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

October 2026

Principal's Points of Pride

Dear Mildred Helms Families,

Welcome to Fall! We are well into learning grade level standards and approaching the end of the first quarter of the year. The first report card of the year will post on October 22nd. Students completed their first round of progress monitoring assessments and teachers are now scheduling first semester conferences.

Attendance and participation in class are two essential components to school success. Your child's attendance impacts their learning and the learning of others. Parents, please ensure your child is on campus no later than 8:50am to get to class before the final bell at 9:00am. Tardies and requests for early dismissal are impacting classrooms with interruptions. Schedule appointments outside of the school day. Report absences to your child's teacher by phone, email or a note in the agenda.

Our next family event will be the International Walk to School Day held on Wednesday, Oct. 7th starting at Publix on Clearwater-Largo Road and West Bay Drive. We will have community partners sharing safe ways to walk to and from school. Students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian to participate. On October 15th, we will be hosting Celebrating our Heritage through Learning Family Night. Flyers will be coming home soon with more information.

Our next SAC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27th at 6pm in the café. We welcome everyone to attend the SAC meeting and learn more about our school events and efforts to support our families throughout the year.

Respectfully yours,
Mrs. Brennan

Dates to Remember

10/7 Walk to School Day
10/15 Celebrating our Heritage Through Learning Night
10/15 Family Night at the Book Fair
10/19 Book Fair
10/22 Report Cards Go Home
10/24 All County Magnet Fair
10/26 - 30 Red Ribbon Week



Mrs. Craig's Corner

Dear MHES Families,

Happy Fall! We are nearing the end of the first quarter, and all students have successfully completed the FAST/STAR PM1 assessment cycle. We are proud of the students for working diligently to complete the assessment with nearly all students in attendance for their testing day! Their hard work and on-time attendance reflects the strong commitment to learning that defines our school community.

Our students have been doing exceedingly well at earning IB Bucks by consistently demonstrating the IB Learner Profile attributes each and every day at school. We are excited to announce that our first IB Bucks Store of the year will be open on October 23rd! Thank you for supporting PBIS at our school. The Dolphin Depot store shelves are stocked with a wide variety of items for students of all ages to enjoy.

If you would like to donate items that would support PBIS at our school and the store, we welcome donations at any time. You can drop donations off to the front office or contact Cheryl Hauburger in the front office for more information. Your support makes this rewarding experience possible for our students.

Thank you!
Mrs. Craig

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MHES COMMUNITY

Community Connections

Thanks for supporting our school!



Emily Shelley
Kristin Otis and family
Charley's Philly Steak
Heisler Johnson American Legion Unit 19
Lotz of Blessings
Julia Malachowski
Amanda Callahan
Misty Veverka
Goodwill Books

GREAT AMERICAN TEACH IN

The Teach In provides an opportunity for parents and members of the community to come in and speak with students about their occupations, hobbies, or areas of interest. Although the focus of the Teach In is to give students information on a variety of careers, we also encourage volunteers to speak about hobbies, areas of interest, organize an activity, read a story or teach a class. Speakers can choose the school they would like to visit and the amount of time they wish to speak for, from one hour to an entire school day!

Nov 18, 2026

CONTACT :
Cheryl Hauburger
hauburgerc@pcsb.org
(727) 588-3569



WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

October 7, 2026

Mildred Helms Elementary is participating in Walk to School Day on

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2026

Join children and adults around the world to celebrate the benefits of walking and bicycling.

About our event:

We will meet in the Publix parking lot at 7:45am located at 857 W. Bay Drive, Largo 33770.

We will leave at 8:20am and walk to school as a group.

Parents must accompany their students.

Learn more at walkbiketoschool.org

Walk to School Day is coordinated in the U.S.A. by the National Center for Safe Routes to School.

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MHES COMMUNITY

Hello Mildred Helms Elementary School Families,

Your pictures have shipped! You should be receiving them in the next few days.

