Awards Assembly. We have many students making progress & we are proud of their growth. We would like to recognize all students. Let's keep working hard & meet our goals. Please continue to have open communication between school & home. Nov. 1 is CEOs in Schools. We welcome Ben Burgess, Burgess Civil, LLC to our school. Nov. 21 is the Great American Teach In. We encourage our parents, family & community members to share their careers or hobbies with our students. Please have a valid photo ID when visiting our campus, as this is a HCPS Policy. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. The school lab is open from 7:10-7:40 am for K-5 students that arrive early to school. Have a safe Thanksgiving Holiday! We are thankful for our students and families.

Lydia G. Sierra, Principal



Dear Anderson Family,

Though we have had an eventful First Quarter of school due to the storms, our students & staff have been so resilient & positive through the challenges. We have been so appreciative seeing our community work together to do what we can & make our learning environment safe & back to normal as much as possible. The district extended the First Grading Period to Oct. 25. Report cards post online beginning Nov. 13. Our Awards Assembly will take place on Nov. 15. Parents will receive an invitation to our Awards Assembly based on their student's report card grades, including recognition for academics, behavior & attendance. The Second Grading Period begins on Oct. 28 & ends on Jan. 16. We had a great response from families for our first Conference Night. Though, we will not have another Conference Night scheduled until the second semester, I encourage parents & guardians to stay connected with your child's teachers regularly. We are here to help, guide & answer any questions you may have to help your child be successful in school. Looking forward to seeing families in our upcoming Fall & Winter events!

Sincerely,  
Catherine Kim, Assistant Principal



### Upcoming Events\* .....

Oct. 3-Conference Night

Oct. 18-Freestyle Friday

Oct. 21-Picture Day

Oct. 21-25-Red Ribbon Week

Oct. 24-Student of the Month

Oct. 24-Annual Trunk or Treat

Oct. 25-Storybook Parade

Oct. 28-Grandparents' Breakfast

Nov. 4-Progress Alerts

Nov. 11-No School Veteran's Day

Nov. 13-Report Cards online

Nov. 15-Awards Assembly

Nov. 21-Great American Teach-In

Nov. 22-Picture Retakes,

Student of the Month &

Freestyle Friday

Nov. 25-29-Thanksgiving

Holidays

\*tentative and subject to change\*

### Anderson Elementary School



### VPK

This past month we learned about our family and friends. Each week we concentrated on my family, my relatives, pets and my friends. In literacy we are learning about compound words. They love using the cards and putting two words together. We are also continuing to draw in our journals. In math we are focusing on 1-10 and spatial relationships. And in STEAM we built a shelter for our pets out of blocks and made friendship necklaces to exchange. Of course, music and movement is one of their favorite things so we do it throughout the day to get the "wiggles" out! Next month we will focus on Safe, Healthy, Helpful Me.

Mrs. Divecchio, Mrs. Mortellaro & Mrs. Zubizarreta



### Kindergarten

Hi Families!!! Your students have been working very hard and we are so very proud of them! They also have started go to specials & are really enjoying those times!!! In ELA, we are using UFLI to identify letters & their sounds. We also are blending sounds to create CVC (consonant vowel consonant) words!! In Writing, we are learning about the structure of a sentence (capital letter, finger spaces, & punctuation). In Reading, we have been identifying the topic of the text & details to support the topic. For Math, we have been working on cardinal counting to 10. We are practicing identifying missing numbers 0-10 & what number comes before or after a given number. Lastly, we are also learning how to compare numbers 0-10. In Science, we have been learning about our 5 Senses & how they help us when making observations in Science. We have started a long-term investigation where we have been observing & documenting the growth of our classroom animals. We have been so excited to see our classroom animals grow & make prediction about how much more they will grow! Kindergarten students have also been participating in the districts annual Science Olympics. Given certain tools, they have to try & create the tallest skyscraper. Two students from each class will be selected to represent Anderson at the HCPS Annual Science Olympics at MOSI. At home you can encourage your child to sound out CVC words & create simple sentences (The cat is big. / I see a rat. ). Thank you for all you do!!!

Ms. Seback, Ms. Casperson & Mrs. Parks



### Staff Spotlight

Hello families! I am Anahy Gutierrez and I am excited to be the school counselor at Anderson Elementary this year. This will be my 9th year in education. I started as a teacher and went back to grad school to pursue a Masters Degree in School Counseling. I have spent most of my career working at high-needs schools. I'm thrilled to bring my experience to Anderson and look forward to a fantastic year with your children.

