



# **Executive Summary**

**Manatee Bay Elementary 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?**

Manatee Bay Elementary (MBE) is a suburban school located in an affluent area west of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Our school opened in 2002 to alleviate overcrowding in several nearby schools due to growth and newly developed neighborhoods. Our school has become one of the largest elementary schools in Broward County with an enrollment of 1186 students in grades K through 5, including 4 exceptional education individualized disability (IND) cluster classes and 2 voluntary pre-kindergarten (VPK) classes. Caucasian students make up 32 percent of our population and 68 percent of our students come from various minority backgrounds, mostly Hispanic. Our students speak 13 different languages and come from 24 different countries with 21 percent of students being classified as English Language Learners (ELL). Many of our families could have chosen to send their children to private schools, but because of our reputation as a high performing school, have chosen Manatee Bay. We ensure all students receive a differentiated, first class education. We believe in the mission of the Florida State Standards and create students who are college and career ready.

The biggest challenge Manatee Bay Elementary School faces with this continual growth is maintaining high rigor and high student achievement for all of our students. We meet this challenge by offering innovative programs to target the variety of learning needs of our diverse population. We strive to make our large school small by utilizing horizontal and vertical planning among teams, committees that support the School Improvement Plan and Parent Universities to educate our parent population. We celebrate the successes of our accomplishments throughout the school year. With the support of our parents and stakeholders, we are driven by the vision and mission of Manatee Bay Elementary.

## **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.**

During the summer of 2002, a core group representing the faculty and community met to develop a plan for the successful opening of the school. They captured the vision of our school with our current mission statement still being used today: "Manatee Bay Elementary is a community of lifelong learners who value quality and integrity as we strive to create a nurturing environment in which children will develop self-esteem and respect for themselves and others." We ensure that all students receive a differentiated, first class education with the Florida Standards serving as our guide. Our programs are research-based and data driven. To ensure every student meets their maximum potential, we offer after-school academic camps and in-school tutoring programs for struggling students as well as extra-curricular clubs in areas of high interest for our students. We also have welcomed four classes of intellectually challenged students. Our school's mission is to provide a quality education that focuses on high expectations and achievement for all stakeholders in a safe and supportive learning environment. Our science program encourages curiosity, engages students to analyze information, and allows for real-world experiences as we prepare students to become leaders in the areas of science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM). Manatee Bay serves as a STEM Innovation School, providing hands-on activities that engage our learners through hypothesizing, exploration, and testing scientific inquiry. We believe at Manatee Bay, that student achievement does not just happen, it is the efficacy that comes from building trusting relationships, empowering others, communication, and commitment to one's mission and vision that makes this happen. Proudly, Manatee Bay was strategically able to close our achievement gap with the highest learning gains in a Broward County. Our STEM program is continued through our robotics/makers lab and our partnership with a local software company, neighboring high school, and local university. This lab allows students from grades K-5 an opportunity to explore and study robotics. The primary grades focus on learning basic building through WEDO robotics. Intermediate grades begin learning computer programming and engineering through local and state competitions such as Science, Engineering, Communication, Mathematics and Enrichment (SECME) and Science Olympiad. Students identify a current environmental issue related to our city. They collaborate in teams, formulate a solution to this issue, and present their solution to make our city a better place. Our students are also involved with writing computer code for simple computer tasks. These students have earned thousands of dollars for our school through grants. These funds have helped to cover costs and purchase additional STEM materials. Our school prides itself on inspiring curiosity and encouraging both male and female students, as they become lifelong learners. Project-based learning has led our students to a yearlong study of the migratory bird groups in our area. Students built nesting boxes placed throughout the state with the hope of reintroducing nesting colonies of Kestrels, an endangered species, into areas in which their presence is lacking.

We have a large gifted/high achiever population with self-contained classes at each grade level. In addition to a rigorous curriculum, we offer clubs and academic competitions in order to keep students challenged. The heart of any school is the 80 percent of children that fall within the general education program. This is what truly sets us apart from schools in the nation. As a school, we chose to apply to become an Innovation Program School within our district. Innovation Programs are models of excellence within our district. Manatee Bay has the only Elementary STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) Program within our Innovation Zone. This program is open to all students. We meet, discuss, and plan curriculum driven by the needs of our students and community.

