



## Central Park Elementary

### Executive Summary School Accreditation

#### Description of the School

Central Park Elementary is located in Plantation, Florida and is part of Broward County Schools, the sixth largest school district in the country. The current enrollment of 870 students spans Kindergarten through Grade 5. The demographic composition of the students consist of 32% White, 35% Hispanic, 13% Black / African American, 11 % Asian, and 5% Multiracial. There are 440 boys and 430 girls in attendance at the school.

Of the instructional classroom staff at Central Park 100% have met the federal standard for highly qualified status.

Of either full-time or part time personnel, the instructional staff consists of two administrators, one curriculum support teacher, one guidance counselor, one exceptional educational specialist, two special education teachers, one social worker, one school psychologist, one speech therapist, one technology specialist, one data entry specialist, one media clerk, one art teacher, one music teacher, one physical education teacher, one Spanish teacher, one science teacher, four paraprofessionals, and forty-five classroom teachers (K-5).

The school is in zip code 33324 where the median age of 38 years is significantly above the State average, the foreign-born population percentage is above the State average, and the renting percentage of 18 % is below the State average. The median household income is approximately \$67,500. The largest race population in this zip code is white, followed by Hispanic and then African-American. Regarding the educational background of adults, 41.4% of the population hold a bachelor's degree or higher.

The community is extremely supportive of educational programs, fund raising, and volunteering their time as well as providing donations for resources and supplemental materials to assure student achievement.

Central Park Elementary runs and maintains its own Before & After School program as well as Summer Camp. School-based teachers supervise these programs.

## **School's Purpose**

The mission of Central Park Elementary is to make a significant difference in the lives of young children by providing learning experiences and opportunities designed for the development of the total child. All children are screened in the beginning of each school year by the classroom teacher to determine the most effective intervention or enrichment that can be provided with the goal of allowing each child to reach his or her full academic potential. Frequent monitoring of academic gains, as well as quarterly data chats both between the administration and teachers, and teachers with their students, allow for effective adjustments in instruction and goal setting for the students. In addition, Central Park offers various clubs that the students can join, including Student Council, Safety Patrol, Art Club, Music Club, Spanish Club, and Math club leading to competition. All clubs are under the leadership of the school's instructional staff. In this past year's 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade math club, a District math competition resulting in Central Park earning second place in 4<sup>th</sup> and third place in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Planned grade level field trips allow the students to experience educational opportunities outside of the classroom. Upper grades plan field trips outside of the County to broaden students' experiences. Some trips that have been planned include, but are not limited to, the Everglades Experience, Beach Experience, Flamingo Gardens, Metro Zoo, Universal Studios, shows at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, and the Museum of Science and Discovery.

Grade levels collaborate on student expectations and look at student achievement gaps of those entering each grade with the goal of decreasing academic achievement gaps. The administration continually communicates with all stakeholders through parent link, mobile app, school web site, school-wide emails, student agendas, newsletters, and flyers. We have an abundance of active parent and community volunteers who support the school financially through fundraisers and assist with student achievement. Students use the computer for Accelerated Reader and i-Ready Reading and Math programs at school and at home. All 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have their own Lenovo computers and there are i-pads in every kindergarten and first grade classroom. Computer carts are accessible to grades 2 and 3. To sustain student achievement and academic growth, collaborative team planning is regularly scheduled, as well as data chats, gifted screening, and weekly meetings by the Principal, Assistant Principal, curriculum Coach, ESE Specialist, Guidance Counselor, and School Psychologist to discuss children needing additional academic interventions to increase their opportunity to achieve academic Florida Standards mastery. Two teachers daily pullout and address the goals of children identified with Individual Educational Plans (IEPS). In addition, grades 1 through 5 have high achieving and/or gifted self-contained classrooms to offer enrichment of the Florida Standards.

There are many school-wide events that highlight the diverse backgrounds and talent of our students. Central Park, with the efforts of all our classrooms and parental involvement, conducts an annual Multicultural Fair. This showcases the great diversity of the community and of our students' heritages. In addition, there are numerous student led shows and competitions. Second grade performs a Patriotic Show in the Spring, fourth grade has an annual Spelling Bee, third grade through fifth grades participate in Continental Math-which is a rigorous award program, fifth grade performs a Winter and Spring Chorus Concert where they also play various musical instrument that they have learned in their weekly music classes.

In classrooms, children are taught specific character traits such as honesty, respect, cooperation, citizenship and responsibility. Every month teachers choose student(s) of the month who exemplify the focused character trait of that month. These children are honored as the Kids of character and invited to a ceremony where they are awarded a certificate and given specific gifts for the honor they earned.