## First Grade

Hello fabulous First Grade families! What a crazy hurricane season we have had! We are so glad to be back on track with our students. In Reading & Writing, we will be reading Fiction (realistic-fiction and fantasies) & Non-Fiction texts, retelling a text using a topic and key details & using story elements (Beginning, Middle, End). In Writing, students will continue to work on basic concepts of print & learning letters & their sounds using UFLI (an explicit and systematic phonics program). In Math, students have been working on identifying 2D & 3D shapes based on their attributes. In Science, students participated in the sink & float grade level Science Olympics. In Social Studies, your child is learning about Hispanic Heroes in honor of Hispanic Heritage month. Thank you for your continued hard work & support!

Mrs. Zaritsky & Ms. Covington



## Second Grade

Happy Fall! 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade is excited to return to a sense of normalcy after the unexpected hurricanes. We are relieved that everyone is safe. We encourage you to reach out if you need any support or resources. In the classroom, we are continuing to work on addition & subtraction strategies within 100, expository texts and writing and Physical Science -forces and motion. We hope you take time during the holiday break to relax and enjoy the time with your loved ones.

Ms. Voytko & Ms. Mallory



## Third Grade

Hi all you terrific Third Graders and families! We are doing a lot of learning this school year already! In Reading, we are learning about the author's claim, character development, comparing/contrasting texts, and text features/structures! In Writing, we are really focusing on the Writer's Workshop model and learning many different writing crafts that we can use in our opinion pieces! In Math, we are learning our multiplication/division strategies and building our fact fluency with facts 0-12s! In Science, we have been learning about heat energy and learned how closely related this is to light energy. We have been looking for real examples in our classroom and at school too. Next, we investigate friction, temperature and mass. After, we will explore how to compare liquid volume and volume of 3D shapes. As well as physical properties of objects. If you haven't already, it is not too late to join PTA! Be sure and join today! **Reminder: All Monday's including January 6th are FULL DAYS of school (Hurricane Helene make up days)! Please note there may be some more changes to the calendar due to Hurricane Milton possible make-up days!**

Ms. Schulz & Ms. Embry



## Fourth Grade

Hello 4<sup>th</sup> Grade families!! We are so glad to get back to some normalcy after a long few weeks of hurricanes. In Reading, we are discussing dramas and discussing how the characters actions contribute to the plot. In Writing, we are working on expository essays. In math, we are working on multiplicative comparison and multiplying larger numbers with area models (up to two-digit by three-digit)! In Science, we are focusing on different forms of energy, like sound energy. In Social Studies, we are studying different native tribes to Florida. As a grade level, we are continuing our focus on effort and consistency!

Our writing baseline is approaching, where students are required to write an essay that can be expository, argumentative or opinion. Please refer to the [fsassessments.org](https://www.fsassessments.org) page for samples of the Fourth Grade Writing Scores.

Remember, it's never too late to join PTA!

Ms. Vadala & Ms. DiGangi



## Fifth Grade

Hello 5th Grade Families!! A few reminders for this extra busy time of year!  
-Make sure you are connected on ClassDojo! This is where we communicate with parents and post weekly updates and reminders. If you need to be connected, contact Mrs. McIntyre  
-JA Biztown is coming!!! On Tuesday, November 12, 5th Grade will be taking our annual field trip to JA Biztown. This is an opportunity for students to be assigned real 'jobs' for a day and learn all about what life is like in the working world. It is a 5th Grade tradition and we are so excited. Permission slips and payment information has been sent home and needs to be returned no later than November 5th.  
-5th Graders have been working hard on their Biography Projects! Be sure to check in with your student to see how their project is coming along! Students may wear their costume of their biographical figure for our Book Character parade and will need to make sure their timeline and costume are ready for our school wide Living Museum on 10/31.

Mrs. McIntyre & Mr. Becker

## PTA

Welcome back to our returning families, and to our new students and parents, welcome! We are so excited to have you join our Anderson family! 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!

### 2024-2025 PTA Board:

President – Megan Jacobs  
Vice President of Membership – Lynsey Bracken  
Treasurer – Amy McKenzie  
Recording Secretary – Saraya Whitfield



Our membership drive is under way! We hope you will join the Anderson PTA this year so that you can be an active part in making decisions that affect our students and our school. 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>. On behalf of the PTA Board, we wish you a successful school year and look forward to your continued support.

