



Highlands Elementary School (HLES)

1600 Shepard Road Winter Springs, FL 32708
www.highlands.scps.k12.fl.us • 407-746-6650



An "A" Rated School District

A Word From Our Principal

Highlands Elementary is proud to be a Leader In Me school. Our students are taught and use the 8 Habits of Happy Kids so they may be healthy, engaged, responsible and caring people. This school report outlines the key characteristics of our school from both an academic and non-academic perspective. I hope it helps you understand what makes Highlands unique. Please reach out to us if you have any questions about our school.

Robert Navarro

What Makes Us Special

- Leading allows our students to become active, engaged partners in their learning while building their self-confidence, responsibility and personal initiative.
- Highlands Elementary takes pride in building relationships with our families and offering a variety of events to engage parents with their children.
- Students are provided opportunities to Find their Voice by participating in Leadership Clubs and completing service projects.

Advanced Academics

2018-2019 Data

Program of Rigorous Integrated Mathematics for Elementary Students (PRIMES) is available for mathematically talented students in grades 4 through 5.

Highlands offers Spanish as world language option(s).

Family Engagement

2018-2019 Data



Dividends is the volunteer program for SCPS.

Our incredible Highlands volunteers gave **4,832** hours of their time to support students.

Technology and the Future



- Students are introduced to new technologies and activities designed to build their problemsolving, logical thinking, and collaboration skills.
- Students are exposed to Coding at all grade levels and are able to utilize our Makerspace in the media center.
- Computer Science 2020 - Our students participate in at least 10 hours of computer science learning each school year.

Student Achievement

2018-2019 Data

- All students in grades K-5 participate in English and Language Arts (ELA) and Math iReady progress monitoring. **60%** of K-5 students were on or above grade level in ELA and **64%** of K-5 students were on or above grade level in Math.
- The Star Early Literacy Assessment is administered to kindergarten students at the beginning of each school year. **53%** of students demonstrated kindergarten readiness compared to the state average of 54%.

B

Highlands Elementary School earned a B grade from the Florida DOE.

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Tina Calderone, Ed. D.
Chairman

Karen Almond
Vice-Chairman

Kristine Kraus
Board Member

Amy Pennock
Board Member

Abby Sanchez
Board Member

Walt Griffin, Ed. D.
Superintendent

- Before and after school activities include: Robotics, Runners Club, Safety Patrol, Art Club, Chorus/ORFF and News Crew.
- 4th & 5th Grade students have an opportunity to be inducted into the National Elementary Honor Society.
- Students participate in community events like the Winter Springs parade, Girls on the Run, & Casselberry Tree Lighting.
- Students are recognized for being a Pawsitive Leader weekly and have an opportunity to go on our news show.
- Pawsitive Leaders are selected twice a month to have lunch with administration.
- Highlands is supported by a strong PTA and many events are offered like Science Night, Trunk or Treat, and Movie Nights.

Future Middle School Pathways for Our Students



South Seminole: 46%

Greenwood Lakes: 27%

For additional pathways see [Student Assignment and Program Access](#)

School Security

The safety and security of staff and students is a top priority in Seminole County Public Schools. We work closely with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure a safe environment for your child's learning with a focus on preventative action. Our School Resource Officer is JoAnn Jackson with the Seminole County Sheriffs Department.



The SpeakOut program provides three 24-hour monitored services that allows students, parents, or community members to anonymously report concerns. www.speakouthotline.org

83% of student respondents would recommend HLES



96% of parent respondents would recommend HLES



Here's what students and parents say they like about Highlands:

" What I like about Highlands is that everyone has a good positive behavior. The teachers here are very nice. Also, all the school events are always fun so we can also have fun at school and I am getting my proper education. My teachers give me enough challenges and practice so then we can succeed the grade. "

4th Grade Student

" I like my teachers because they help me learn and make it easy and fun I also like how we have habits and how you make friends that are friendly and nice to me. "

4th Grade Student

" I like the Leader in Me program and there are many leadership opportunities. I love math class the best I also like P.E. There are a lot of great students and teachers. "

5th Grade Student

" It is a great atmosphere everybody is nice it is really fun. "

5th Grade Student

" What I like about Highlands Elementary are the teachers, the lunches, the specials, and my friends. "

5th Grade Student

" Highlands is a warm and welcoming school. The principal is amazing and involved in all aspects of the students experience. The curriculum is rigorous and the teachers work very hard every day for every student. "

4th Grade Parent

" The staff treat the students as if they are part of their family. The administration is always visible and I love seeing so many staff members attend after school functions. "

1st Grade Parent

" Leader in Me philosophy is great. Many activities during and after school with significant staff attendance and support. "

3rd Grade Parent