



# Principals Weekly Update

5/15

Greetings Blazer Families,

**CONGRATULATIONS!!** Elisa Nelson Elementary has been designated as a **School of Excellence** by the State of Florida based on student achievement on the 2023 state assessments. Per Florida statute, to be eligible schools had to: (a) receive a grade of A or B in each of the most recent three school years and (b) rank at the 80th percentile or higher for their school type for at least two of the last three years. Elisa Nelson Elementary scholars' remarkable performance earned the school an A grade for both years and placed us at the 92<sup>nd</sup> percentile in 2022 and at the 98.7<sup>th</sup> percentile in 2023. Go Blazers!!

**A special announcement:** As principal of this amazing school, I am beyond proud of our school of excellence ranking along with so many remarkable accomplishments throughout the last five years. My heart is full of gratitude and memories as I bid farewell to this journey we have shared together. After five fulfilling years as principal of this amazing school and two decades in K-12 schools, the time has come for me to embark on a new chapter in my life. After much thought I have decided to retire from public education this summer (July 2024). I plan on spending more time with my family and perhaps even travel. To our outstanding staff and highly supportive parent community, your dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to our students have been the driving force behind the success of this school. Together we have created an environment where children feel supported, inspired, and empowered. I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished together. I have every confidence that our remarkable team will continue to uphold the values and standards that define our school and lead it to even greater heights in the years to come. District leadership has begun the recruitment process in for the most qualified and suitable school leader to serve as the next principal. I will continue to keep you informed of any updates and plan on working closely with the new principal throughout the summer to ensure a seamless transition.

**Celebrating IB graduates and our OM team:** Today, has been an exciting day as our Blazers hosted a clap-out for the 2024 Palm Harbor University High School IB graduates! Our talented musicians of the Blazer Band performed, and Odyssey of the Mind champions led the way as IB graduates walked the halls. Blazers cheered, clapped, and congratulated them with honor and pride!

**5<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary Special!** Flyer: [Brick Fundraiser - Fund the Field](#)

As we close out this school year, we also mark a very special milestone for our school-our 5-year anniversary! Each of our Blazers, regardless of which year they joined us, are part of the foundational first five years. Certainly, this is very special!! I would like to invite each of our families to **leave your legacy** as we celebrate 5 years at Elisa Nelson Elementary by purchasing a brick for your student(s) or family. This will only be offered until the end of the 2023/2024 school year. We would love to see every family represented! **All funds raised will go towards funding our recess fields!** Please click here for further details and to place your brick order. Questions? Contact Leah Ruggles at [rugglesl@pcsb.org](mailto:rugglesl@pcsb.org) or call us at (727) 298-2788 Thank you for your support!

**Spring Music Concert a PHUHS Auditorium – May 16.** - A reminder that this performance will include the following performers.

- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Chorus group
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade musicians and singers

I look forward to seeing everyone at this final musical performance of the year!

**Go Blazers!!**

Principal  
Elisa Nelson Elementary  
Center for Gifted Studies and Literacy Innovation