Parents still need to order pictures? Our NEW Code Lookup Tool is now available. They can simply scan the QR code and follow the directions to access their child's picture ordering gallery. No need to contact Customer Service for an access code! *Student last name and Student ID number will be required for data security.*

Please post the attached flyer on your social media sites or send through your school communication systems. If at any time your parents or guardians have questions about the Code Lookup or are having difficulty navigating the site, they can still reach out to our Customer Service team via the Live Chat on our website, www.strawbridge.net

We appreciate you choosing Strawbridge Studios as your school picture provider. We look forward to seeing you at your next picture day!

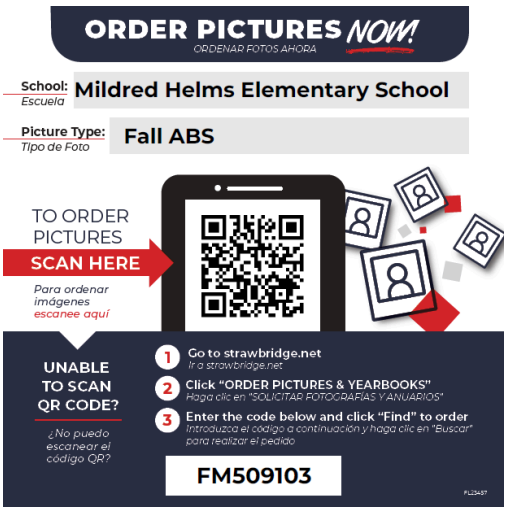




Fall Picture Day... Coming Soon! October 28, 2026







To pay online, go to www.strawbridge.net. Click Order Pictures and enter the following code:
Para pagar en línea, vaya a www.strawbridge.net. Haga clic en ordenar fotos e ingrese el código siguiente:
FM509103
Enter Online Payment Code Here:
Ingrese el código de pago en línea aquí:

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MHES COMMUNITY

PTA News

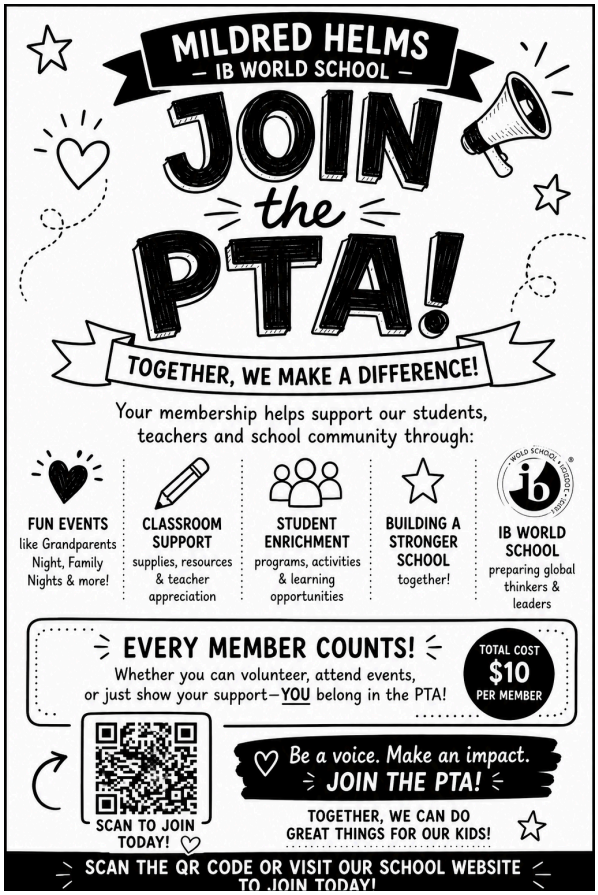
Thank you to all of our Mildred Helms families, grandparents, volunteers, and staff who helped make our Grandparent Game Night such a wonderful evening! We loved seeing our school community come together for games, pizza, and family time. Your support helps PTA continue creating memorable experiences for our students and families.

The PTA has an exciting year ahead! We are supporting student incentives, the PBIS Store, teacher grants, family events, and other programs throughout the school year. We are also beginning preparations for our Veterans Day celebration, including our Wall of Heroes honoring veterans connected to our Mildred Helms families.

