MILDRED HELMS ELEMENTARY
IB WORLD SCHOOL

561 Clearwater Largo Road Largo, FL 33770
(727)588-3569 www.pcsb.org/mildred-es
Vision: 100% Student Success

August 2026

Principal's Points of Pride

Dear Mildred Helms Families,

Welcome to the 2026-27 school year! We are coming off one of our most successful years as a Magnet Schools of America School of Distinction and for the third year in a row we earned an "A" grade from the State of Florida.

Congratulations to our entire MHES Community for earning these two amazing distinctions. We are so proud of all our scholars, teachers, and staff that helped us earn this awesome achievement. Congratulations to Pinellas County Schools as our district also earned an "A" rating!

Thank you to all the parents and students who attended our Meet and Greet and linked up their FOCUS accounts to receive email messages from teachers. Your attendance made opening day run smoother and supported your child's transition to their new classroom. If you are still in need of support with FOCUS, please stop by the front office.

Communication between home and school is vital. FOCUS messages are sent out using phone numbers and email addresses entered by parents in the FOCUS parent portal. All changes can be made online by parents.

We will also be utilizing FOCUS Messenger for parent updates as well as agendas or folders daily. For additional information, log into our school website to keep apprised of schoolwide information, newsletters, events and calendars. Check out our school newsletters which include our monthly calendar, success stories, flyers for upcoming events and links to sites that support student enrichment through learning.

Our Title I Annual Meeting and Open House will be held on Wednesday, August 26th beginning at 5:30pm in the café. Times will be staggered to support families with multiple children. Teachers will share grade level expectations and classroom processes. We hope you can join us!

Throughout the year, we will be sharing our Family Night and PTA events showcasing our amazing scholars and providing opportunities to interact with our staff and school families. Together, we can enhance the student experience during the 2026-27 school year and make it the best one ever.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community.

Respectfully,
Mrs. Brennan

Save the Date

8/11 First Day of School

8/26 Open House

Title One Annual Meeting

9/7 No School - Labor Day



Mrs. Craig's Corner

Welcome back to the 2026-2027 school year. My name is Dautie Craig and I am the new assistant principal at Mildred Helms Elementary. It was a pleasure to meet many of you on Friday at Meet the Teacher and I look forward to meeting the rest of you throughout the school year.

As your new Assistant Principal, I am thrilled to partner with our amazing families and staff to create a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment where every student can grow, succeed, and reach their full potential this year.

Together, we will make this school year an extraordinary journey of learning and achievement.

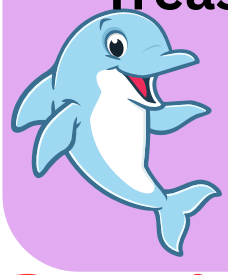
Mrs. Craig

MISSION: **Mildred Helms is committed to developing knowledgeable, inquiring, and caring lifelong learners within an intellectually challenging, transdisciplinary program emphasizing international mindedness.**

MHES COMMUNITY

Community Connections

Thanks for supporting our school!



Your Pizza Shop
Fourteen Foods
Treasure Island Fun Center
Panda Express
Largo Elks #2159
Wanda Chime
Dunkin Donuts
Largo Women's Club
Lutheran Church of the Good Shephard
Steven Foster
VFW Post 194
Hill Family

Don't Miss Out!

Sponsor Today!

Mildred Helms Elementary IB World School

Business and Community Sponsorship

2026-2027

Mildred Helms Elementary IB World School believes every child should have the opportunity to reach his or her full potential and we are confident education is at the top of your social concern. Public schools need the support and help of our local community. The often-heard statement, "it takes a village to raise a child," is very true. For this reason, we ask you to kindly consider partnering with Mildred Helms Elementary IB World School as a Dolphin Business Sponsor. Donations will fund a variety of invaluable programs, classroom adoptions, and school needs. Working together, schools, families and communities can prepare for a more promising future.

Yes, I want to make a difference at Mildred Helms Elementary IB World School. My chosen level of sponsorship is:

$500
- Car circle Banner
- Name on Marquee
- Name on office lobby presentation
- Mention in newsletter
- Certificate of Recognition
- Supporting Education

$300
- Name on Marquee
- Name on office lobby presentation
- Mention in Newsletter
- Certificate of Recognition
- Supporting Education

$150
- Name on office lobby presentation
- Mention in newsletter
- Certificate of Recognition
- Supporting Education

☐ We cannot sponsor at this time but would like to make a donation of:_____

Business Name:
Contact Name:
Address:
City:
Zip:
Telephone:
Email:

Checks made payable to
Mildred Helms Elementary School

Mail checks with completed forms to:
Mildred Helms Elementary
561 S. Clearwater/Largo Rd
Largo, FL 33770

Drop off available in the front office during school hours.

