



Executive Summary

Glades Middle School
Broward County Public Schools

Mr. Ricardo Santana, Principal
16700 SW 48th Court
Miramar, FL 33027-4941

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Description of the School.....	2
School's Purpose.....	3
Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement.....	5
Additional Information	7

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?

Glades Middle is located in the city of Miramar, which is located in the southwestern area of Broward County. This area is classified as a suburban residential area. The city of Miramar has a population 122,041 people. 41% of residents are White, 45% Black and 37% Hispanic. The median household income is \$67,412 and the unemployment rate is 10.6%. 9.3% of the population lives below the poverty line.

Glades Middle School is part of the Broward County School System. Broward County is the 6th largest school district in the United States. There are 40 Middle Schools in Broward County.

Glades Middle School has a current enrollment of 1295 student. 609 students are Caucasian, with 527 of them identifying as Latino. 467 are African-American, 133 Asian, 21 are Multi-Racial and 7 Native American Indian. Male students total 692 while female students total 603. Free and Reduced Lunch student make up is 48% of the student population. There are 309 ESE students currently enrolled, with 19 SVE. A total of 91 students receive accommodations for ELL. There are currently 51 instructional staff members and 49 noninstructional support staff members.

While overall student enrollment has declined each of the last three years, there has been an increase in several areas. The number of minority students and the number of students on Free and Reduced Lunch has steadily increased during this three year period.

Glades Middle has had a unique year as it has just recently solidified its administrative staff. The prior principal retired and an assistant principal was reassigned during the month of October. A temporary interim principal oversaw the school's operations during the selection process. The permanent Principal assumed control over school operations in December. The assistant principal position remained open until January when the position was filled.

The most significant challenge that Glades Middle must face is the competition from the charter schools. Within a ten mile radius there are three high performing charter schools: Somerset Academy, Pembroke Pines Charter Schools and the Franklin Academy Charter School. All of these schools serve the same community as Glades Middle.

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 statement, that drives all decisions, is "Glades Middle School joins the parents and community in their commitment to create a safe, nurturing environment that encourages life-long learning and empowers all students with the skills, knowledge, and experiences necessary to become productive and responsible citizens of a global community."

The school community aspires to the vision statement "Pioneering a Community of Excellence".

The efforts to attain the school's mission is highlighted by the numerous programs currently at the school.

Glades offers the "Cougar Path", an innovative, project-based curriculum, that involves approximately 550 students in grades 6 - 8, that instills higher-level critical thinking while developing 21st century skills. Cougar Path is a rigorous program that allows students to excel to their fullest potential. The students apply for admission to this program. The mission of the program is to engage students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics utilizing an innovative, project-based curriculum that instills higher-level critical thinking while developing 21st Century skills. Its vision is to develop and transform the student learning process with technology infused projects that benefit the community and promote high academic achievement. The program strives to connect and extend Florida's State academic standards for middle school students; develop student proficiency in utilizing technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate and communicate information effectively; expand student proficiency in using a variety of digital technologies, foster student's ability to analyze and create a variety of media products; improve students' knowledge of S.T.E.M. and S.T.E.M.-related careers; offer a rigorous academic track, experiential learning experience and extracurricular activities.

Additionally, the Peer Counseling program is extremely active within the school and community. It is an elective class which students must submit an application for, and which results in the class composition consisting of a mixture of seventh and eighth graders. Currently, there are xx seventh graders and xx eighth graders. Their mission is to provide a wide range of services to the student body, the school community and the local community through structured in-school and outreach activities. The program has been featured in the local paper several times for its role in the annual "Harvest Drive" which has collected thousands of items for needy families. Furthermore, this same group has recently begun a program called Cougar Connections, in which high achieving students work with students who are receiving services through the school's exceptional student service program.

