

Executive Summary 2018-19

Fox Trail Elementary

Description of School

Fox Trail is a neighborhood Pre-K through fifth grade elementary school located in Davie, Florida. The school has been fluctuating in population over the past three years to reach our current enrollment of 1209 students. Overall, our student population has decreased by approximately 50 students this year. As of February 2018 our number of students receiving free or reduced lunch increased to 53.3%. We became a Title I school on September 28, 2018 for the 2018-19 school year. We serve as a cluster school for autistic children, with five self-contained classrooms servicing approximately forty students. A number of these students spend a portion of each day in classrooms with typical peers in order to accelerate their cognitive and behavioral development. At the beginning of the 2015- 2016 school year, we added a specialized pre-school class to our Fox Trail family. The demographic breakdown as of September 2018 was: 38% White, 6% Black/African American, 46% Hispanic, 3% Multi-Racial and 7% Asian.

Our principal oversees a support staff consisting of: two assistant principals, an ESE specialist, a Literacy Coach, a guidance counselor, an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Coach, a school psychologist and a school social worker. We house 66 classroom teachers, 6 specials teachers (art, music, science, synergy, media and P.E.), 3 speech pathologists, and 15 paraprofessionals. Our office staff, cafeteria staff and custodial staff are always available to assist teachers, students and parents.

Our campus consists of two buildings housing classrooms, administrative offices, a media center and a cafeteria. We have five portables on our property.

Our large enrollment necessitates the following grade level teams:

- Kindergarten – 10 classes
- Kindergarten/First Split - 1 class
- First Grade – 11 classes (including one gifted/high achieving class)
- Second Grade – 11 classes (including one gifted/high achieving class)
- Third grade - 10 blended learning classes (including two gifted/high achieving classes)
- Fourth Grade -8 blended learning classes (including three gifted/high achieving classes)
- Fifth Grade - 9 blended learning classes (including two gifted/high achieving classes)

All students attend a daily half hour enrichment class of either art, music, science, media, synergy, computers or P.E. These special classes are on a sixteen-day rotation with students attending each special for two consecutive days. Students needing speech therapy for articulation and/or pragmatics receive services in accordance with the times specified in their

Individual Education Plan (IEP). We have two full time support facilitators who provide pull-out and push in services to our students with disabilities depending on their IEP.

All children in Broward County Public Schools are entitled to a free breakfast daily. To accommodate our large student population, we open our school doors early to afford our students the opportunity to begin the day fueled by a nutritious breakfast.

Fox Trail Elementary prides itself on parent and community involvement. Throughout the year, our students, staff and parents take part in various activities that reflect our growing community's diverse needs. During the holiday season, our students participate in our zone's Harvest Food Drive helping over 2000 families, as well as a toy drive providing many students with gifts for the winter holidays. We have an annual Uniform Exchange to give parents the opportunity to acquire gently used uniform pants and shirts. In addition, our PTSA conducts a Book Exchange several times a year where every child can receive a free book. We participate in Kids of Character, which we have renamed Leader of the Month to tie in with our Leader in Me process. This program is a monthly character education program, which promotes the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Kids that help us work together as a family.

School's Purpose

Our mission states, "Fox Trail is dedicated to meeting the educational needs of all students in a safe learning environment." Our vision is that we are educating today's students for tomorrow's world. Our theme is "Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow." We embody these purposes through our program offerings coupled with standards-based instruction and high expectations for all students.

At Fox Trail, we strive to meet the needs of all students by building upon their strengths and identifying and addressing areas of need. We offer free, after-school Reading, Math and Science Camps to give our struggling students the opportunity to acquire grade level skills. Selected fourth and fifth grade students train for and compete in a District math competition each year. A group of 20 fifth graders participate in a debate team and attend competitions. We partnered with Western High School for a peer mentoring program called Latinos in Action which pairs some of our Hispanic students with a peer-mentor from Western High School once a week for the year. We also have a peer buddy program wherein students with special needs are paired with typical peers to facilitate interaction and understanding between the two. We have a school-based after-school program that offers a variety of opportunities to engage our students beyond the school day and provide the parents with a safe place for their children. The program, which serves 300 students provides supper, homework help, STEM activities, physical activities and technology, including i-Ready and coding.

Technology is both our challenge and our forte. We have an active computer lab with 36 computers, and all of our classrooms are equipped with Promethean Boards, projectors and document cameras. Twelve of our classrooms and our media center have interactive Recordex boards. Our third through fifth grade teachers are trained in blended learning, where portions

of each day are devoted to computer-based instruction. All of our third through fifth grade classrooms have 1:1 student/laptop ratio. Technology is integrated within all of our classrooms. With funds from technology grants as well as our PTSA, we have been able to also furnish each of our kindergarten through second grade classrooms with computers and Promethean Boards to augment instruction. Each classroom has at least five computers and a variety of computer programs to enhance student learning in all subject areas. Programs such as iReady, Reflex Math, Brain Pop, and Newsela allow student access at school and at home for additional skills practice.

At Fox Trail we offer Math Club, Art Club, Music Club, and a Debate Club. These clubs meet before or after school and provide our students the opportunity to explore their talents. Under the direction of our music teacher, over 300 children have participated in our winter and spring concerts featuring choral and instrumental groups. They have also performed at various locations in our community throughout the years. The art club is actively participating in helping our school promote The Leader in Me theme.