**Make sure your child arrives to school on time.**



Students look great in their school uniforms!

## PTA/SCHOOL EVENTS TO THE END OF DECEMBER

Below is a tentative list of event dates for fall semester (subject to change):

October 1- BOO Grams Sale Begins  
October 18-Freestyle Friday & Sno-Cones  
October 31-BOO Grams Distributed  
November 22-Freestyle Friday & Sno-Cones  
December 5-Movie Night & Gingerbread Workshop  
December 9 to 13-Gingerbread Workshop  
December 12-Tentative Winter Concert & Silent Auction  
December 20-Freestyle Friday & Sno-Cones



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!

**Anderson Elementary.....  
Together We Glow!**



  
**Hillsborough County**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
*Excellence in Education*

**We welcome the following staff to Anderson:**

Karly Atturio - ELL Resource Teacher  
Oscar Rangel - Custodian  
Ana Viquillon - Student Nutrition  
Drew Spagnola - Unique Needs Aide



**School Board**  
Karen Perez, Chair  
Jessica Vaughn, Vice Chair  
Nadia T. Combs  
Lynn L. Gray  
Stacy A. Hahn, Ph.D.  
Patricia "Patti" Rendon  
Henry "Shake" Washington

**Superintendent of Schools**  
Van Ayers

### **HCPS Calendar Changes due to Hurricane Helene**

The school district is required to make up the instructional time missed due to closures from Hurricane Helene. HCPS must make up two days and convert seven Early Release Days to full school days.

The following changes have been made to the HCPS Calendar:

Monday, January 6, 2025, will be the last day of the first semester and will be an Early Release Day.

Additionally, the following Mondays will be converted to full school days instead of Early Release Days:

October 28

November 4

November 18

December 2

December 9

December 16

Si usted tiene dificultad en entender la información de ésta u otra correspondencia de la escuela, por favor venga a la oficina principal. If you do not understand information, please contact the school office.

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

Lakeshore Learning  
First Watch  
Playgrounds  
Hungry Howie's  
Metro Diner  
Carrabba's  
Gasparilla Pizza  
Astro Skating



### **Guidance Events**

#### **Upcoming Events for October and November**

Students of the Month Assemblies: October 24 and November 22

Students will be recognized at an assembly in our Reading Courtyard.

Character Trait of the Month (October): Responsible

Character Trait of the Month (November): Determined

The Great American Teach In (GATI) is an opportunity for parents and our community to share their careers, hobbies and/or interests with students. The Great American Teach In is Thursday, November 21. Please let your child's teacher know if interested in participating or complete the link on social media.

Visit our Website: <http://anderson.mysdhc.org/>



Follow us on X/Twitter: [https://twitter.com/Anderson\\_Eagles](https://twitter.com/Anderson_Eagles)

## Reading Corner

Hello Anderson Eagles! It's been a great start to the year in the Media Center. We completed our media center orientations where we learned about taking care of library books and how to locate books in the media center. Classes that visit as part of the specials rotation have been able to try their hand at coding using Code.org and everyone has enjoyed checking out book. We also had our Fall Bookfair where we were able to generate funds to use for more new books, incentives and equipment for the Media Center. Best of all, we've started receiving hundreds of new books from a grant through Hillsborough County and the State of Florida. I'll be slowly introducing these new books to students and adding them to our collection for students to check out. This includes our new Wonderbook chapter book collection. Wonderbooks are print books that include a ready-to-play audiobook inside. Students can experience these books with or without headphones and there's even a learning mode with some questions to consider after reading. I can't wait for students to start enjoying all the new additions to our collection! Don't forget to check our Library Media Center page on Anderson's school website to access our virtual library, check out the SSYRA book lists and learn about upcoming reading related events and activities.



Be sure to visit our Library Media Center page on Anderson's school website to access our virtual library and check out the SSYRA book lists!  
Mrs. Schaffner, Media Specialist

## ELA News from Mrs. Tasso, Reading Coach

Here are some concrete techniques that children can use to study spelling. This article also shares guidelines teachers and students should keep in mind, because practice makes permanent.