There are currently 93 students in the National Junior Honor Society program. The program honors students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character and Citizenship. Additionally, it provides opportunities for them to further develop these skills through active involvement in school activities and community service. Some of the community service projects that they have undertaken are: organize the selling of flowers on Valentine's Day for the Ryan Abreu Memorial Scholarship Fund (a former student of the school); organized toy donation drive for the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Toy drive and the Broward Outreach Program (homeless shelter for families); participated in a military outreach program to send well wishes to deployed members of the armed forces (U.S. Navy); partnered with West Broward High School to send care packages to deployed members of the armed forces (U.S. Army) through the; organized "GMS Factor" the schoolwide talent Show; participates in the "Harvest Drive" by volunteering at the packaging and distribution center. Additionally, the program actively participates at a district level with the other middle schools and high schools.

Glades Middle has recently started a mentoring program. The purpose is to provide a role model that can support the identified student

Executive Summary

Glades Middle School

academically, socially and/or personally.

Parental involvement is an essential component to student academic success, and the PTSA is very active and supports Glades any way they can. They sponsor many social events at the school such as the 8th Grade Spring Dance, Fall Dance and Spring Dance. They organize with the English Language Arts and Reading Departments the school's Book Fair. They also support other areas such as the

The School Advisory Committee (SAC) meets monthly to review and discuss issues related to academic performance, and allocate funds related to student achievement and performance. Members receive updates from the curriculum leaders regarding each Curriculum Department's efforts to meet goals established in the Glades Middle School Improvement Plan.

To provide additionally assistance for identified at risk students, during the "crunch time" period, additional extended learning opportunities are provided. The provided learning opportunities are in the form of pull-out sessions that allow for remediation and review of the tested material.

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.

Glades Middle has been an "A" school since the start of the school grading system. In the last three years, Glades has ranked in the Top Ten for all middle schools in Broward County, based on state assessment data.

Glades continues to improve the S.T.E.M. focus of its Cougar Path program. The school has become a member of 6 -12 engineering track in collaboration with the area high schools. This collaborative effort increases the learning opportunities for our students in the engineering field as well as acquire career and college skills by attaining their industry certification in Microsoft Office. In Grade 6 students will take Introduction to Technology. The objective of this course is to provide students an introduction to the areas of technology, and to introduce students to the engineering design and problem solving processes using manipulative skills, while working cooperatively with others in team activities. Using the Carnegie Mellon Robotics Academy curriculum with the Lego Mindstorms EV3, students learn core computer programming logic and reasoning skills while solving real-life problems. Additionally, students will be exposed to the use 3D solid modeling design software to design solutions to problems. They will also work on earning their industry certification in Microsoft Office Word 2013. In Grade 7 students will take Exploring Technology. The purpose of this course is to give students an opportunity to explore the areas of technology and associated careers available in technical fields. Students will be given the opportunity to solve technological problems while gaining an understanding of the effects of technology on our everyday lives. In collaboration with Purdue University, and the adaptation of their "Engineering in Community Service Program" (E.P.I.C.S.), students experience the real-life connection between engineering and computer-aided design with people and local community needs, while improving their use of the engineering design process. Additionally, students learn to use 3D solid modeling design software to design solutions to problems. They will also work on the second part of their industry certification in Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2013. In Grade 8 will take Introduction to Engineering Design, a high school level course in which they will earn one high school credit. This course exposes students to the design process, research and analysis, teamwork, communication methods, global and human impacts, engineering standards, and technical documentation. In collaboration with Purdue University, and the adaptation of their "Engineering in Community Service Program" (E.P.I.C.S.), students will experience the real-life connection between engineering and computer-aided design with people and local community needs. Students will employ the engineering process and scientific concepts in designing solutions for identified community needs. In addition, they will learn to use 3D solid modeling design software to digitally design solutions. Students will develop problem-solving skills and apply their knowledge of research and design to create solutions, document the process, and communicate the results. They will work on the third part of their industry certification in Microsoft Office Excel 2013.

Additionally elective classes, in the areas of chess and drama, have been offered for the next academic year. These classes have been chosen because of their impact on college and career readiness. The chess class will provide students with opportunities of learning how to think strategically, of foreseeing consequences, of weighing options and making decisions. Additionally, the drama class will allow students to not only build healthy appreciation of culture and the arts, but will allow students to build on key career and college skills. Key skills that will be worked on will be self-confidence in their abilities, their creative thinking abilities, development of empathy towards others, development of collaborative working skills, and communication and memorization skills, as well as providing an opportunity to learn about the complexity of emotions.

