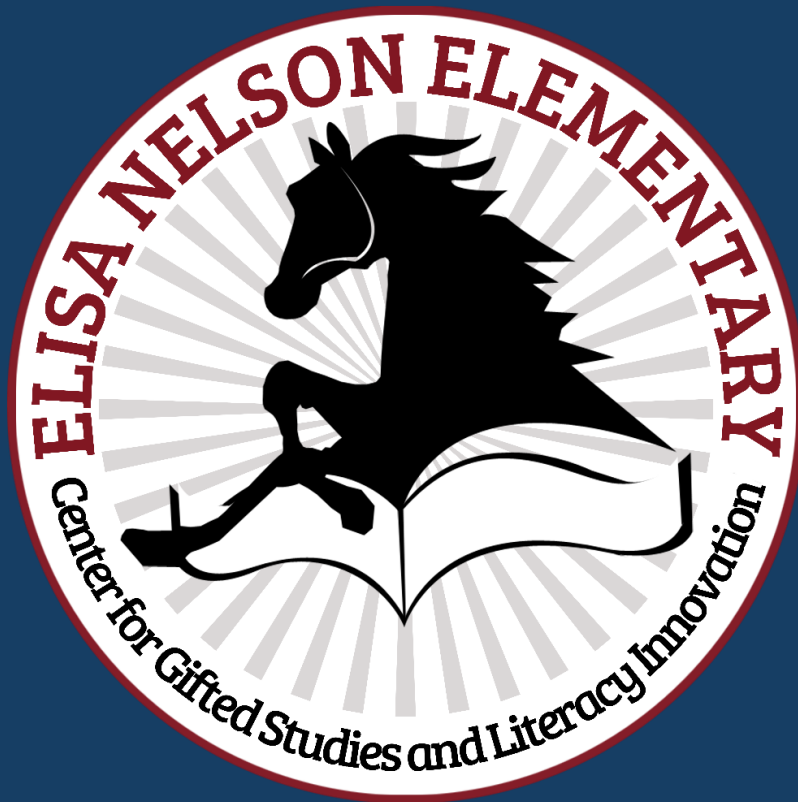


Elisa Nelson Elementary School Parent Handbook



ELISA NELSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | 415 15TH STREET NORTH PALM HARBOR FL, 34683 | 727-298-2788

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Welcome to Elisa Nelson Elementary School

Elisa Nelson Elementary School is a full-time application-based magnet program serving North Pinellas County students in grades 1-5. We offer two Magnet Programs, the Center for Gifted Studies and the Center for Literacy Innovation.

Mission

Our learning community is committed to providing high quality learning experiences that will empower students to pursue personal passions and ambitious goals through self-efficacy, innovation, and perseverance.

Vision

Every learner is inspired and supported to be a confident, innovative, and dynamic thinker who will shape a new and better world for the future.

Center for Gifted Studies

At the Center for Gifted Studies, we are committed to empowering students to explore their passions and achieve ambitious goals through high-quality, purposeful learning. As a comprehensive, full-time gifted program, we offer a rigorous and advanced curriculum across all content areas, grounded in the Florida Gifted Frameworks. Students benefit from daily gifted services delivered by gifted-endorsed teachers who create enriched, integrated learning experiences that promote deep content knowledge, research skills, and both critical and creative thinking. Collaboration with intellectual peers is central to our approach, fostering innovation, perseverance, and a strong sense of self-efficacy.

Center for Literacy Innovation

At the Center for Literacy Innovation, we are committed to providing a systematic, multisensory, structured approach to literacy instruction. Students have opportunities for remediation in reading, writing and math. In addition to district curriculum & resources, the Center for Literacy Innovation teachers are highly trained experts delivering customized reading interventions using a research-based program and strategies in whole groups, small groups, and one-one settings. Student achievement is closely monitored, and instructional strategies are adapted regularly to suit the on-going growth in reading and writing.

General Information

Attendance Process

The classroom setting offers a unique experience that cannot be replicated through make-up assignments. The purpose of the attendance policy is to foster responsibility and reliability, and it is important that all students attend all classes. As the parent/guardian of a student in this magnet program, you are responsible for ensuring that your child attends school consistently and on time. Students should attend school daily prepared to learn. As per the magnet agreement signed by every family, an excessive number of absences could result in truancy intervention referral or dismissal from the magnet program. Additional details can be found in the Pinellas County Schools Student Code of Conduct <https://www.pcsb.org/code>.