We have Field Days to promote physical fitness and sportsmanship our kindergarten swimming program to help our youngest students develop water safety and survival skills. Our "Leader of the Month" celebrations acknowledge students who demonstrate positive character traits and leadership skills in the classroom. Each fall our students make storybook characters and vocabulary words come to life while participating in our Storybook/Vocabulary Parade. Parent volunteers are a vital part of our Meet the Masters Art Program. Fifth grade students have the opportunity to serve as Safety Leaders before and after school to facilitate an orderly arrival and dismissal process. We have a student operated television studio for disseminating our morning news, with students operating the cameras and delivering the news and weather daily. Our Communications Team of 20 fifth graders help our administration communicate with the community. They help record and write our Friday Parent Links (phone and email), create social media posts, and have recently helped conduct parent interviews to gather information about different cultures in our school.

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

At Fox Trail, we maintain high expectations for student learning. In 2017-2018 Fox Trail earned a "B" rating based on statewide assessments. Although the letter grade did not increase from the previous year, we are proud of the significant increase in student proficiency and learning gains. Our staff is committed and dedicated to student learning. Teachers and staff persistently go beyond their job descriptions each and every day both before and after school to advance student achievement.

Our teachers are part of a highly qualified team of education professionals with approximately 49% having advanced degrees and/or National Board Certification. Constantly working to improve their practice, our teachers engage in professional development. They attend district trainings and school sponsored trainings including Technology Tidbits and BAS lessons. The staff

is being trained in the implementation of the school wide Leader in Me program. Fox Trail teachers also meet in Professional Learning Communities in order to positively impact student achievement. They analyze student work and data to collaboratively develop standards-based differentiated lessons that meet the needs of all students.

In order to better serve our growing population of English language learners, we have invited District trainers to our school to assist teachers with strategies and resources for these students. Many of our teachers are working on their Exceptional Student Education (ESE) endorsement from the state of Florida in order to better recognize and address the needs of our students with disabilities.

Many of our teachers have been trained to be Clinical Educators, thus allowing them to host field experience students and student teachers from area colleges and universities. While these students are earning their education degrees, they have the opportunity to learn from some of the best teachers in Broward County.

Over the past several years, many teachers have received grants to support initiatives in their classrooms that impact student achievement. Teachers have used funds to attend professional development conferences and to purchase books, math manipulatives, STEM materials, writing materials, reading interventions, and technology.

Our media specialist opens the Media Center early every day to allow students additional time to read and check out books and conduct research. He also makes chess boards available for students who wish to perfect their moves before school starts. In addition, he partners with a local book store to promote literacy with various activities that help make reading a fun family activity. Under the guidance of our art teacher, Fox Trail students have fared well in many local art competitions, both winning and placing in the Orange Bowl contest, Bike to School Safety contest and School Lunch poster contest.

One notable activity that connects our students to their community is our annual Heroes Assembly. Fourth and Fifth grade students write heartfelt letters to service men and women, thanking them for their sacrifice and service to our country. Local military personnel then visit the school and talk to the students about the mission and history of the Military, and students share their letters with the soldiers. Through tears, cheers and rounds of applause, students see the impact of their words on others and develop an appreciation for members of the Armed Forces. Another well-received and valuable activity is the Living Wax Museum, where students portray famous historical figures and share their stories with peers, staff, parents and the community. Students do extensive research, compose a monologue and design props and costumes to depict the life and contributions of influential men and women throughout history.

Also notable are the connections we build and maintain with parents and our community. Parent volunteers can be found in classrooms throughout the school performing a variety of tasks that enhance the educational environment. For as long as our school has been in existence, we have received the Golden School Award which acknowledges our strong parental

involvement and community ties. Our PTSA is extremely active and supports many school initiatives with funding and personnel. With the proceeds from various fundraising activities, our PTSA has helped the school update technology, supply classroom teachers with resources and materials, and assist students in need with clothing, shoes and backpacks. PTSA partners with Boosterthon to throw our biggest fundraiser every year. The Boosterthon program infuses our leadership values with fitness to not only raise money but to also educate the students and promote physical fitness. Parents and community members offer insights into their chosen careers during our annual Career Days, and local business partners make monetary contributions and donate a variety of goods and student incentives. This year we have also raised funds to help hurricane victims throughout the country. Our kids have been helping other kids by collecting funds and sending it to other schools to help them rebuild. To show our appreciation for the invaluable contributions of all our volunteers, Fox Trail holds an annual Volunteer Breakfast with teachers, staff and students involved in celebrating those who give of their time and talents to benefit our school.

While we acknowledge the great support we receive from the PTSA and our many volunteers, we have noticed over the years that far fewer parents are becoming involved in their children's education. Attendance at school-sponsored events has declined and teachers report that very few parents are available to help with classroom projects and special events. It is our goal to increase parental involvement through the activities of The Leader in Me program. Our student leaders will participate in a variety of events that will encourage parents to attend and support their children. The intention of our Fox Trail website, Facebook page, Instagram account and Remind App is to provide parents with the information necessary to become more actively engaged in their child's education.

At the end of the 2017-18 school year, we purchased Scholastic books for our Book Room. The books have been organized, leveled, and our Literacy Coach developed a system for teachers to explore and use the books on an as-needed basis. We hope that this will help us fine-tune our small-group instruction and meet the students' needs during their literacy block.

Additional Information

As our world evolves, it is our duty as educators to teach our students not only academics but to also teach them to be successful and to enter the world fully prepared for what's ahead of them. The jobs we are trying to prepare our students for in the future don't even exist yet. Therefore, teaching them the critical thinking and leadership skills they need to reach their goals is a critical part of our job. *The Leader in Me* is a process that integrates *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* into our day-to-day learning. We began this journey at the beginning of the 2016 school year and are excited to see where it takes us over the next several years. We are grateful that Panda Express has awarded us a grant for five years to help us fund most of this process! The leadership we need to move our school doesn't need to come from the top, but rather it comes from all of us within the school, especially the children themselves. We strive for our students to be the leaders of our school and our world!

