



Executive Summary

Seminole Middle 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?

Seminole Middle School is located in the City of Plantation. Plantation is a large suburb west of Ft. Lauderdale. Seminole Middle School currently has 1170 students. Traditionally, our school demographics are 30% White, 30% Black and 30% Hispanic. In 2013-2014 our demographics were 31.9% White, 33.1% Black, and 28.2% Hispanic. Our female enrollment was 519 and our male enrollment was 618. In 2013-2014, 57.7% of our students qualified for Free or Reduced Lunch. The staff at Seminole Middle School mirrors the demographics of our school. The staff consists of a diverse population of teachers and support professionals. 57% of teachers have advanced degrees and are considered highly qualified. The city of Plantation has a median age of 39.7 and a median household income of \$66,740. However, as stated earlier, over 50% of our students are considered to be economically disadvantaged and qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch. Therefore, our student population ranges in students who are affluent and those who need extra financial support. Plantation has six public elementary schools, two public middle schools, and two public high schools; however, it is also home to 32 private schools. Therefore, there is a challenge in recruiting students to attend the public school and not choose private or charter schools. A unique aspect of Seminole Middle School is that we are the home of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Special Program for Broward County Schools. We have 38 students who have some degree of hearing loss. 19 of the students are mainstreamed into the general population, while the remaining students are in a self-contained classroom and only mainstreamed for their electives.

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.

The mission of Seminole Middle School is as follows: Seminole Middle School strives to empower all students to achieve at their highest potential and to become productive members in their community. We embody this purpose through the various academic programs offered at Seminole Middle School. First, we have the D.E.C.A.L (Division of Enhanced Communication and Law) Program. Students in 6th-8th grade who earned a level 4 or 5 on the FCAT Reading and Math apply to be in the program when they enter 6th grade. 6th grade lays the framework for the program with a course in Study Skills and advanced core classes. Students are expected to excel and work at a higher level than their peers not in the D.E.C.A.L program. Classes are project based and very challenging. Moving onto 7th grade students are enrolled in their core classes, as well as up to 3 high school level courses, Algebra, Speech and Debate, and either Spanish or American Sign Language. In addition the core classes are also preparing the students for not just 8th grade but also success in high school and beyond. Finally, 8th grade students enrolled in D.E.C.A.L have the opportunity to take up to 5 high school credits: Biology, Algebra or Geometry, Spanish or American Sign Language, Law, and either Psychology & Sociology, Creative Writing or Debate 2. These classes are offered in addition to the core classes 8th graders must take. The rigor and standards in these courses is extremely high so that students have an easy transfer into their prospective high schools.

In addition to D.E.C.A.L, Seminole Middle School also offers a plethora of enrichment elective courses. These courses are based on academic standards and guides and are created in order to teach students real world skills. They also guide the students towards subject areas that may peak their interest and promote community involvement. The courses offered include Theme Park Engineering, Rockets, Riddles & Robots, Cadets, Yearbook, and Music Creation and Theory. Beyond these enrichment classes, students also have the ability to take art, music, band, drama and physical education. Students within these courses have numerous opportunities to experience the subject in and out of the classroom.

Finally, we offer intensive reading and math classes for students who are struggling to achieve proficiency. These students have the ability to receive direct, focused instruction in the areas they have yet to master. Teachers use monthly assessments to guide their instruction. This combination of enrichment, rigor, and remediation helps prepare all students within our school community to be productive members of their school community, as well as, prepared and ready for their high school education.

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.

Seminole Middle School has a number of notable achievements. The achievements range from test scores to outstanding academic and social programs. One of our strongest areas is that Seminole offers a program for all types of learners. Programs range from the D.E.C.A.L program to intensive course instruction. Through our course offerings we strive to meet the needs of all students. For example, students who excel have the opportunity to earn up to ten high school credits while still enrolled in middle school. Students who need more direct instruction in order to improve either reading or math skills are enrolled in double courses in order to build the foundation they need to be successful in high school. Furthermore, the course offerings excel beyond the core classes. Seminole Middle School offers elective courses to meet the needs of all types of learners. Students are learning college and career skills while building roller coasters, studying the laws of physics and learning how to become real world entrepreneurs.

On the 2013-2014 FCAT we earned a 78% on the Writing Assessment. On the Reading FCAT 61% of students were proficient. 50% of our economically disadvantaged students were proficient in reading. On the Math FCAT 64% of students were proficient. Finally, on the Science FCAT only 45% of students tested at a level 3 or higher. 69% of our lowest 25% of students made gains on the math portion of the FCAT, while 63% made gains in reading.

Outside the classroom, our sports and student activities also excel. This year, both the Boy's and Girl's Soccer teams and the Girl's Volleyball team made it to the county semi-finals. The National Junior Honor Society is consistently deemed a Gold Chapter of Excellence, winning awards for their various community service projects, school service projects, and school leadership. For the past 6 years the NJHS has also been the top fundraising school for the American Cancer Society Relay For Life. The Student Government Association has raised hundreds of dollars for programs like Honor Flight and has brought in World War II veterans to speak to the student body so that students are learning first hand what it was like to be part of World War II. The Social Studies Department has been raising money for the Dred Scott Foundation and was the top fundraising school in the nation for 2014-2015. Our performing arts programs are also extremely successful. The Seminole Middle School Marching Band performs all over the county in parades and community events. The Junior Thespians compete at District and State Competitions. This year, their one act play, was State Selected and earned a Superior rating at the State Competition.

Over the past three years, the school has improved vastly by implementing the various enrichment courses and building student activities. We have created tutoring programs, mentoring programs and a Virtual FSA Camp. We have looked at our student data and implemented programs and processes so that we can best serve our students and increase proficiency and achievement.

Over the next three years we hope to continue increasing the number of students who are proficient in reading and math. We are building our professional learning communities around the Super 7 Strategies so that teachers are educated on how to incorporate the Super 7 into their classes. Research has shown that these strategies, when implemented with fidelity, bring tremendous results in student achievement. We hope to increase student proficiency in reading and science. We also want to improve the RtI process so that we can focus on early interventions in order to increase student achievement. Finally, we want to ensure that teachers are utilizing technology in an effective manner in order to enhance student learning.

Additional Information

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

Seminole Middle School has started various mentoring programs in order to help students learn how to appropriately deal with everyday struggles. One of the programs PEARLS is for female students. They meet weekly after school and focus on the following topics: high school magnet programs, creating a distraction free zone at home, learning styles, classroom behavior, and moving past excuses. A second mentoring program was created into a class for high-risk males. The students are learning similar topics as the PEARLS while also receiving homework support.

Last year a tutoring program was set up at the Jim Ward Center. The Jim Ward Center is located in the Park East neighborhood. Administrators and Instructional Coaches found that the students who live in this neighborhood wanted to attend tutoring, however, they were unable to attend due to limited transportation. Therefore, we worked with the City of Plantation to utilize the Jim Ward Center. Students are able to ride the bus home, walk to the community center and receive help with their homework. While tutoring is taking place members of the Broward Sheriffs Office are present and serve as community mentors. Over the past two years the program has successfully bridged the gap between school and community.

Finally, as a Title I School we strive to build the gap between home and school. Therefore, we implemented a monthly parent night. Each department hosts a parent night. Students present work, teachers highlight student work. Teachers share best practices with parents and how parents can best help their children be successful at home. These Title I Parent Nights have an average parent attendance of 150-200 parents. These family nights have truly helped build a sense of community between school and home. They are also a great avenue for students to take pride in their work and share their work with the parents and friends.