

## Instructional Overview

Driven by the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study* (SCOS), the state's curriculum guide, our teachers use a variety of creative strategies and materials to enrich instructional activities and to promote and encourage learning among *all* students. We provide a balanced approach to literacy instruction, meaning that instruction is organized around three essential components: reading, writing, and word study/vocabulary. Our programs in mathematics and science are built on the principle that students must build a firm foundation of skills and knowledge through the use of engaging, inquiry based activities that are relevant to the real world.

## Year Round Dolphin Pride

Our students can be found leading Service-Learning projects, exploring the natural world on our trails, creating and celebrating poetry, sculpting pottery or beating a rhythm on African drums. Best of all, Hillsborough Elementary operates on a year-round calendar, meaning that students benefit from continuity of routine, relationships, and learning. We strive to make learning at HES a joyful, highly-engaging process where students gain increasing independence over time.

## HES is the place to be because:

- Our students learn year-round.
- We offer opportunities for continued learning during intersession.
- The year-round calendar and traditional calendar have the same number of school days.
- The shorter summer break offers students the opportunity to retain learning.
- Breaks throughout the year offer more flexible family time.
- Dolphin Camp is an affordable recreational and educational day care program that operates at the school from 7:00 a.m. until 5:45 p.m. during each of the three week intersession periods. Limited scholarships are available based on need. For more information about registration and fees call the Community Schools Program at (919) 732-4166.
- An After-School Program is available at the school site. For enrollment and registration call the Community Schools Program at (919) 732-4166.
- Transportation is provided for students who live in eligible areas. If you have questions about transportation zones, call the Orange County Transportation Department at (919) 732-2531.



**Our Dolphins Learn Year-Round!**

**402 North Nash Street  
Hillsborough, NC 27278**

### Mission

**Ensuring Student Success by  
Inspiring Hearts *and* Minds**



### Vision

**We will foster a culture of mutual respect and understanding, hold high expectations for *all* of our students, recognize and teach the whole child, inspire joy for learning through authentic and engaging instruction and prepare students to be productive and resourceful leaders in a diverse world.**

### Phone

(919) 732-6137

### Website

***www.orange.k12.nc.us/he/home.html***

**Principal: Jen Benkovitz, Ed.D.**

**Assistant Principal: Jon Corcoran**

## Dolphin Fast Facts

### Traditional vs. Year-Round Instructional Calendar

	Traditional	Year-Round
# of days	180	180
Breaks	Winter-Spring Summer	3 weeks of intersession every 9 weeks
Summer Break	11 Weeks	6 Weeks
Extra Support	During the school day	During the school day, after-school, and during intersession

*Praised by educators and parents as a way for students to learn better and schools to operate more efficiently, year-round schooling is steadily catching on.*

(<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,981176,00.html#ixzz10rIjZMYr>)

*“The major benefit of year-round education is that it facilitates continuous learning as the students are not ever out of school for a long period of time. As a result, the students forget less over the shorter breaks, and teachers spend less time reviewing pre-vacation material.*

(<http://school.familyeducation.com>)

#### A tradition of academic excellence:

- 2009-2010 School of Distinction, High Growth based on NC ABC’s Model
- Met *all* Federal AYP targets

#### Technology/21st Century Learning:

- Project-based learning
- SMART Boards in every classroom
- 100% of classrooms connected to the Internet
- Weekly specials include PE, Art, Spanish, Music, and an interest based enrichment club
- Student leadership opportunities include: Student Ambassadors, WDNN Student News Crew, Service-Learning, and Reading Buddies

#### Highly-qualified instructional staff:

- 100% highly qualified staff based on Federal NCLB criteria
- Approximately 1/3 hold a Masters Degree
- Approximately 1/3 hold National Board Certification
- Continuous data-driven improvement utilizing a Professional Learning Community model
- Mentoring/Effective Teacher Training for new staff

#### A culture of caring:

- Inclusion model
- Service-Learning opportunities
- Team approach: “They’re *all* our kids.”

## Enrichment Opportunities

### Dolphin Camp

An affordable recreational and educational day care program that operates at the school from 7:00 a.m. until 5:45 p.m. during each of the three week intersession periods. Recreational activities and academic subject areas are woven into the curriculum, with students participating in a different theme each week. Limited scholarships are available based on need.

### Jump Start

During the Spring intersession, there are four optional days for students who need extended learning time. In small group settings, students get the help they need at the time they need it. This program follows a standard classroom schedule and gives students an opportunity to receive additional academic support. Students are referred by classroom teachers and participate on a voluntary basis.

### Extracurricular Activities

Dynamic Dolphins Jump Rope Team, Battle of the Books, BC Ball-handling Club, Ecology Club, Spelling Bee, Geo Bee, multiple PTA family-themed events including Trunk or Treat, Holiday Arts & Crafts Bazaar, Winter Carnival