Want to get involved? Whether you can volunteer at one event, help behind the scenes, donate supplies, or become a PTA member, there is a place for everyone in our PTA community.

Do you have questions, ideas or interested in helping? Contact us at president@mildredhelmspta.org.

Thank you for helping us make Mildred Helms Elementary - IB World School an amazing place for our Dolphins!



Cafe Delights

Snacks are back!
Every Friday, students may purchase a snack!

Ice Cream cups & small ice cream sandwiches are $1.00
Ice Cream cones are $1.50
Chips are $1.00
Fresh Baked Cookies are $.75

Parents! Please click link to add funds

https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/getmain?requestAction=home

Parents can look up all nutritional facts about our healthy choice snacks at this link below:

https://www.pcsb.org/departments/facilities-and-operations/food-and-nutrition/special-dietary-needs/nutrient-information-and-ingredient-list/smart-snacks





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PYP MONTHLY

Welcome!



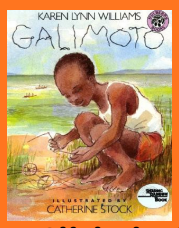
My name is Jenn Kelly and I am the IB PYP Coordinator at Mildred Helms Elementary. I am looking forward to a super great 2026 – 2027 school year! Check out this page of our monthly newsletter for information about IB and what it looks like in our IB World School!

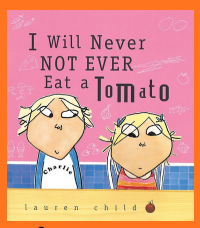
IB Learner Profile of the Month

Thinkers

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

Learner Profile Books of the Month





Click the book cover to hear it read aloud!

Thinking Skills

- Thinking critically
- Thinking creatively
- Thinking flexibly
- Thinking of questions
- Making connections
- Reflecting & being metacognitive



Communicators of the Month of September

PK3 / VPK: Jon S., Jacob F., Charlotte S.
Kindergarten: Zara T., Julian W., Graycee G.
1st Grade: Ellia H., Bodhi M., Wyatt C., Selena R.
2nd Grade: Corbin H., Stella G., Danna A., Arianna K.
3rd Grade: Delilah W., Christopher A., Hayes C., Tyler S.
4th Grade: Matthew N., Ava P., Mila A.
5th Grade: Olivia R., Alessia M., Steffany T.

WAY TO GO

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MHES SPECIALISTS

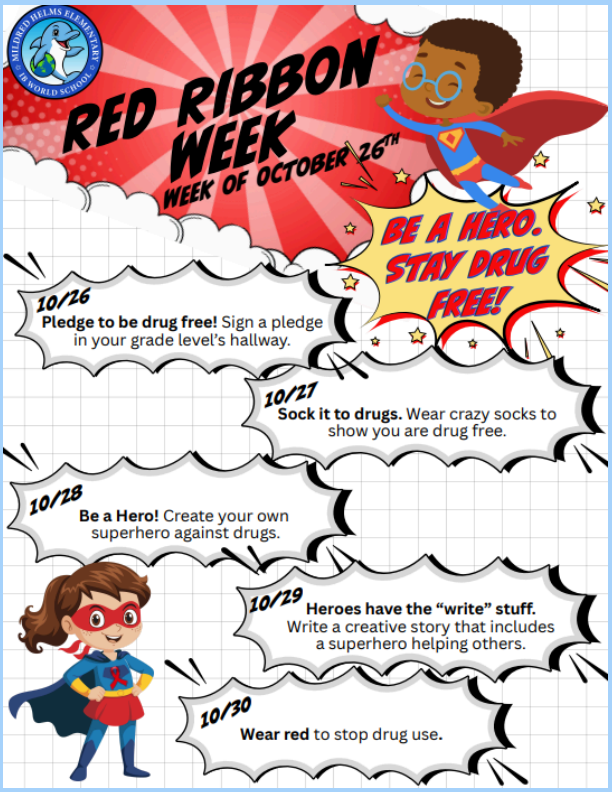
Counselor's Connections

This month, our school will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week, October 26–30! ❤️ This year's theme is "Make a Difference. Be a Hero. Stay Drug Free." Students and staff will participate in fun activities and school-wide themes week as we learn about making healthy, safe, and positive choices. We will encourage our students to be everyday heroes by making good decisions, caring for others, and being positive role models in our school community.