Volunteers!

As of July 1, 2026 all Pinellas County Schools volunteers are required to undergo Level 2 background screening. Level 2 background screenings for Pinellas County Schools are exclusively provided by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Clearinghouse. Please allow up to two weeks from the date of fingerprinting for volunteer approval.

Volunteers are always needed for field trips and school events.

If you are a Returning Level 1 or Level 2 Volunteer:

Please go to www.pcsb.org/volunteerregistration

- Click on "I am a current PCS volunteer."
- Then choose whether you are a Level 1 or Level 2 and follow the instructions that are given for each level.

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PYP MONTHLY

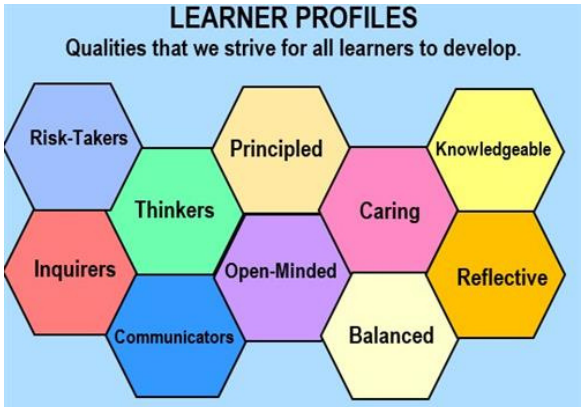
Welcome!



My name is Jenn Kelly and I am the IB PYP Coordinator at Mildred Helms Elementary. I am looking forward to a super great 2026 – 2027 school year! Check out this page of our monthly newsletter for information about IB and what it looks like in our IB World School!

What does it mean to be an IB Learner?

Ever wonder what IB could possibly look like in an elementary classroom? You are not alone! I get this question so much. We all know about the hard classes at the high school level of years past, but for students in the Primary Years Program at our school, its all about how we approach learning. Our teachers are trained in the IB Framework and how to apply it to our daily lives. We infuse student interest with inquiry based teaching and weave rigorous Florida Best Standards into each lesson.



Every student learns about our IB Learner Profile. These are 10 attributes of an internationally minded learner. Each month, we highlight an attribute to learn about and look for examples in your student's classmates. At the end of each month, students decide who had displayed this attribute and they become our Dolphin of the Month! Dolphins of the Month are celebrated on our morning news show and in our monthly newsletter.

How might you develop these attributes at home?

IB Learner Profile of the Month

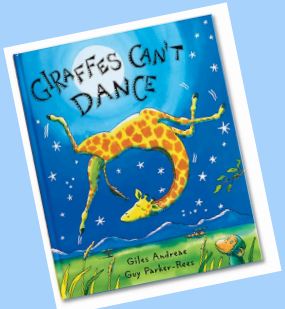
Risk-Taker

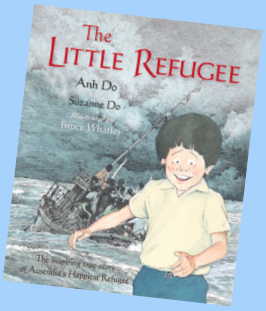
We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.





Learner Profile Books of the Month





In both books, the characters learn a great lesson on how to be a risk–taker – how to be brave!

Click on the book cover to listen to the book.

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MHES SPECIALISTS

Counselor's Connections

Welcome back to a brand new school year 😃! As your school counselor, I am thrilled to welcome both our returning students and those joining our school community for the first time!

The beginning of a new school year brings opportunities for growth, learning, and new friendships. My goal is to help every student feel supported, valued, and ready to succeed both academically and emotionally.

Throughout the year, I will be visiting the classrooms to teach social-skills lessons, meeting with students individually and in small groups, and partnering with families and staff to ensure every child feels supported and valued.

How I support students: emotional/social well-being, self-esteem, friendship building, conflict resolution, stress management, coping strategies, academic achievement, and goal setting.
I look forward to a wonderful year of growth, kindness, and new opportunities. I can't wait to see all the wonderful things our students will accomplish this year! Wishing everyone a fantastic school year!

Please feel free to reach out if you ever have questions or concerns about your child's well-being at school.
Phone: (727) 588-3569 ext. 2061 **Email: desapior@pcsb.org**

Smiles,
Mrs. De Sapio

Coaches Court

Welcome to MHES Physical Education!
2026–2027 School Year

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! The Physical Education staff are excited to welcome our students back and look forward to another year of movement, learning, teamwork, and fun.

As we begin the school year, we ask that students come to PE prepared to participate safely and comfortably. Please make sure your child has:

- Appropriate athletic footwear that is secure and suitable for physical activity.
- A labeled water bottle or tumbler to stay hydrated throughout PE class.