Reporting a Student Absence

To report your child's absence, visit our school website and click on the "Report a Student Absence" link, which will automatically generate an email for you. The email will be addressed to our school Data Management Technician, please CC your child's teacher. Be sure to include:

- Child's first and last name

- Date of birth
- Homeroom teacher
- Date(s) of absence
- The reason for the absence
- Any relevant documentation that supports the reason for the absence can be attached to the email.

If you encounter any difficulties with the online link, please report the absence by calling us directly (727) 298-2788, extension 2007. We appreciate your cooperation in following these procedures to ensure accurate record-keeping and effective communication. Absent students will receive an automated phone call from the school if your child is marked absent.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Morning Arrival

Supervision of students will begin at 8:15 AM. Prior to 8:15 AM, students are not permitted on campus for student safety unless participating in a club or event. Parents who are transporting students to school should utilize the car line in order to drop students directly at the building. If walking, parents are expected to walk with their child to the arrival gates utilizing crosswalks.

Classrooms will be open to students beginning at 8:30 AM. If your student is not eating breakfast, we encourage arrivals after 8:30 AM. Students may report directly to their homeroom class at that time. Instruction begins promptly at 8:45 AM. If a student arrives after 8:40 AM they must enter through the front office, be accompanied by an adult, and obtain a tardy slip. Any student who is not in class by 8:45 AM will be marked tardy.

Afternoon Dismissal

Dismissal is at 2:55 PM. Students must leave the school grounds promptly unless they are participating in an afterschool club. Students are dismissed as car riders, bus/van riders, or walkers. Students will follow all expectations and safety guidelines throughout the dismissal process. Students staying after school for an activity should be picked up at the location determined by the club/teacher sponsor. Parents are expected to walk and meet their club sponsor at the designated gate for checkout.

Change in Dismissal

Parents are asked to complete the “REPORT A DISMISSAL CHANGE FORM” linked on our website for any and all dismissal changes. This includes changes due to registering for clubs and other events. This form must be submitted before 2pm on the day of the dismissal change in order to be processed.



Early Dismissal

If a student needs to be checked out of school early, the parent/guardian will need to come into the front office to sign the student out with photo ID. We recommend that all early sign outs are completed before 2:30pm. Only the people identified as an approved pick-up person on the front office card can pick up a student.

Car Line

The car line opens daily in the morning from 8:15 AM to 8:40 AM and in the afternoon from 2:55 PM to 3:10 PM. When the car line has closed any remaining students will be asked to wait in the front office. Families who arrive after 3:10 pm will need to come inside the front office to sign out their student.

Car line tags can be picked up at *Meet the Teacher* night or in the front office. If someone other than the parent is picking up your child, please ensure that the person is listed on your office card and inform the teacher of the change.

Bus Transportation

Students who ride the bus are expected to follow all Pinellas County School District transportation guidelines. All transportation questions regarding pickup & drop off locations and times will need to be directed to the district Transportation office. Families can contact the Transportation office at (727) 587-2020.

Families of bus riders are asked to sign up for the Bus Bulletin. Bus Bulletin will alert parents of any delays or any updates. Please visit <https://www.pcsb.org/busbulletin> to sign up.

All buses assigned to Elisa Nelson Elementary will have a route number. Route numbers will be assigned a color through the school. The front bus circle is reserved for buses from 8:00 AM to 8:45 AM and 2:30 PM to 3:10 PM.

Walkers/Bikers

Morning walkers/bike riders will enter campus through the gate at the bus entrance. Staff and safety patrol officers are posted throughout campus to help direct students. Students must walk their bike while on the school grounds. Bikes must be stored on the rack to the side of the cafeteria. Motorized bikes and scooters are not permitted on campus.

Afternoon walkers and bike riders will meet their families at the Walker gate located to the left of the car line. For the safety of students, it is expected that students follow directions, maintain minimal noise level and follow all school expectations. Walkers will exit campus using the crosswalk at the north side of the school entrance nearest the car line and crossing guard. Students must have the *Walker Permission* slip completed prior to utilizing this dismissal option. Students will provide their name to the designated staff member prior to exiting.

Bike riders must walk their bike while on campus and will exit through the same gate as arrivals. We remind you that it is state law for elementary-aged students to wear a helmet while riding their bikes.

During inclement weather the walker gate is closed, parents are advised to use their vehicles to pick up their walker-students in the car line. Any student not picked up in the car line will be brought to the front office when car line is complete. As always, any changes to the afternoon dismissal plan for your student must be communicated in writing.

