

Thonotosassa Elementary: A Letter to Our Families

Welcome Back, Thonotosassa Elementary Thunderbolts, to the 2024-2025 school year! Welcome back to returning students, families, and to those who are new to our school.

This year's theme is "Learning is ELECTRIC!". This theme continues over from last year due to its' relativity to our THUNDERBOLT name. Over the past three years, our students, staff, teachers and administration have academically performed higher than in the entire history of our school. Unfortunately, as a school we slipped below our expectations this past year. There is no doubt that we worked very hard. Based on our current points for school grade we earned a school grade of a "C". This is an adequate accomplishment from the perspective of our district and state. However, I (and You) know we can do better. I encourage you to hold your head high this 2024-2025 school year. As the summer ends and we prepare together for the coming academic year, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you all back to Thonotosassa Elementary, "*the best school in Hillsborough County*".

We are a school that has the strike of a THUNDERBOLT! For the past four years, our school has celebrated academic success on the state level; 2021 – School Grade C, 2022 – School Grade A, 2023 – School Grade B, 2024 – School Grade C. Our school graduated out of our district's Transformational Schools Initiative. This is a major accomplishment. This means that we are no longer considered a fragile school that has an immediate potential to fail. However, we still are a school that needs to continue the same practices that made us successful with intensive focus. When I became principal at Thonotosassa Elementary, our school was under the supervision of the Florida Department of Education. With hard work and dedication, no longer is this the case. Now our task is to maintain our recent level of success.

We will continue to follow our BOLTS BIG 3. Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe will continue as our core values and mantra. It has not changed. The mission of providing relevant, rightful, and rigorous instruction for all our students every day has not changed. The vision of being the #1 school in Hillsborough County is based on mindset. We will stay the course. We are on the correct path to continue success. If we have high expectations of our students...they will rise. If we believe in them...they will believe in themselves.

This year we have the same two major goals that will improve our already successful school. We need a commitment from you to make it happen. **Goal #1** – parent involvement must increase. Our teachers, staff, and students need you to be an active influence in your children's learning. **Goal #2** – improve attendance and students arriving late to school. Parents, I place the challenge to all of you to become a part of your child's education at Thonotosassa Elementary School. Stress the importance of education to your children and support them by having them at school every day, attending parent meetings, staying connected with teachers. I challenge you to work with us to discover the gifts of your child while striving to always do our best.

The faculty, staff, students, and families of Thonotosassa Elementary have a responsibility to strive towards excellence. It is my intention to keep expectations high and reach new levels of academic achievement. We have a wonderful school with wonderful kids. Please know that our staff is here to assist in any way. Do not hesitate to contact us with your concerns, comments, or suggestions. I look forward to working with you this year!

Sincerely,

Anthony Montoto

Anthony Montoto, Principal
Thonotosassa Elementary School

Thonotosassa Elementary: A Letter to Our Families

