

Thomas Elementary

This school is named in honor of Dr. Frank W. Thomas, the second president of California State University, Fresno, when it was Fresno State College. Dr. Thomas was a native of Indiana. He received his undergraduate education in that state and his master's degree from the University of Illinois, where he remained to teach several years before moving to California where he headed secondary schools in Santa Monica and later in Sacramento.

In 1917, Thomas became vice president of Fresno State under the founding president, C.L. McLane. In 1927, McLane retired as president and Thomas, who had completed his Ph.D. Degree at Stanford University, was appointed president of Fresno State College, a position he occupied until he retired in 1948. He was instrumental in expanding the program of the college to give degrees in other than Education, and to offer graduate work leading to a master's degree. The term "teachers" was deleted from the college title and it became a liberal arts and science institution. He remained professionally active for many years after his retirement and was actively involved in the civic life of Fresno and other valley communities throughout his career in Fresno. Dr. Frank Thomas died in 1970 at the age of 92 years.

Thomas School is located at 4444 North Millbrook and serves elementary school children living in that vicinity.