Before/After Care

Pinellas County Schools offers various aftercare options for students, both through school-based programs and partnerships with external providers.

R'Club

The R'Club program is available for before and after school care. It is provided for Elisa Nelson Elementary students only. The student hours are 6:30 AM to 8:10 AM and from 2:55 PM to 6:00 PM. If you are interested in the program, please contact R'Club staff at 727-221-5204. Please note that the drop-off and pick-up location is through the staff parking lot and located in the cafeteria. Registration occurs during the summer; space is limited.

Vans

There are several external providers that offer van service to Elisa Nelson Elementary. For information about what vans currently partner with our school, please contact our Family & Community Liaison.

Grades

Elisa Nelson Elementary School utilizes the grading system of Pinellas County Schools.

Letter Grades

Grades 1 - 2: The following codes are used for ELA, Math, Social Studies, Science, Art, Music, and PE
E(excellent), **V** (very good), **S** (satisfactory), **N** (needs improvement), **U** (unsatisfactory)

Grades 3 - 5: The following grades are used for ELA, Math, Social Studies, Science

A 90-100% | **B** 80-89% | **C** 70-79% | **D** 60-69% | **F** 0-59%

The following grades will be used for Art, Music, and PE

E(excellent), **V** (very good), **S** (satisfactory), **N** (needs improvement), **U** (unsatisfactory)

Conduct Codes

The following codes are used to communicate conduct each quarter for all grade levels.

E(excellent), **V** (very good), **S** (satisfactory), **N** (needs improvement), **U** (unsatisfactory)

Agendas/Take Home Tuesday Folders

Each student is provided with an agenda and take-home Tuesday folder at the beginning of each school year. These tools are designed so that students can write homework, assignments, notify parents of important events, and keep a record of school functions, projects, and dates. Parents can also use the agenda and folder to communicate with teachers. Agendas may look different by grade level but serve the same purpose.

Parent Focus Portal

PCS Focus is an online tool which allows parents of students to view grades, attendance records, discipline records, health information, and emergency contacts. All families should have a parent Focus account. You can log on at www.focus.pcsb.org. If you need help logging into the parent Focus portal, please call the front office and ask for the Data Management Technician (DMT). The Focus portal is where you will fill out all necessary information about your child and complete your required yearly forms.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent teacher conferences are a critical component in building strong partnership and clear communication between the teacher and the parent. Teachers will reach out to parents to schedule conferences throughout the year; parents are also welcome to request a conference by contacting the teacher through email, phone, or written note.

Homework

The purpose of homework is to extend and support learning in the classroom. We believe that homework is not just about compliance but rather intended to be perfect practice. Homework is intended to be meaningful exercise that prepares students for class each day. Families can anticipate 10 minutes of purposeful homework for each grade level. In addition to daily assignments, all Blazers are also expected to complete iStation and Dreambox requirements at home weekly.

Dress Code

The dress code policy adopted by the learning community at our school is designed to enhance student learning in a caring and nurturing environment. Our dress code policy promotes solidarity and school pride among all students at Elisa Nelson Elementary.

In addition to the Pinellas County Schools' dress code policy at <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/15060>, Elisa Nelson Elementary students must adhere to the following:

Shirts

Students are expected to wear a solid, collared shirt in one of the dress code colors (white, light blue,

burgundy, or navy). Shirts should be one solid color; any brand logos should be no larger than a quarter. On Fridays only, students may wear spirit wear shirts.

Bottoms

Students are expected to wear solid navy blue or solid khaki bottoms in the form of a skirt, shorts, pants, a skort or a jumper. Shorts and pants must be worn around the waist and fit properly. Jeans can be worn on Friday only. According to the Pinellas County Schools Dress Code, form fitting leotard/spandex type clothing is not allowed unless proper outer garments cover to mid-thigh length or longer.

Outerwear

Students are expected to wear outerwear (jackets/sweaters/hoodies) in the school uniform colors: navy, white, light blue, burgundy, or any school logo outerwear. The outerwear must be a solid color, and any logos should be no larger than a quarter. **This expectation does not include coats worn during inclement weather.*

Friday

Approved school spirit shirts may be worn on Friday with jeans, khaki, or navy bottoms in the form of a skirt, shorts, pants, a skort or jumper. Field Trip shirts are not considered spirit wear.

Field Trips

An Elisa Nelson Elementary Field Trip shirt is expected to be worn on all school field trips.

