



Executive Summary

Coral Springs 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?

Coral Springs Middle School is located in Broward County, Florida, approximately twenty miles northwest of Fort Lauderdale. One of 42 middle schools in Broward County, Coral Springs Middle is host to just under 1,200 students. The area is suburban, residential, and includes varied socioeconomic levels. CSMS is an A-rated school by the Florida Department of Education and has historically maintained a record of excellence in student achievement. Unlike other middle schools in the area, CSMS students are scheduled on "teams". Students teamed together share the same core academic teachers, thus building a bond between students and teachers. Team teachers collaborate to personalize the education of each student in order to meet and exceed one's educational needs. In addition to a number of high school level courses offered, a variety of clubs and activities focusing on community service, athletics, academic competitions, and more are available. It is the goal of Coral Springs Middle to prepare every student for college and career through engaging and rigorous curriculum experiences. The initial building housing Coral Springs Middle School has been in continuous operation for forty years since its completion in 1975. Two additional buildings were added in 2006 to accommodate growing student population. The school serves grades six through eight for a current total number of 1265 students, of which 641 male and 624 female. The demographic breakdown is as follows: 458 (36.2%) white, 304 (24%) Hispanic, 380 (30%) African American, 66 (5.21%) Asian, 6 (.47%) American Indian. The percentage of Coral Springs Middle School students that are classified as receiving free and reduced lunch is 50%. Three years ago, Coral Springs Middle was a Title 1 school, and for the past two years did not qualify. However, this year, we believe that we may qualify again. Due to the State Class Size Reduction law, students were moved after the start date of school to ensure that we complied with the require student limits. These limits are 22 students for grades 4-8. The students' needs, were continually met through proper instruction and services.

The Coral Springs Middle staff is focused on improving student achievement by offering rigorous courses. The faculty and administration are very stable. There have only been six principals since the school opened. There are 62 classroom teachers, two guidance counselors, one ESE Specialist, and three building level administrators currently on staff. The percentage of CSMS teachers that have earned advanced degrees in their particular fields are 40%. Over the years, Coral Springs Middle has lost part of its student population due to the building of a newer middle school and charter school. CSMS staff will continue to encourage students to become lifelong learners as well as promote honesty and integrity to prepare them to become future leaders of our community and nation.

This stability has had a positive contribution towards academic success for all students. Achievements for Coral Springs Middle have been plentiful. The school report card has consistently demonstrated our success as we have been an A school for all but two years. Last year, 96% of Algebra 1 EOC students passed while 100% of Geometry students passed the EOC test. Even with the new FSA test, CSMS earned a provisional grade of an A for the 2015 school year.

CSMS prides itself on improving student achievement by offering 21st century technology skills to build a foundation for success in High School/College Readiness. Technological integration has been a priority at Coral Springs Middle School. There are currently complete mobile computer carts for each team of teachers, as well as one for the reading teachers in addition to the two permanent computer labs available to faculty for their classes. Sixth and seventh grade Science teachers each have their own ipad cart for their courses to use with science-based Apps. The sixth grade math teachers received the Digital 6 grant, and all of the classes have computer carts. Eighth grade Science currently shares one ipad cart. Recently, the school has piloted the i-ready program for Math and Reading, which is designed to increase reading proficiency and informational text in preparation for the FSA test. The i-Ready program provides personalized instruction for both reading and math at the students' individual level as well as providing practice to master grade-level standards.

Coral Springs Middle School offers many opportunities to recognize and celebrate student achievement as well as opportunities for support. CSMS offers a plethora of opportunities for students to prepare for the FSA test and hosts after school extended learning for Writing, Math,

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and Reading. Additionally, extended learning is provided for the Civics, Algebra, and Geometry EOCs. Math tutoring is available to all students through the math club for free. All ESE students have the ability to get help from an ESE Specialist during the day by going to the Resource room. Student achievement is celebrated through quarterly Honor Roll assemblies, 8th grade awards night, Team Recognition Events, and Sports Recognitions.

The safety and security of the students at CSMS is crucial. At each School Advisory meeting the administration reports the total number of referrals by grade level. They explain to the parents what the referrals are about and what the school is doing to bring down the number. The school has a Safe Team that consists of the principal, assistant principals, support staff, guidance counselors, clerical staff and head custodian. The team meets regularly to review scheduled or unscheduled drills and discusses procedures for the school. CSMS also meets annually with the fire and police representatives to discuss and conduct drills to prepare for emergency situations. We consistently collaborate to adjust procedures to enhance the safety and security of our school. We practice fire drills, tornado drills, lockdowns, and other evacuations. This gives students practice in knowing what to do if an emergency occurs. In rare instances, a school must go to "lockdown." This happens when the Coral Springs Police notify us about an incident occurring near our school. In a lockdown, parents will NOT be able to come into school or leave until the all clear is announced.

While Coral Springs Middle School has consistently achieved success over the years, challenges do exist. We see a consistent number of students leaving public schools for the local charter schools. Additional challenges include staying on pace with the technology demand, decreasing suspension, and increasing attendance.

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 Coral Springs Middle is to work together with the home, business, and community to develop responsible and productive lifelong learners. At CSMS, we believe that education is a lifelong process in which all students can learn. Education will meet the needs of a changing society. Students are provided with multiple and varied opportunities to access technology and use this technology to meet the rigor and complexity of the Florida Standards.