### Five guidelines for learning to spell

#### **1. Practice makes permanent**

Did somebody tell you practice made perfect? That's only if you're practicing it right. Each time you spell a word wrong, you're 'practicing' the wrong spelling. So, if you're not sure how to spell the word, find out, *then* practice that spelling. Keep an ongoing notebook of words, so you've got your own personal dictionary and you can see your progress. Start small, though!

#### **2. Don't try to learn all the words at once**

Even if you learn them all in one sitting, practice them a few at a time. Find out what works best for you — it may be one or two words or as many as three or four. Then, add another word to your list, or start on different ones. Each time you learn another word, go back and practice the ones you learned before it, because, after all, *practice makes permanent*.

#### **3. Review, and review some more!**

If you already know some of the words on your list, practice them once or twice each before you start tackling the ones you don't know yet. It's a good confidence booster (and besides, *practice makes permanent*).

#### **4. Practice spelling as if you expect to spell those words right when you're writing**

There's more to learning to spell than passing a spelling test. There are lots of ways to get from guessing to knowing what to write down on a test, AND spelling words right when you're writing sentences and paragraphs. You want to train your hands to write the correct letters in the right order when you think a certain word. Use the "six ways to practice spelling" listed here.

#### **5. Use the words you've practiced**

That's the point to learning them, anyway. Have a list of words you're learning handy, in a notebook, and you can look them up to make sure you're spelling them right. Besides, using them is practicing them, and *practice...you know...makes permanent*.

[Susan Jones](#)

Reading Rockets





### We Are STEAM-Powered in AGP!

It's a "Happy STEAMtober" in our Academically Gifted Program (AGP), thanks to our Anderson's PTA grant! Our \$250 STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) grant was used to purchase various non-device, hands-on STEAM activities for our future Scientists and Engineers! From Grab-and-go "STEAM Challenges", to integrating "STEAM and Literature" with our "Folk Tales Problem Solving Kit," our gifted minds will use hands-on problem-solving activities and skills. This will give them the opportunity to design, create and test their inventions. Our budding engineers will also experience enrichment activities in physical science using our "Building Brick Challenge Kit!" Our future meteorologists will dig deeper into weather, using the "Weather Learning Science Activity Tub". Using our "Solar System Activity Tub", our space explorers will have everything they need to explore the solar system hands on!!!! We are thrilled to have so many STEAM activities in our AGP classroom! Thank you, PTA!!!



# BOOKS & BUNDTTS

*Reading Makes Life Sweeter*

## Who

Pre-K through Elementary  
School Students

## What

Students will receive a  
Free Bundtlet for each  
month that they read  
400+ minutes.

## When\*

September 1st, 2024  
to May 31st, 2025

## Why

Reading at an early age  
enriches children's brains,  
increases vocabulary and  
test scores, introduces  
readers to the world around  
them and helps develop  
their imaginations.



Does your child want a  
**Free Bundtlet every month?\***

Have him or her  
read for at least  
**20 minutes a day,  
5 days a week!**



## JOIN OUR "BOOKS & BUNDTTS" YOUTH READING PROGRAM

It's easy, free and delicious!

Turning your child into an enthusiastic reader is as easy as 1-2-3!

- 1 Record child's time spent reading on the monthly tracker.
- 2 Bring the completed reading tracker to the bakery listed.
- 3 Celebrate your child's accomplishment with a **Free Bundtlet** and an award certificate he or she can hold on to long after the cake has been enjoyed!

**Tampa-South**  
1155 S. Dale Mabry Hwy, Suite 5  
Tampa, FL 33629  
(813) 515-6891  
[tampa-south@nothingbundtcakes.com](mailto:tampa-south@nothingbundtcakes.com)

A Youth Reading Program by



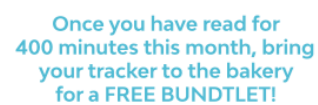


Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

A cartoon drawing of a smiling boy with a thumbs up gesture. The boy has a round face, large eyes, and a wide smile. He is wearing a cap and sneakers. The drawing is in a simple, friendly style.

TOTAL MINUTES READ:

A Youth Reading Program by



Limit one (1) Free Bundtlet per child per month. Only valid at the bakery location listed. No cash value. Tracker may not be reproduced, transferred or sold. Must be claimed in bakery during normal business hours. Not valid for online orders. Not valid with any other offer. Offer expires one month from the last tracker entry date.