

## **Tarpon Springs Fundamental History:**

Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary became a reality in 1980. North Pinellas parents, lead by Mr. Bud Zimmer, had petitioned the School Board for years to try a fundamental model. As the first fundamental elementary in Pinellas County, TSFES has flourished as an academic success for the last 43 years. *The original building had been opened in 1966 as the Union Academy* on Harrison Street in Tarpon Springs. In 1996, a new library and media center was constructed to the east of the original building. In 2003, construction began on a new school building with offices, classrooms and cafeteria to the east of the library. The 2004-05 school year opened in the beautiful, new, state of the art facility which had been newly connected to the media center. Outdoor areas were enhanced, playground equipment installed, a covered PE court was added and the old building was razed to make room for a large, grass athletic field. The face lift helped project to the community the wonderful happenings inside the school!

TSFES has K-5 students with 4 grades having 2 classes each and 2 grades having 3 classes each. These "extra" classes roll over with years that have larger enrollment. Tarpon Fundamental's small size fosters the "family" feeling between students, families, and personnel. The Fundamental philosophy embraces a back-to-basics approach which emphasizes structure, student responsibility, homework and parental involvement.

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