Shoes

Closed toe athletic shoes or dress shoes must be worn daily as part of the uniform. Sneakers are required for PE and are strongly preferred every day. “Heelies” or any shoes with wheels are not allowed. Socks are a required part of the uniform as well. Socks do not have to be any particular color; however, they should be school appropriate.

Café

Breakfast

Breakfast is provided free of charge to all students between 8:15am and 8:40am daily. Students eat in the café at tables designated for each of the grade levels.

Lunch

All students eat lunch in the cafeteria for 30 minutes a day. Each class is assigned their own table, and we use a positive behavior intervention support system in the cafeteria referred to as the Café Dash. Students are expected to follow the Blazer Best. Students are welcome to bring lunch from home or purchase a lunch through the cafeteria.

Soft drinks and candy are not permitted. Sharing of any food items between students is not permitted. Parents are discouraged from dropping off fast food items for their child.

When purchasing lunch through the cafeteria, the cost is \$2.75. Please visit www.myschoolbucks.com to add funds to your child’s account in order to purchase lunch.

Lunch With Your Child

Families are welcome to eat lunch with their students. Parents must enter the front office, present photo identification, and check out their child for lunch. Parents may only sign out their child. Students and families are welcome to eat at the picnic tables outside of the main office. At the end of the lunch period, parents will sign in their student in the front office. Parents should be aware of weather conditions as the *family lunch area* is outdoors.

Birthday Celebrations

At Elisa Nelson Elementary we offer Birthday Celebration Packages. Each Birthday Celebration package includes an approved Ice Cream / Frozen Smart Snack Treat for each student in the class and a birthday crown. These treats will be delivered directly to your child's teacher following lunch. Allergy-friendly options will be available to individual students as needed.

Orders must be placed at least 10 days prior to the celebration to ensure delivery. After submitting your request, Food Services requires your child's My School Bucks account to have sufficient funds for the order to be completed. Order cost will be charged to your myschoolbucks.com account on the day of party. Parents must ensure that the funds are available in the account for the order to be completed and delivered to your student. To calculate the amount due, multiply the cost of the treat with the number of treats ordered. Celebration treats are \$1.50 per student. If you don't know the number of students in the class, contact your child's teacher.

To load your account, please visit myschoolbucks.com

***Reminder: No outside food or other items may be sent to the classroom for celebrations.**

Lost & Found

Lost & Found items can be found in the cafeteria. **Please label articles of clothing, lunch boxes, water bottles, and backpacks.** Parents can also check the Lost & Found rack during family events. Students should check the Lost & Found regularly as we periodically donate unclaimed items to charitable organizations. Elisa Nelson Elementary School is not responsible for lost or damaged items.

Positive Behavior Systems

It is our goal at Elisa Nelson Elementary to create a safe, positive, and productive learning environment where instructional time is maximized. We believe in a proactive approach that includes classroom based positive reinforcement system, restorative practices, and whole school essential agreements.

All students are expected to comply with the *Pinellas County Schools Code of Conduct* and DAP program guidelines. Students are expected to behave at school, school activities, and on the school bus. School discipline will be consistent with the guidelines set in the *Pinellas County Schools Code of Conduct*.

Blazer B.E.S.T.

Elisa Nelson Elementary uses the Blazer B.E.S.T. to summarize our behavior expectations. The Blazer B.E.S.T. matrix is posted throughout common areas of our school campus along with example behaviors specific to the area included.

- Be safe**
- Encourage Kindness**
- Show Integrity**
- Take Responsibility**

Caught Being the B.E.S.T.

Students who are caught in a moment of greatness will be honored with a 'Caught Being the B.E.S.T.' ticket. The ticket will note the students' accomplishments in relation to the Blazer B.E.S.T. characteristic or Blazer Trait that has been demonstrated by the student. Students will receive a special prize from administration and are invited to participate as part of the Principal's 100 Club celebration. Celebrations occur throughout each quarter.

Blazer Traits

The Blazer Traits are a set of 10 personal traits we aim to develop at Elisa Nelson Elementary. We believe that our students will actively lead their own path towards lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. In doing so the Blazer Traits will guide their path to success. Blazers are **collaborative, courageous, confident, dynamic, humanitarian, innovative, intellectual, principled, reflective, and resolute.**

Award Celebrations

Each quarter students are celebrated for their outstanding academic achievement, attendance, and demonstrating Blazer Traits. There are two award ceremonies yearly at the end of each semester, awards are presented at the Academic Awards Assembly to which parents of those receiving awards are invited.