I have also been visiting classrooms for classroom guidance lessons focused on helping students identify, understand, and express their feelings. This month, we will build on those skills by learning about healthy coping strategies that students can use when they experience big feelings. We will practice simple, age-appropriate ways to calm our bodies, work through big feelings, and make positive choices.

As always, my goal is to help our students feel safe, supported, confident, and ready to learn. 💛 I look forward to a wonderful October filled with learning, kindness, connection, and school spirit!

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy October! 🍁
Mrs. DeSapio, School Counselor



Ms. Coleman's Book Nook

Something special is happening in the library in October- it's the Fall Book Fair. What is also unique is we are kicking off the book fair with Family Night on Thursday, October 15th!

The following week (October 19th-23rd) will be when classes have the opportunity to come to the Book Fair. Stay on the lookout for book fair flyers to go home.

In Media class, we will begin our Digital Responsibility lessons. Every quarter there is a new lesson for every grade (Grades K-5). We want all of our students to know how to be safe, responsible, and respectful digital citizens.

Ms. Coleman



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MHES SPECIALISTS

Mrs. Clemens' Musical Notes

PreK through 5th Graders have begun playing instruments and singing in music class. Hopefully, your students are sharing those experiences with you! Feel free to ask them about the songs and instruments they are learning!

Our MHES 5th Graders will be going on a field trip! We will be attending The Florida Orchestra Youth Concert on Wed. Oct. 21st at 11am at the BayCare Sound Amphitheater in Clearwater. They will leave at 10:00am and return to school at 12:30pm for lunch. Permission slips will be sent home soon!

Chorus Upcoming Events:

1. Chorus Shirt Sale - October dates TBD!
2. Veterans Day Assembly - Tues. Nov. 10th at 8:00am (5th Grade Chorus Only!)
3. Holiday Concert - Tues. Dec. 8th at 6:45pm at the MHES Cafeteria
4. Holiday Concert - Fri. Dec. 11th at 6:30pm at Largo Central Park!

I will email Chorus families about purchasing shirts soon! Be on the look out for that! Also, "OPT IN" to receive TEXT messages through Focus as well, if you prefer!

Thank you for supporting the ARTS in your child's life!
- Mrs. Clemens, MHES Music Specialist

Coaches Court

🐬 Hello MHES Athletes and Families!
Thank you for the positive and productive start to the school year! Our athletes have been working hard, staying focused, and giving their best effort despite the heat and thunderstorms. We are proud of the effort and sportsmanship we continue to see in PE! As we wrap up the first marking period, students will continue working toward their PE expectations and developing their movement skills.

🐬 PE Dolphins of the Week
Congratulations to our PE Dolphins of the Week! These students have demonstrated great effort, positive attitudes, teamwork, and sportsmanship in PE.

🌟 Aiyanna (Gomez)
🌟 Oden (Riser)
🌟 Omar (Feo)
🌟 Mila (Levine)

Way to go, Dolphins! We are proud of you! 🐬👏

👟 Looking Ahead
As the weather begins to cool down, we are excited to introduce the Mileage Club Challenge! Students will have an opportunity to stay active, challenge themselves, and work toward their mileage goals. Thank you for your continued support in encouraging your children to stay active, make healthy choices, and demonstrate great sportsmanship.

High Fives,
PE 🐬

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MHES SPECIALISTS

Mrs. Andura's Spanish Adventures

🍂 **October News from Spanish Class** 🍂
¡Hola, Dolphin Families!

October is a wonderful month of learning, growing, and celebrating together! Our Dolphin scholars will continue building their Spanish skills through songs, stories, games, and meaningful conversations.

🌎 **Celebrating Hispanic Heritage**
As we continue honoring Hispanic Heritage Month, students will learn about the traditions, contributions, and cultures that enrich communities throughout the United States and the Spanish-speaking world.