Education will provide opportunities for students to learn effective written and oral communication skills, practice critical thinking and problem solving skills and express ideas creatively. Students complete cross-curricular projects that involve writing and communication in all classes. They demonstrate writing skills in science, and social studies, and math classes. Students are also engaged in research based learning through DBQ's, History Fair, E-Cyber Mission, and text based writing. The Social Studies teachers prepare thoughtful, rigorous projects and learning experiences for all of the students. The 8th grade students will be attending both Junior Achievement and Washington DC. Junior Achievement is a hands-on financial literacy and career unit that all 8th graders partake in. All students also work on DBQs. A DBQ is a document based question. Students analyze both primary and secondary documents in order to answer an essential question. DBQs allow teacher to teach using pictures, writing and graphs. In addition, students participate in STEM activities as part of their science curriculum. Once again this year we held a STEM night that included business partners from the local community. Coding software is being utilized by several math teachers, in order to teach students about computer engineering. Moreover, the math department is expanding their use of technology through Khan Academy, Kahoot, Algebra and Geometry Nation, and a Student Problem Solving Wiki. These activities encourage inquiry and problem-solving skills. These experiences will address physical, cultural, social, and emotional needs of students. Several programs have been created to meet the physical needs of students, including the "backpack food program" and the provision of clothing and other necessities to needy students through Blessings in a Backpack. The ESOL program provides academic assistance to students of many different backgrounds.

Guidance programs provide small group and individual counseling. Students will be expected to accept the responsibility in the active involvement of learning. These concerns are addressed in several different ways. The school participates in RTI (Response to Intervention) program allows teachers, counselors, and administrators to focus on the individual needs of all students.

Students are also invited to participate in several extended learning and extracurricular programs provided by their teachers, which help them to succeed in the classroom. Students are the focus of an educational process that is valued, shared, and supported by the home, school, business, and community. The school provides online information through school and teacher websites, newsletters, and Parent link phone communication. The School Advisory Committee meets regularly, and is comprised of teachers, parents, administrators, and community and business leaders. In addition, the PTA provides support to the school in fundraising, which in turn enhances instruction. CSMS prides itself on the number of teachers and parents who join the PTA.

CSMS offers a plethora of Extra-Curricular Activities including:

- Band- Jazz, Marching, String Orchestra, and Wind Ensemble
- Best Buddies
- Builders Club
- Cheerleading
- Color Guard
- Drama Club
- First Priority
- Future Educators

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- Math Team
- National Junior Honor Society
- Science Club
- Spanish Club
- Special Olympics
- Sports Teams:
 - o Soccer, Track, Basketball, Flag Football
- Student Government
- Writer's Club

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.

Over the past three years, Coral Springs Middle School has improved in many ways and has accumulated several notable achievements in scholastic and extra-curricular performance. In 2015, we received the Golden School House Award for the 20th consecutive year for volunteer hours logged at CSMS. In the instructional program, we continue to offer high school classes in Foreign Languages and Mathematics for seventh and eighth graders. We have had a steady increase in student participation in advanced math courses. Students participate in a variety of math competitions such as BCCTM and Math Counts each year, and CSMS has placed by individually and as a team. We have increased technology by adding additional mobile laptop labs. Students in the technology class will receive a tech accreditation before entering high school. We have added resources for students needing additional help including computer programs for remediation, structured after-school help. The band, orchestra, and jazz band continue to receive excellent scores. CSMS had the most students on All County Band and All State Band that any school in 2015. Numerous students have participated and won literary fairs and competitions. Coral Springs Middle also consistently places in the county History Fair. Additionally in 2013, CSMS received the Digital 5 Grant and e-Cybermission Grant.

As students progress to the next grade, we see fewer discipline problems. We attribute this to strong parent involvement, a well-established Pick 6 program, and constant recognition. Students are rewarded for being respectful, responsible, and reliable and are also recognized for their academic accomplishments. Monthly teachers choose a student who characterizes a monthly character trait. Each quarter almost 70% of our students are on the honor roll and receive a ceremony with parents and receive community contributions acknowledging their scholastic success. Students are recognized during the end-of-the-year awards program for perfect attendance, highest course average, Math Counts, and extracurricular activities. Various extracurricular groups have taken on charitable projects that support both the local and broader community. These groups supply and service local food banks, clothing drives, family's in need, as well as raising thousands of dollars toward assorted national aid causes. We have excellent student participation in extracurricular programs, including athletics and fine arts. Our girls' and boys' basketball teams have won several region championships, and our football team is competitive each year.

Additional Information

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

Coral Springs Middle School provides incoming students with many opportunities to familiarize themselves with middle school. The elementary schools visit and are given a tour and presentation of what they will expect at Coral Springs Middle. The principal holds various opportunities to meet with parents and students throughout the year to ensure they are comfortable with the upcoming transition into middle school.

We are also holding a summer event for incoming 6th graders to acclimate them to middle school. We want 6th grade students to have a chance to get comfortable to their surroundings before their first day.

Incoming 6th grade students have an opportunity to see firsthand what they will experience when they begin their middle school journey. The mini orientation will include a scavenger hunt, exploration to campus life, and curriculum overview. Students will also be able to meet new friends.

This one-day event takes place on Thursday, August 11, from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m and the cost is \$10 which includes a pizza lunch and their first Coral Springs Middle School shirt.