To promote the home-school connection, registered parent volunteers are encouraged to participate in school-related events. There are school/family events planned throughout the school year. *Barnes & Noble Night* invites families to listen to a special chorus performance, as well as hear children's books read aloud, and work with their children creating bookmarks and writing journals. Barnes & Noble has proven to be a great educational partner to Central Park Elementary; they donate a percentage of the sales from that evening back to the school. On *Math Night*, parents and their child(ren) participate together in using math knowledge to solve real world problems. In addition, Central Park Elementary plans for a *Winn Dixie Art Gallery* night showcasing the creative talents of our students. All families and stakeholders come together each Fall for *Batty for Bingo* which afford school families to meet each other, dine together, share a fun evening, and help raise money for the school. There is also *Lime Night* where our school families gather together for dinner at the Lime restaurant in Plantation and where the restaurant also donates a portion of the evenings proceeds back to the school. Central Park provides parent information nights. This year the school hosted an "internet night" where many educational resources available to parents and students at home are modeled and explained by our technology expert and classroom teachers.

We have a school resource officer on campus who not only patrols the school campus every day but also regularly visits 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to teach the children drug abuse resistance. This program culminates in a formal 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE graduation in the Spring where parents are invited to attend.

## Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

In order to give back to the community, and teach the children the joy of giving, there are many regularly scheduled charitable fundraisers during the year that students and parents participate in. One of the projects is the Harvest Drive, organized by our Guidance Counselor in the Fall, whereby students bring in food items, and supplies, with the purpose of compiling Thanksgiving baskets for needy families in our community. Another project organized by the gifted classes each year is called *Pops for Pets*. These students, along with their parents, spend a week selling lollipops in the lunchroom to raise money for animals in shelters. At the same time, they collect donations of animal food, beds, and toys as well.

Another big event that Central Park staff, as well as students and their parents participate in, is *Relay for Life*. Proceeds from this event go to cancer research. There are several events to raise money for this charity, culminating in a large community gathering in one of the Plantation's public parks. The school raises thousands of dollars to contribute to this charity.

Our P.E. coach organizes *Jump Rope for Heart* whereby the children collect pledges so that they can jump rope during the event. The children receive gift incentives and the proceeds from this event go to the American Heart Association.

Academically, our achievement of obtaining an "A" school grade for the past 19 years has proven to be a challenging status each year, especially with the change in student population and more students enrolling with ESOL or ESE classifications. One of the areas for improvement that we are striving for is to bring all children up to grade level reading achievement. To attain this goal, the Principal purchased a highly researched reading intervention program called Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) for every grade level to deliver in small group instruction. Teachers in every grade level have been sent to District trainings in order to instruct this program with fidelity. Our goal is to have every class deliver this program as a double dose if reading intervention is needed, especially in the primary grades. In addition, to enrich those reading above level grade level expectations, the school purchased a large number of books and titles ranging in book levels from A to Z to meet all instructional and independent levels of students.

Another area of improvement that the school is striving for is to improve our science scores by having science instruction in every class of every grade every day. Every child is provided with a Science journal notebook to record notes, as well as the scientific process of hypothesis, materials needed, description of experiments and results. Grade level teams plan collaboratively for pacing of the science topics that need to be covered, as well as inquiry opportunities each month in the classroom, in order to allow the students to apply scientific learning to real world application. Grade level teams plan learning scales for the different scientific topics, as well as what student evidence will be used to evaluate the level of learning each student achieves.

## **Additional Information**

We have continued to consistently maintain an “A” grade from the State of Florida in educational achievement. We have been awarded the Golden School Award. This award is given to schools that have twice the number of volunteer hours as they have students. Central Park has earned this award for twenty-six years. We are very proud of our volunteers and their commitment to our school.

We also have been awarded the *Five Star School Award*. This award is presented by the Florida Department of Education to schools who show excellence in five criteria: business partnerships, family involvement, school improvement, student community service, and volunteers. The application is extensive for this honor and we are proud to have received this recognition every year for thirteen consecutive years.

We have been given SACS Accreditation. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) establishes standards for accreditation of schools based on indicators in all areas of the school program. Examples would include class size, number and age of books in the media center, certifications of staff, amount of support staff, curriculum design, early childhood requirements, etc. Not all districts accredit their elementary schools as Broward County does. Central Park has earned its accreditation each year.

We previously received the Florida School Report High Performing School Award. Central Park Elementary was selected as one of 20 high performing schools in Florida. Identified through the Florida School Report, Central Park's standardized test results were compared to Florida schools with similar characteristics. Data studied for a three-year period substantiated sustained high achievements.

Central Park was chosen as a *Distinguished Leadership School* in Florida. The school earned this distinction for demonstrating a commitment to increased student achievement and school improvement through leadership. Central Park focuses on results of mastery of Florida Standards for all and believes every child can succeed.