Principal's Honor Roll Grades 3-5

Straight A's and demonstrate Blazer Traits as indicated by no conduct concerns on the report card.

Honor Roll Grades 3-5

All A's and B's on the report card and demonstrate the Blazer Traits as indicated by no conduct concerns on the report card.

Blazing Forward Award Grades 1-5

These students are self-motivated and enthusiastic learners. They exhibit a growth mindset by assuming responsibility, identifying needs, and applying problem-solving approaches to learning and growing. They have shown progress and effort during the recent quarter. **All academic grades are C/S or higher and all conduct marks are S or higher.** These students did NOT receive Principal's Honor Roll/Honor Roll/Outstanding Blazer award.

Outstanding Blazer Award Grades 1-2

These students are enthusiastic learners who have demonstrated dedication to learning. They are confident, innovative, and dynamic thinkers. **All academic grades are V or higher and conduct marks on the report card are S or higher.** This award is given to all qualifying students.

Perfect Attendance

These students who have no absences during the entire quarter. The classroom experience is of unique value and cannot be duplicated by make-up work. We celebrate the students who have attended school each day during the quarter and acknowledge their commitment to learning.

LMB Shining Star, CLI grades 2-5

This award recognizes students in the Center for Literacy Innovation who rarely miss group and have made progress during their Lindamood Bell Intervention group shall be honored with this award. Students have demonstrated effort and commitment to a growth mindset. This award is given to all qualifying students.

Blazer Trait

Students receiving the Blazer Trait of the Month will be honored during the ceremony. Students will be recognized for demonstrating excellence in the designated traits celebrated that semester.

Celebrations in the Classroom

During the school year, some classes may have activities to celebrate students' success and teachers may request support from families. School board food guidelines and policies dictate that only store bought, and packaged foods may be served at the classroom celebrations. Packaged foods must also follow the PCS Wellness guidelines for elementary schools that can be found at www.pcsb.org/page/26421.

***Reminder: No outside food or other items may be sent to the classroom for celebrations.**

Clinic

The mission of School Health Services is to provide high quality services to our students and families to promote a safe and healthy school environment that supports effective learning. The School Health Services aims to increase student academic achievement, improve oversight of chronic health conditions, reduce health-related emergencies, and decrease health-related absences.

You may call the school nurse for any additional question at 727-298-2788 Ext 2026.

Medications

Please call the front office to schedule an appointment with the school nurse to drop off your student's medication. School personnel may not administer any medication to any student without having an official authorization form signed by both the doctor and the parent/guardian on file. Forms must indicate the name of medication, quantity, time to be administered, dosage, and termination date. These forms are available from the school office.

No student may administer any form of medication to themselves and are not allowed to carry any medications on their person or in backpack.

Technology

Computer Usage

At Elisa Nelson Elementary School, all students are assigned a computer. Grades 1 and 2 keep their assigned computers on campus. Grades 3-5 may take their computers home on an as needed basis. Computers may only be used for academic purposes only and students are expected to abide by the following rules:

- Student devices are to be used to support learning and enhance education, ONLY.
- Internet use must support learning and enhance education, ONLY.
- Students may not allow others to use their account name, password, or device.
- Students may not give out their address, phone number or other personal information to others.
- Students may not change their computer settings in any way. This includes the background image, font size, location of app, etc.

Wireless Communication Devices

Elementary school students must keep wireless communication devices powered off throughout the instructional school day and while participating in a school-sponsored activity on or off campus. Students are permitted to use their wireless communication devices after the end of the instructional school day, if needed to communicate with parents to coordinate transportation.

Headphones and earbuds are not allowed during the instructional school day or while participating in a school-sponsored activity on or off campus, unless otherwise directed by a teacher. When allowed, headphones and earbuds are restricted to minimal volume, only to be heard by its user. Due to school safety concerns, one ear must remain free of the accessory at all times during authorized use.

Violations of this policy may result in the confiscation of wireless communication devices and only returned to the parent. Students who bring this equipment to school do this at their own risk. The school board and Elisa Nelson Elementary is not responsible for preventing theft, loss, damage, or vandalism. The best way to get in touch with your child during the school day is by calling the school office.

The Media Center

Our Media Center, also known as The Hub includes a vast library and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 2:45 PM. Students are encouraged to visit the library throughout the day through independent book checkout, library lessons, and makerspace activities.

