

## ECSD NEWS RELEASE

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### **C.A. Weis Elementary Named a UCF-Certified Community Partnership School**

The Escambia County School District is pleased to share the news that the UCF Center for Community Schools has announced that C.A. Weis Elementary School has become a **UCF-Certified Community Partnership School**. The school is the first elementary school in the state of Florida to receive this honor.

To ensure consistency of quality programming, strategy and framework fidelity, the UCF Center for Community Schools developed a process of certifying Community Partnership Schools that demonstrate alignment with core components as defined by the UCF-Certified Community Partnership Schools™ Standards. The UCF Certification Readiness Assessment Team reviewed C. A. Weis's certification documentation and found that the school has fulfilled all requirements necessary to earn this prestigious title.

"Congratulations go to the leaders, teachers and staff at C.A. Weis, as well as all of our local partners, on becoming a *UCF-Certified Community Partnership School*," said Escambia County Superintendent Malcolm Thomas. "It is exciting to see the many positive programs offered to students and their families and to hear the many examples of how this school surrounded by a neighborhood has become the center of that neighborhood."

This designation became effective on April 23, 2018, and the school will remain certified until June 30, 2021, so long as standards and fundamental practices are maintained as outlined by the UCF-Certified Community Partnership Schools™ Standards.

"This designation is such an honor. Without the support of our superintendent, along with our core partners, the Children's Home Society, Healthcare of Northwest Florida, and University of West Florida, as well as the amazing faculty and staff at Weis, our school would not have made the amazing progress it has made," said C.A. Weis' Principal Holly Magee. "Becoming an official UCF-Certified Community Partnership School takes a lot of work and intentionality. This group has worked tremendously hard to make all of this possible for our Weis community."

"The work is far from complete though, and there are a lot of great things yet to come," added Magee.

The announcement from the Amy Ellis, Director of the UCF Center for Community Schools read, "Becoming a UCF-Certified Community Partnership School is a distinguished honor that represents years of intentional, dedicated work toward building a model framework and aligning necessary resources aimed to ensure student success and wellbeing. We send our sincerest congratulations to your partners, administrators, faculty, staff, students, and stakeholders, and we look forward to celebrating this esteemed award with you."

A recertification process will be required between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, to maintain certification status. This UCF-Certified distinction sets C.A. Weis apart from other schools and affords the school the right to advertise its accomplishment by using the *A UCF-Certified Community Partnership School* title and logo.

To learn more about the Center for Community Schools at UCF and the certification, go to: <https://www.cohpa.ucf.edu/communityschools/>.

To see where the other Community schools are in Florida, go to: <https://www.chsfl.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Community-Partnership-Schools.pdf>

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