

Dear Nelson Families:

It is with great excitement that I write this letter of introduction to you as the new Principal of Nelson Elementary School. I am honored to have the opportunity to lead a school with such determined students, an extremely dedicated staff, and a supportive school community. I feel very fortunate to be part of Nelson and to support the students and families.

I have served in public education for more than twenty-five years in a variety of roles. In 1995, I joined Hillsborough County Public Schools as a classroom teacher. After working as an Assistant Principal, I was appointed as Principal of Brooker Elementary and B.T. Washington Elementary. After leading a successful turnaround, I transferred to the district office and held leadership positions in Human Resources, Communications and Government Relations. I am honored to bring my skills as an educational leader to Nelson Elementary School and to work with you as a partner in education to ensure your child's success.

Although COVID-19 upended our lives and forced us to reimagine the way we educate our students, our Nelson students' resilience moves us forward during these very stressful times. The safety and well-being of your children continues to be my top priority as we navigate a safe return to providing a first-class education for every Nelson Eagle. How the school day will look is still in the planning stages. Please know that we are closely monitoring CDC, State and District Guidelines and that policies and procedures could change due to those guidelines. I can assure you that our Nelson staff is passionate about kids and learning and everyone worked very hard this summer to prepare for a memorable 2020-2021 school year.

In the meantime, we need hear from our Nelson families as the district finalizes their plans. Please fill out a [Declaration of Intent](#) selection.

The **Declaration of Intent** <https://intent2020.hcps.net/> includes three options:

- Option A – A full return to school
- Option B – Full-time School-Based eLearning
- Option C – Hillsborough Virtual K-12

The survey will close on **Friday, July 17** at midnight. <https://intent2020.hcps.net/>

Thank you for your understanding and flexibility as we do everything we can to be responsive to the needs of the community around us.

I passionately believe that students are at the center of all school-related decisions. I am excited to unite my experience, my openness to learn, and my child-centered approach to support our students. Because the relationships between families and the school are vital to the success of our Eagles, I encourage you to become involved in every way possible. I look forward to meeting you soon!

Respectfully,

Jason Pepe, Ed.D.
Principal, Nelson Elementary School