[The Love of Reading](#)

At Elisa Nelson Elementary school we believe it is important to foster a love of reading and that begins at home. We encourage our families to read together, visit the library, and encourage book talk. All Blazers are encouraged to read for at least 20 minutes nightly.

[Book Checkout](#)

Students may choose from a wide variety of books suitable for their age and reading level. Students may check out two books at a time. Books can be borrowed from the library for up to two weeks and we encourage students to return books on time to enable others to enjoy them.

Overdue notifications are sent home quarterly to students to remind them to return or renew their books. If a book is lost or damaged, we kindly ask that it be replaced, or a fee be paid to cover the cost of the book.

[Makerspace](#)

The Hub features a dynamic makerspace that brings creativity and problem-solving to the forefront. Students are invited to participate in hands-on activities and projects that blend science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Activities are aligned to ideas and concepts taught in classrooms as well as reinforcing information already learned. Activities may include building models, using technology kits, creative fluency and more.

[Library lessons](#)

Library Lessons may include read aloud, technology integration, and maker space. Digital Responsibility lessons are facilitated quarterly to each grade level focusing on topics such as digital footprints, digital responsibility, and media balance.

Specials

Students have specials daily. Students participate in PE three days a week and participate in Art and Music one day a week.

[Physical Education](#)

The PE curriculum at Elisa Nelson Elementary is designed to align with both local and state standards, providing PE classes three times a week. We focus on key skills, physical fitness, and sportsmanship. Students in grades 3-5 will take part in the Fitness Gram assessment to measure their fitness levels. For safety reasons, Blazers are encouraged to wear sneakers and bring labeled water bottles.

[Music](#)

Students will attend a weekly 45-minute general music class. During music class students will engage in a variety of activities including singing, playing instruments, reading music, moving to music, creating music, and learning about music theory, history, and technology. Each grade level will participate in a performance once per year. Chorus and Band are offered as supplemental programs during and outside the school day for select students in grades 4-5.

[Art](#)

Art classes provide a wonderful opportunity for students to explore their creativity and develop their artistic talents. Offered once a week for 45 minutes, these classes are structured to introduce students

to the fundamental elements of design and a diverse array of artistic mediums and styles. Student art pieces can be viewed through Artsonia.com.

Family Involvement

Visitors

All visitors must present a photo I.D. at the front office before being granted access. Visitors must always wear their visitor sticker or badge while on the school campus. Visitors must be escorted unless they have Level 2 clearance.

Volunteering

Volunteering at Elisa Nelson Elementary is encouraged through a variety of opportunities. Volunteers must register online and update their volunteer account annually. Volunteers are expected to maintain confidentiality and professionalism when working with students. Families can reach out to their child's classroom teacher or Family & Community Liaison for upcoming opportunities.

Level I Volunteer

A Level I volunteer is a volunteer that has been background checked, cleared by the district, and is active in our volunteer system. Level I volunteers can volunteer in the classroom, in the office, or at events. However, Level I volunteers must always be accompanied by a staff member. The volunteer application can be accessed by going to <https://asd.pcsb.org/schoolwiresforms/volunteer/>.

Level II Volunteer

A Level II volunteer must meet all the criteria of a Level 1 volunteer AND have their fingerprints cleared through the FBI and the district at personal expense. These volunteers can do all the duties of a Level I volunteer and in addition, they can chaperone on field trips, work with small groups out of the sight of a school staff member and be left alone with a class in an emergency. Once a volunteer is Level II, they must obtain and wear their Level II badge while on campus and on every field trip. Their Level II status is good for five years from the date they are cleared.

Field Trips

Field trips are planned by the classroom teachers. Permission slips must be returned and signed on the assigned due date prior to the field trip. Parents who would like to volunteer as a chaperone on a field trip must have completed the online volunteer registration and be a Level II volunteer. Younger siblings are not permitted to attend field trips. Students are asked to wear ENE field trip shirts on field trips.

Adopt-A-Class

The Adopt-A-Class program encourages local businesses, organizations, families, and individuals in our community to become involved by making tax deductible donations. One hundred percent of the donation goes directly to the class or program of your choice. These donations enable the teacher to purchase educational items that will enhance the classroom and the student's education.

