

Meet Our Principal - Tricia Simonsen



Mrs. Simonsen has over 31 years of experience as an educator! She began her teaching career at Ruskin Elementary in 1990, and taught grades 2,3,4,5! She then moved on to Mintz Elementary, where she served as the Administrative Resource Teacher for two years. In 2000, Mrs. Simonsen opened Bevis Elementary as the Assistant Principal, and then became the Principal at Bevis Elementary in 2004. She served as the Principal of Bevis Elementary for 9 years! On July 16, 2013, she was appointed Principal of Valrico Elementary! She loves being a Valrico Hawk and is so proud of the hard work and dedication of students, faculty, and families in the Valrico School Community!

We are proud to share some of the accolades Mrs. Simonsen has received!

- *National Recognition as a Blue Ribbon School recipient in 2008
- *State Recognition as a Five Star School recipient – 1999-2013
- *2012 Florida PTA Elementary Principal of the Year
- *2005, 2006, 2009, 2011 Hillsborough PTA Elementary Principal of the Year
- *2011 Hillsborough County Elementary Math Leader of the Year
- *2012 & 2013 Hillsborough Counseling Assoc.– Elem. School Admin. of the Year
- *2013 Hillsborough County & State of Florida Elem. Reading Leader of the Year
- *2014 Hillsborough County Elem. Reading Leader of the Year Nominee
- *2017 Hillsborough Elementary School PTA Principal of the Year
- *2022 Florida PTA Elementary Principal of the Year

Mrs. Simonsen received a BS Degree in Elementary Education from St. Bonaventure University in upstate New York, and earned her Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Columbia University in NYC, and she recently earned a Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of South Florida.

Originally from New Canaan, CT, Mrs. Simonsen resides in the area and enjoys spending time with her family! She loves to attend sporting events and is a big supporter of the Florida State Seminoles, FGCU Lacrosse, Tampa Bay Lightning, Tampa Bay Rays, & Tampa Bay Buccaneers!

Meet Our Assistant Principal – Heather Bisesto



Mrs. Bisesto has been an educator in Hillsborough County Public Schools for over 20 years! She started out teaching first grade and, before teaching fourth grade, served as an Elementary Reading Coach and Peer Evaluator. Mrs. Bisesto has served students and teachers at McDonald, Walden Lake, Trapnell, Pinecrest, Symmes, and Lithia Springs elementary schools in addition to supporting instruction at 22 other schools across the county. She was appointed Assistant Principal on March 10, 2020

Some of Mrs. Bisesto's hard work and points of pride include:

- *2010 Just Read! Florida Professional Developer
- *2011 Hillsborough County Elementary Reading Coach of the Year
- *2013 Hillsborough County Master Trainer Certification
- *2015 CPALMS Published Student Tutorial Developer
- *2016 Florida Southern College Adjunct Professor

She is passionate about learning alongside everyone she meets, including the students and fellow Hawks of Valrico Elementary!

In addition to a BS Degree in Elementary Education from Western Michigan University, Mrs. Bisesto has a Master's Degree in Teaching and Learning with Technology from Ashford University, and earned a Master's Degree for Educational Leadership from Concordia University.

Mrs. Bisesto is originally from Michigan but lives locally with her husband (who grew up in Valrico), daughter, and son. She spends most of her time with her family and a dog at her side. She enjoys working on home improvement projects and relaxing at the beach.