



Executive Summary

Cresthaven Elementary School

Broward County Public Schools

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Introduction

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

Description of the School

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

Cresthaven Elementary is located in the northeastern portion of Broward County, Florida in the city of Pompano Beach. The school is bordered by 4 major traffic arteries: Copans Road to the south, Sample Road to the north, US 1 to the east and Dixie Highway to the west. Cresthaven elementary was founded in 1960 in what was then Collier Manor named after the developer George J. Collier. According to the latest census, the population is approximately 8,000 people consisting of nearly 3,100 households. Approximately a third of all households have children under the age of 18.

There are currently 740 students enrolled at the school ranging from Pre-kindergarten to 5th grade. The ethnicity breakdown are as follows: Asian: 1%, Black: 43%, Hispanic: 41%, Multiracial: 2%, and White: 13%. Students that are classified as English Language Learners (ESOL) where a second language is spoken at home is approximately 32% of the school's current enrollment. Spanish and Haitian Creole are the other primary languages, besides English, spoken at home. The school's language breakdown are as follows: English: 55.33 %, Spanish 25.41%, Haitian Creole: 14.62%, Portuguese: 2.60%, Bengali: .41%, French: .27%, Arabic: .27%, Fox: .27%, Russian: .14%, Hungarian: .14%, Hebrew: .14%, Farsi, Persian: .14%, German: .14%, Mandarin: .14%. Approximately 88% of all students enrolled qualify for the free or reduced price meals under the federal school lunch program. Approximately 100 students are re-assigned to the school from other neighboring communities. The school receives Title I funding for economically disadvantaged students and Title III funding for English Language Learners.

The school employs 82 staff members of which two are administrators, 48 are instructional and the rest are classroom assistants, clerical and custodial staffs, and cafeteria employees. Approximately 40% of the instructional staff possesses Masters and Specialists degrees.

Under the current Principal, Cresthaven Elementary has been ranked an "A" school by the state of Florida from 2004 to 2013. Due to a shift to the new Florida standards from the "old" sunshine state standards the school's grade dropped to a "B" in 2014. In 2015 the school was rated a "C" by the state due to the fact that the ranking was based solely on proficiency and not in combination with learning gains or how students grow academically from one year to the next and also keeping in mind that it was the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) baseline year.

School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

Our Vision:

To prepare our students for college and career in a competitive 21st century global economy by providing the foundation that includes rigorous content and application of knowledge through higher-order thinking skills.

Our Mission:

In order for students and staff to reach their full potential, the mission of Cresthaven Elementary is to provide research based differentiated instruction aligned to state standards to address the needs of all learners in a safe educational environment supported by technology, real-life applications, and targeted professional development.

We Believe

All students can learn

Everyone should be treated with respect

In the importance of parental involvement

In integrity, fairness, honesty, and professionalism

Professional Development

Our Professional development plan is geared towards fulfilling the mission and vision of our school and is based upon the needs of our teachers and students. Teachers are surveyed on an annual basis to identify areas where they need professional development. Professional development offerings are also based on standardized test results and other formal and informal indicators. The sharing of best practices at grade level and faculty meetings are also important components of our professional development plan. Team planning days are also embedded within the school day several times during the school year where teams construct thematic units utilizing multiple sources and keeping the standards as the framework.

Articulation of students to subsequent grades

Another method by which we fulfill our mission and vision is to articulate students based on their academic needs and teacher's strengths. Teachers are encouraged to loop with their class to subsequent grade levels based on administrators' recommendation and teachers' preference in order to continue instructional momentum, for assigned students, for a second consecutive year.

Parental Involvement

Parental involvement via our School Advisory Council (SAC) and PTA is another method by which we strive to achieve our mission/vision. Parental and community input into our educational programs is a critical piece in achieving the home-school balance. Our SAC/PTA meetings are held monthly where parents are updated regarding academic programs and current assessment results.

Extended Learning Opportunities (beyond the school day)

We host several academic and social development afterschool programs in keeping with our mission/vision. For our English Language Learners (ELLs) district allocated funds are utilized to provide a language enrichment camp twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays for approximately 10 sessions targeting ELLs and focusing on content vocabulary. Students in our lower quartile are offered Saturday school (extended learning opportunity-ELO) utilizing Title 1 funds. ELO camps target students in grades 3-5 and is held for approximately 3 hours, on Saturdays. In addition, our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Club meets after school, usually on Mondays. Enrollment includes approximately 60 students with a focus of working in groups and producing projects reflecting the sciences. The STEM club produces an annual STEM Family night that is spectacular. Our "Koala-ty" Chorus and ORFF band meet twice a week, after school, and includes approximately 100 students. Our music director produces winter and spring concerts that are simply amazing. The chorus ensemble also performs in our annual Multicultural and Black history programs.

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

The most notable achievement experienced by our school is outstanding academic achievement. Under the state of Florida "A" plus plan, utilizing the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) as the main indicator, Cresthaven elementary was recognized as an "A" school for 9 consecutive years (2004-2013). In 2013 we were recognized as the highest performing elementary school in Broward County ranked at the 99 percentile by the school district.

We have also received the "Golden School Award" for parental involvement via volunteer hours for approximately 35 years. The golden school award is granted to schools that have yielded volunteer hours twice its enrollment count. We have also received the state 5-star Award for parental attendance at School Advisory Council (SAC) Meetings.

Our teachers have received numerous grants to enhance literacy, parental involvement, and school beautification throughout the years. We were also the proud recipients of a block grant awarded by the Annenberg Foundation.

Cresthaven Elementary continues to embrace the school district's initiative such as moving our students Beyond Expected Student Target (BEST) with the focus on Curriculum Assessment Remediation and Enrichment (CARE). The New Florida Standards presents a challenge and a "new" mindset pertaining to the increase of rigor in instructional strategies and the manner by which students are assessed. With that in mind, we are restructuring the manner by which professional development is presented to the faculty. Classroom administrative walkthroughs are also reflective of the rigor required by the New Florida Standards.

Two thousand and fifteen was the first year that the New Standards were assessed and the results were less than desirable. Proficiency, gauged by the state, for students in grades 3-5 are as follows: English Language Arts (ELA): 37%, Math: 52%, Science: 39%. As a result we revamped our instructional strategies to include a more cohesive articulation of students into subsequent grade levels, less "pulling out" of students to reduce transition time, more targeted remediation programs for our low performing students, and more prescriptive extended learning opportunities beyond the traditional school day. We will continue to aspire to be the best we can be despite the barriers we are experiencing. We are confident that our school will once again rise to the top.

Additional Information

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.

Social Development Programs

Our students attend several after school programs such as "Diamonds and Sapphires" a leadership club for girls, hosted by faculty members. Girls are mentored by positive role models and are taught leadership skills. Membership in the club is based on staff recommendations and parental consent. Girls that are enrolled in the club have improved their overall attitude towards their peers and academics. A large group of our second graders are enrolled in our Random Act of Kindness (RAK) Club. Students in RAK are taught social skills pertaining to friendship and kindness. The RAK club meets once a week, after school, and is hosted by second grade teachers that volunteer their time. Students have improved their behaviors and academic outlook as a result of being a member of the RAK club.