School Advisory Council (SAC)

Florida Law requires a School Advisory Council (SAC) at every school. The board is composed of school board employees, parents, and community members that represent the ethnic, racial, and economic population of the student body. SAC members have input in the development and implementation of school goals and district initiatives. The SAC is a valuable advisory resource to the school and principal. If you are interested in being involved in SAC please call the office. All parents and community members are always welcome to attend.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The Elisa Nelson Elementary Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is dedicated to fostering strong partnerships among parents, teachers, and the school. This collaboration is vital in creating a supportive environment where students can thrive academically and socially. Throughout the year there are a variety of activities and programs. These initiatives are designed to enrich the school community and provide valuable experiences for students through family events, fundraising activities, and volunteer opportunities.

The Blazer Experience

School Wide Enrichment Model (SEM)

The Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM) focuses on enrichment for all students through high levels of engagement and the use of enjoyable and challenging learning experiences that are constructed around students' interests, learning styles, and preferred modes of expression.

SEM clusters occur once each semester, for about a 10-week period. At the end of each SEM session, students showcase their work to peers and families during a SEM showcase.

Student Led Conferences

At Elisa Nelson Elementary, we believe that Student Led Conferences offer a method for increasing student responsibility for learning. Twice a year, students conference with parents or significant adults on their academic progress. These conferences, led by students, allow families to see evidence of their students' learning and development while also providing an opportunity to support and celebrate student learning.

Clubs

At Elisa Nelson Elementary, our focus is to promote a positive school climate and provide opportunities to motivate all students to reach their greatest potential in school and in life. We accelerate learning through student experiences. Time and again research supports the positive impact that extracurricular activities have on student achievement. Clubs are sponsored by our teachers and offerings are updated each year. To sign up for a club, parents should complete the Forms link on our school website.

To find the most up to date information about clubs please visit the Elisa Nelson Elementary website at <https://www.pcsb.org/domain/12896>.

The Clubs below have specific eligibility and/or selection requirements.

[National Elementary Honor Society](#)

The National Elementary Honors Society (NEHS) at Elisa Nelson Elementary will recognize the highest achieving students in grades 4 & 5. It will provide the perfect springboard to students' success in middle school, high school and beyond. NEHS members will be inspired to take on community service projects within the school, and in our local, national, and global communities. They will promote the ideals of scholarship, responsibility, service, and leadership to contribute towards a tradition of excellence and student agency. Please visit <https://www.pcsb.org/domain/10751> for information about eligibility and the selection process.

[Student Council](#)

The Student Council at Elisa Nelson Elementary gives students the opportunity to practice leadership skills throughout the school and work in various groups. Students will have opportunities to report to classes, administrators, sponsors, and other student council representatives.

The Student Council is comprised of one student from each classroom, grades one through five, and are elected by their peers based on leadership skills, personal responsibility, and the Blazer B.E.S.T.

Fifth grade student council members will have the opportunity to run for school President. This will include a school-wide election process.

Safety Patrol

AAA School Safety Patrol members are school-sponsored student volunteers who direct children, not traffic. They also serve as role models and leaders on the campus for younger children.

School Safety Patrol members may have the following duties:

- Complete training in traffic and school safety.
- Assist during morning and afternoon bus and car line duty.
- Teach fellow students about traffic and school safety.
- Monitor the flow of on-campus foot traffic.
- Serve in other leadership roles under the direction of school officials.
- Students interested in joining Safety Patrol should complete an application at the end of 4th grade.

Mighty Mu

Mighty Mu is a math enrichment club for 4th and 5th graders. Students will prepare for the Mighty Mu annual math competition. Invitations to the Mighty Mu club are based on Mathematics Assessment Performance and teacher recommendation. Invitations will be sent to students who qualify for the program.

Odyssey of the Mind

Odyssey of the Mind is an international, creative problem-solving program that provides opportunities for students to apply their creativity to solve a variety of problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literacy classics. Emphasis is placed on teaching students that great minds don't necessarily think alike - and often march to different drummers; that there are no "right" answers; that creative solutions come from teamwork, cooperation, and risk-taking. The question about knowledge can and should be FUN!

Each team can have a maximum of seven students. Students are invited to audition for participation in this club. Students and families will be notified by the coaches if selected for the team.

Private Vendors

Elisa Nelson Elementary school hosts a variety of clubs from outside vendors that may require an additional fee to participate. These clubs may include Soccer Shots, Lacrosse, Chess, Bricks for Kids, and more.

Extended Learning Program (ELP)

Extended Learning Program (ELP) also offers our students the opportunity to extend their learning and academic success through remediation and support in Language Arts, Math, and Science. We offer a variety of options before and/or after school to continue to support your child's academic success. Please contact your child's teacher for more information regarding remediation and support opportunities available in your child's grade/program.