👩‍🚒 **Community Helpers**
We will review familiar vocabulary and add new jobs found in our community, learning how people work together to help others and make our neighborhoods stronger.

⭐ **The Power of Perseverance**
Learning Spanish takes courage and practice! This month, we will focus on perseverance, reminding students that mistakes help us learn and grow, not only in Spanish but in all subjects.

🌿 **Nature, Coexistence, and Wisdom**
Students will explore how people, animals, and nature can live together in harmony. Through stories and activities, we will learn new vocabulary about nature while discussing the importance of respect, kindness, and wise choices.

💙 **Family Connection Corner**
Ask your child:
✅ What is one new job you learned in Spanish?
✅ What does perseverance mean?
✅ Can you name something found in nature in Spanish?
✅ What is one thing you learned about Hispanic Heritage Month?

Thank you for supporting your child's language-learning journey. Together, we are helping our Dolphin scholars become confident communicators, caring community members, and lifelong learners!

¡Hasta pronto! 💙
Señora Andura
Spanish Teacher

Mr. Kiebzak's Artist Loft

Hello Mildred Helms families! I have seen such great progress so far this year across all grade levels. From the Pre-K 3's to the 5th graders, they are all working hard and creating awesome pieces of Art. Each grade level is currently either wrapping up their 2nd Art project of the year or starting their 3rd project.

The Prek and VPK classes just got finished creating some Polka dot flowers.

Kindergarten is finishing up their 2nd projects in which they were learning about different textures. They created a city made with 2D textures (implied) and actual 3D textures.

1st grade is creating a very cool "ukulele" mixed media piece that is based around music and collage.

2nd grade just finished a fun mixed media project about balance and symmetry and is currently working on their printing plate for a fun print making activity, which ties in with their field trip to The James Museum in November. Stay tuned for more information.

3rd grade students are drawing some amazing self-portraits. They learned about the differences between portraits and self-portraits and are using mirrors and creativity to draw themselves!

4th grade finished their graffiti name tags which came out really wonderful! They are now learning about visual movement and are using 12" manakins to draw people in motion!

5th grade is finished with their Kids Tag Art license plate design and they are now working on their 1 pt. Perspective drawings. They learned about perspectives in art, horizon lines and vanishing points to create a really cool landscape using 1 pt. Perspective. Thank you to the 5th grade families who returned their Kids Tag Art permission slip for you to be able to purchase their artwork on a real metal license plate (Front of car only or a piece of art for your home). Permission slips are still able to be turned in and the deadline is 10/2! You cannot purchase their artwork on the license plate if you do not fill out the slip. 5th grade Art club also started and we are creating some custom t shirts and learning a lot of different techniques to create a unique piece of wearable art.

Thanks for supporting and please message me if you have any questions at kiebzakj@pcsb.org.

Ms. McShane's Gifted Connections

Greetings families,

I am thrilled for this year of discovery, exploration, and learning as we dive into our theme of Ecology and Interactions! Throughout the year, students will investigate the fascinating connections between living things and their environments while developing their curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

Looking for more information about this year? I invite you to explore our Canva page to learn more about me, this year's theme, upcoming learning experiences, and classroom activities. Make sure to scroll through the full page and all tabs. We've already started an amazing year together!

Please contact me for any questions or concerns related to gifted services,

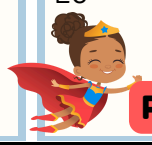
~ Ms. McShane mcshaneh@pcsb.org

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MHES CALENDAR

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
.	.	.	.	1	2 Spirit Shirt Friday!	3
4 	5 	6	7 Walk to School Day 	8	9 End of Quarter 1	10
11	12 No School for Students	13	14	15 Celebrating our Heritage Through Learning Night 5:30pm Family Night at the Bookfair!	16 Spirit Shirt Friday!	17
18	19 	20	21	22 Report Cards go home	23 Spirit Shirt Friday!	24
25	26	27 SAC Meeting 6PM	28	29	30	31
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Red Ribbon Week - Be a Hero. Stay Drug Free!





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

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