Executive Summary

Glades Middle School

Additionally, marketing and exposure is an area of focus. Increase communication between all stakeholders is a priority. Parents are contacted weekly via Parentlink with the weekly Cougar Connection. This weekly news blast summarizes current events at the school. Our website is continuously updated and we are very active with social media such as Twitter. Principal Santana has attended the SAC meetings of the feeder schools to inform them of the program options that Glades offers. He also provides individualize tours to parents seeking more information about the school and its programs. 5th grade students, from our feeder elementary schools, are invited onto the Glades campus, and afforded a campus tour and a recruitment presentation.

Glades Middle hosted a Cougar Journey Showcase, in April, to highlight the varied course offerings at Glades Middle. Perspective parents were provided an opportunity to hear Glades Middle's talented music program, both choral and instrumental. Breakout sessions were conducted to investigate potential course offering and to interact with the principal. Advertising for the event was achieved through the use of hand-delivered flyers to all feeder elementary schools for this event. Reminders via Parentlink were sent to the elementary student families. The Glades Middle website and Twitter account was also used to relay pertinent information.

For future and currently enrolled students and their parents several occasions to view the products produced by the students have been held. At the end of the Second Marking Period, there was a Cougar Path Showcase in which the work of the Grade 6-8 students, participating in the program, were exhibited. The showcase consisted of both a static display created by the students and an oral presentation. In January, a school-wide curriculum night was held, and all parents were encouraged to attend. This event focused on all curriculum areas and all ability levels.

Glades needs to continue to diversify its elective offerings and add course offering in the visual arts.

Additional Information

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

Glades Middle School has an innovative robotics program, and features an Innovation Lab where students learn engineering basics using hands-on activities. The lab features computer workstations allowing students to work with the Carnegie Mellon's Robotic Academy curriculum for the Lego Mindstorms EV3. The curriculum provides the students with opportunities to build, program and command their own robot. The program allows students to develop real-world, hands-on skills in technology, innovation and problem solving. This type of exposure is invaluable to students in preparing them for a world dominated by technology.

Students who wish to continue use and/or to extend their understanding of the engineering design process and its application as well as computer programming and reasoning skills may select to be part of the award winning First Lego League Competition team. The First Lego League Competition is a microcosm of real life in all respects. Each team has the opportunity to experience all steps of a real product development process: solving a problem under time pressure with insufficient resources and unknown competitors. The team members are given a broad problem to solve which involves identifying a specific problem, conducting background research to understand the problem more, imagining a possible solution, building, testing and evaluating a prototype, and redesigning as necessary. Students are also required to share their efforts with others and to present their project in a tournament setting. Additionally, the team builds an autonomous robot to complete tasks on a themed playing field. The robot games involves planning and testing to help the autonomous robot solve the designated missions.

Glades Middle School recently acquired a Makerbot 3D Printer and digitizer (3D scanner). This equipment allows students to create physical objects that solve problems using reasoning and logic. It sets the tone for experimentation, success, failure, and learning through observation and problem solving within the physical world rather than on paper. It will be integrated into the engineering courses.

Glades Middle has been successfully competing in the eCYBERMISSION is a web-based Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics competition for 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grade teams. The program challenges students to explore how Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics work in their world. Each competing team proposes a solution to a real problem in their community and to compete for State, Regional and National Awards. In the 2014 -2015 competition season 27,955 students participated in eCYBERMISSION making up a total of 7,321 complete teams. Glades has successful competed in this competition by placing first in the State of Florida and being a Regional Finalist during the 2013 -2014 School Year, and placing second in the State of Florida, for both the 6th and 8th Grade categories, during the 2014-2015 School Year. During the 2015-2016 School Year students placed first and second in the State of Florida in the 6th Grade category. One of the teams successful competed for a bid to the Regional Competition held in Washington D.C. area.