Center for Gifted Studies: Available for grades 3-5 in the second semester. This program is by invitation only.

Center for Literacy Innovation: Available for grades 2-5 year-round, recommended for all students.

If a student is recommended for ELP, attendance in ELP is given priority over other clubs and programs.

Blazer Traits



BLAZER TRAITS

The Blazer traits are a set of ten personal traits we aim to develop in all Elisa Nelson Elementary Students. We believe that our students will actively lead their own path towards lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. In doing so the Blazer Traits will guide their path to success.

DYNAMIC We are active, self-motivated, and enthusiastic learners. We exhibit a growth mindset by assuming responsibility, identifying needs, and applying problem-solving approaches to learning and growing. We are process-oriented and strive to adapt to new ideas and circumstances.

COURAGEOUS We are fearless in our approach to achieve the extraordinary. We bravely defend our own views, take learning risks and encourage the sharing of bold ideas and opposing views.

PRINCIPLED We exhibit honesty and integrity in all that we do and take responsibility for our actions and their consequences. We have a strong sense of fairness and justice and show respect for the rights and dignity of all humans and animals and recognize the value of our shared planet.

COLLABORATIVE We listen carefully and respond thoughtfully to multiple perspectives from individuals and groups while effectively expressing our own ideas. Developing a shared vision, we strive to create unity to achieve our collective goals.

HUMANITARIAN We believe we can change the world! We investigate and analyze complex world issues, generate supportive arguments from multiple perspectives to create awareness and inspire change.

RESOLUTE We are driven! Our passion and perseverance drive our pursuit of ambitious long-term goals. We exhibit grit and change and grow in response to challenges.

INNOVATIVE We aim to design creative products and solutions that address problems locally, nationally, and globally. We analyze the relevance, reliability, and usefulness of information from diverse sources, forecast effectiveness, and illustrate divergent solutions and perspectives.

INTELLECTUAL We utilize a variety of research tools and methodologies to gain significant knowledge and intelligence through the study of foundational concepts of a field of study. We develop as scholars and strengthen our academic aptitudes through purposeful questioning, critiquing, and logical organization and presentation of information.

CONFIDENT We ask questions, express wonderings, communicate understandings, and voice opinions to promote self-reliance and personal balance. We have a strong sense of self-efficacy and partner with teachers and parents to direct and influence our own learning.

REFLECTIVE We think deeply about personal strengths and weaknesses to take charge of our own learning. We set personal goals, design plans of action, and address both benefits and obstacles to achieve academic, personal, social, and emotional wellbeing and balance.

DAP Agreement

PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS
DISTRICT APPLICATION PROGRAM
PARENT/STUDENT COMMITMENT AGREEMENT

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Application Program Name: _____

As the **parent/guardian** of a student in this magnet program, I agree to:

Date: _____

- ensure that my child attends school consistently and on time
- provide a home environment that encourages my child to learn
- oversee completion of school assignments
- talk to my child about his/her school activities on a regular basis
- encourage my child to read and learn at home
- prioritize volunteering at my child's school
- show respect and support for my child, the teachers, and the school
- assist the school in developing positive behaviors in students
- support participation in magnet activities
- communicate with my child's teacher(s), which may include signing my child's agenda book
- support the activities of the PTA and volunteer programs
- support all school policies and procedures

Comments: _____

Signature: _____ Signature: _____

As a **student** in this magnet program, I agree to:

- come to school daily prepared to learn
- do my best in my schoolwork, magnet activities, and behavior
- exhibit behaviors that promote a positive learning environment
- adhere to the expectations and community agreements within my specific magnet program
- participate in all class and magnet program activities
- treat myself, my school, and others with respect
- work cooperatively with my classmates
- accept responsibility for my actions
- obey district, school, and bus rules

Comments: _____

Signature: _____ Signature: _____

DISTRICT APPLICATION PROGRAM (DAP) PROCEDURES FOR POSSIBLE REMOVAL FROM THE PROGRAM

All students in a DAP program are expected to successfully complete the program. Failure to comply to the commitment agreement may result in the student working with an Intervention Committee (IC). The IC, established by the school administration, reviews cases, suggests interventions that will increase student success, and recommends probation and makes recommendations regarding removal from the DAP program. Specific expectations and processes related to removal from District Application Programs are contained in the DAP Procedures which can be found on the Pinellas County Schools website at: <https://www.pcsb.org/cms/lib/FL01903687/Centricity/Domain/10466/DAP%20Guide%2022-23.pdf>