



Executive Summary

North Fork Elementary School

Broward County School District

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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?

North Fork Elementary is west of downtown Fort Lauderdale; in the Dorsey River bend community. In 2015, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the school's existence. We service a predominantly African American, lower socio-economic community and the Salvation Army transitional housing residents. Founded in 1948, North Fork houses approximately 550 students of the following demographic make-up: 98% African American, 1% Hispanic and 1% multiracial. Ninety-nine percent of the students are economically disadvantaged receiving free or reduced lunch. There

are 43 instructional staff members; 67% African-American; 19% White; and 14% Hispanic of which 95% are highly qualified and 23% have advanced degrees. Twenty-six percent of the teachers are first year teachers, 46% have one to five years of teaching experience and 16% have six or more years of teaching experience.

North Fork elementary has transitioned to a new STEM science academy for the 2015-16 school year. All students' kindergarten thru the second grade participates in growing edible gardens. Students in grades three and four focus on the local environment studying the effects of pollution and weather changes. Fifth graders learn about the world through interactive science expeditions and hands-on projects. In partnership with the District's Student services department, all at-risk students are paired with a concerned mentor.

A unique feature of our school is that we are located on the North Fork River. This brackish water attracts hundreds of tropical animals that reside on our school property. Just recently, the land the school is located on was found to be an ancient Indian burial site. This means that our school has a rich history. A challenge we face is that we serve a very low socio-economic community as a result we are constantly providing resources to our students and parents. Because most of our families receive government housing, students move in and out of our school frequently creating a high mobility rate. This creates a challenge because 40% of our students are continuously transitioning to other schools.

Our administrative support team consist of: Assistant Principal, School Counselor, Intermediate Reading Specialist, Primary Reading Specialist, Math Coach, Science Coach, ESE Specialist. A reading specialist professional is assigned to each grade level to provide support and guidance to teachers and students.

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.

At North Fork STEM: Marine Science Academy, we aim to provide a stimulating, safe and optimal learning environment that sets high expectations for each student to become creative, responsible and productive individuals in today's changing society.

At North Fork elementary, we embrace Broward County's values that:

- All students will learn when their individual needs are met
- Learning is a lifelong process
- Every student has a right to a high-quality educational option
- Engaged families combined with highly effective teachers and school leaders are the core components of a successful school
- Positive character education is essential to whole child development
- The diversity of our students is valuable and must be embraced
- Students must be prepared as innovative thinkers and responsible citizens to compete in a global economy
- High-quality customer service is a critical component of high-quality education
- Respect and dignity are critical, both in and out of the classroom
- Everyone (school, home, students and community) must contribute to and be held accountable for student achievement.

With our extended day, we offer all of our students differentiated research-based reading programs to meet their individual needs during the first hour of our day. On a weekly basis we offer enrichment programs to enhance student learning and foster a love of learning through art, drama, coding, chess, and gardening. We aim to develop self-sufficient responsible citizens, exposing students to the MIGHTY mentoring program held after school in addition to our Camp where we offer tutoring.

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.

North Fork Elementary is a proud recipient of several grants for our edible gardens. Our teachers have received TDIF grants to improve learning and expand their professional experiences. Because of our enrichment program, our students created an edible garden where our school was nominated for the P3 Eco-Challenge award.

Parental Involvement was and still remains an area of improvement for our school. We have implemented a parent resource center, parent workshops and improved communication between home and school through our parent link system, newsletters, and flyers. We continually encourage parents to become active partners in our school. This year we initiated a plan for a PTA group to begin next school year.

Future goals we strive to accomplish in the next three years include expanding our edible gardens for community consumption; establishing more coding classes/technology integration, becoming a Thinking Maps focused school. In achieving these goals, we will address areas of science instruction and achievement deficits, technology use and integration, and increased integration of critical thinking skills.

Finally, our primary focus is to improve student achievement. To that end, North Fork Elementary is focusing on intervention programs with reading as the focus. We are confident that with continued rigorous planning and instruction, North Fork Elementary will improve our overall school grade.

Additional Information

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

The community and our partners in Education have joined North Fork in helping to create an environment where children feel safe and loved. Through our partnership with Holland and Knight Law Firm, we give students RIF books twice a year to build up their home libraries. The employees in the Districts' Student Services department have partnered with our school to provide one-to-one mentoring for our at-risk students as well as other Mentors from the community.

Students in the Urban Teacher Apprentice Program have joined with our primary students and teachers to offer tutoring services twice a month in reading and math.