Being prepared for PE helps students participate fully and safely in all activities. We appreciate your support in helping your child develop healthy habits and a positive attitude toward physical activity.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year and to helping every student grow in confidence, fitness, teamwork, and physical skills.

Thank you for partnering with us and supporting your child's success!

Warmly,
Coach Curti
Coach Sedely

Ms. Coleman's Book Nook

Welcome Back Dolphins!

Hopefully you were lucky enough to read some great books this summer. I discovered a bunch of fantastic picture books that I am excited to share with you in Media class!

If you are a 4th or 5th grader who borrowed your laptop over the summer, please remember to return them on the first day of school so we can get you set up for the new school year.

Looking forward to seeing you again soon and welcoming all of our new students too!

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MHES SPECIALISTS

Mrs. Clemens' Musical Notes

Welcome back to the music room! Get ready to sing and play!

All Kindergarten through 5th grade students come to the music room weekly for class. The students have so much fun! Many don't realize how MUCH they learn and grow! Can't wait to see everyone!

Our Pre-K 3's and VPK also have a weekly music time in their classrooms! It's so much fun!

MAKE A NOTE!!! Chorus is offered to all 4th and 5th graders! Chorus meets once a week during the school day on Fridays for rehearsal. We have several performances throughout the school year for family and friends to attend!
How do you sign up? A flyer and permission slip will be sent home at the beginning of the year with students who are interested. Parents will need to fill out and return the permission slip ASAP! Thank you!

Looking forward to an incredible year!
-Mrs. Clemens, Music Teacher

Mr. Kiebzak's Artist Loft

Hello new and returning families! My name is Mr. Kiebzak and this will be my 6th year as the Art Teacher at Mildred Helms Elementary School.

Each grade level will be learning about artists from the past and present as well as different periods of art styles that made each era special & unique! All students will be creating artwork in many different mediums like drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, digital art, photography, printmaking & mixed media.

There will be 10 different Art exhibitions this year at local museums & galleries. I have the opportunity to submit artwork for each of these, which means your child's artwork could be hanging on the walls of an actual Art museum or gallery!!! Since many of these exhibitions come later in the school year, like our schoolwide Art show, I will be hanging on to some of their artwork they create for these shows!

Lots of fun and creativity will be taking place in my classroom and I'm really looking forward to bringing out the artist in each and every student. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to send me an email at kiebzakj@pcsb.org.

MHES SPECIALISTS

Mrs. Andura's Spanish Adventures

🐬 Señora Andura's Spanish Adventures! 🐬

¡Hola, Dolphin Families!

My name is Señora Andura, and I am excited to join the Mildred Helms family as the new Spanish teacher! Originally from Argentina, I have had the privilege of teaching in IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) schools in the United States and am passionate about helping students become confident communicators and globally minded learners.

This year, our VPK-5 Dolphin scholars will explore Spanish through storytelling, singing, games, and role-playing, all connected to their Units of Inquiry. Through language and culture, students will ask questions, make connections, and develop a deeper understanding of the world around them.

In Spanish Class, we will:

📚 Explore stories and folktales from Spanish-speaking countries

🎵 Learn through songs, music, and movement

🎭 Participate in storytelling and role-playing activities

🎲 Practice language through interactive games

🌎 Discover cultures, traditions, and perspectives from around the Spanish-speaking world

As IB learners, students will develop important Learner Profile attributes by being Inquirers, Communicators, Open-Minded, Caring, and Risk-Takers as they grow in their understanding of language and culture.

💙 Family Connection Corner

Ask your child to teach you three Spanish words or phrases they learned at school. Encourage them to share a story, song, or cultural tradition they explored in class. Learning together helps strengthen communication, curiosity, and confidence!

I can't wait to learn, sing, explore, and grow with our Dolphin scholars this year.

¡Hasta pronto! 💙

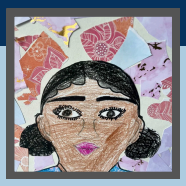
Señora Andura

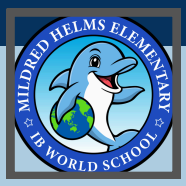
Spanish Teacher

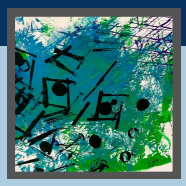
MHES CALENDAR

August 2026










Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2	3	4	5	6	7 **Meet& Greet 8:45am - 10:00am**	8
9	10	11 	12	13	14 **Spirit Shirt Friday!** 	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 **Spirit Shirt Friday!** 	22
23	24	25	26 **Open House & Title 1 Annual Meeting**	27	28 **Spirit Shirt Friday!** 	29
30	31	.	.	.	.	.

Visit us at https://www.pcsb.org/mildred-es for the most up to date information!

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