Our high expectations are paired with our outstanding student achievement. We know the importance in allowing data to drive curriculum. We also know in the end, that is not what makes a well-rounded child. A school is more than academics. Through open discussion with our stakeholders, we have created a culture of tradition at MBE. It is our parents, through their participation in the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or volunteering in the classroom that make the difference. We function like an extended family. Our Student Council has monthly drives for those in need, voted on by our children to give to others. This is truly what makes our learning environment unique. Our students

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are being taught the importance in giving back to the community. We believe a quality education begins with our most precious resource - children. Every program we offer starts with them in mind. From staff development to parent volunteerism, we strive to nurture a well-rounded child. Realizing that children are individuals, differentiation of instruction is the key to our success as a Florida A+ school for the past 14 years.

## **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.**

Manatee Bay achieved its status as the highest achieving public, non-magnet elementary school in Broward County on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) 2.0 in 2013. This achievement was highlighted and featured by several teachers sharing best practices with Superintendent Robert W. Runcie, and School Board of Broward County members in August 2013. In 2015, our school Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) scores overall were in the top 1% of all schools tested. Our tradition of sharing best practices, and implementing them in the classroom and community has contributed greatly to our success. Our teachers are constantly striving to bring new and innovative materials to our school through innovative grants opportunities such as Donors Choose. These teachers have been awarded over \$15,000 in academic materials for students.

Our school is working relentlessly to close the academic achievement gap between our general population and our ELL population. We have started Language Enrichment Camps for our newest language learners with a structured curriculum to meet their unique needs.

On a state and national level, our faculty and administration have attended and shared best practices at events such as Project Globe, SECME, and National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE). Our administration and faculty believe in enhancing their professional development through continued attendance at the International Reading Conferences, National Math Conferences, and Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC).

In addition, our students have made many notable academic accomplishments. For the past three years, Manatee Bay has held the number one spot in the nationwide First in Math online competition. Manatee Bay is also home to the number one student in the nation for the First in Math competition for the 2014 school year. Over the past three years, our school has had a family score in the top five in the nation, as well. Our fifth-grade students compete annually in the Science Olympiad competition held at Florida Atlantic University and have placed in the top three each year, taking home a first place trophy in 2015.

Our school is home to 34 teachers with a master's degree or higher. Our faculty is continually striving for excellence and we have 12 Nationally Certified Teachers. This past year we had six teachers receive recognition from the State of Florida for Excellence in Teaching due to their FSA scores for 2014-2015 school year.

Manatee Bay's faculty and administration take pride in continually being an educational instructional leader for Broward County and beyond!

## **Additional Information**

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

Manatee Bay is committed to continuing 21st-century learning and innovative programs. We currently have a Spanish dual-language program in grades 1 and 2. We are expanding this program to Kindergarten as well as third grade for the 2016-2017 school year. This unique program will allow students to progress together through fifth grade and they will matriculate to middle school fluent in reading, writing and speaking in both languages. This program looks to enhance their language skills in both English and Spanish ensuring a smooth transition into middle school.

Our newest initiative is the Digital learning classroom that was piloted in five fifth-grade classes this year. This program will be expanded to include all of fifth-grade next year and our fourth-grade classes will be utilizing a blended learning model. This digital program allows students the opportunity to expand their learning outside the four walls of the classroom. Our students become experts in many computer programs and have embraced this age of technology. Our students are learning to be responsible digital citizens with access to up to date information. This digital learning format provides students with more opportunities for differentiation, remediation, and enrichment. Our students are also provided with the opportunity to collaborate with students from all over the globe through distance learning opportunities. Students who are academically ready are given the opportunity to participate in accelerated learning in math through virtual school which allows them to work at their own pace.

Through the Safety, Music & Arts, Athletics, Renovation and Technology (SMART) bond initiative we have been given over \$300,000 in technology for students. This has made it possible to lower the student to technology ratio of one to three. This bond will also expand our music and art departments. We are currently looking at additional options for school enhancements through this money under the supervision of our School Advisory Council (SAC).

Early literacy is the key to academic achievement. We work closely with our Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program to align curriculum and aid in matriculation for our early learners. Here at Manatee Bay, our youngest learners work cooperatively in classrooms that are rich in balanced literacy and follow the Daily 5 model. Teachers work to meet the individual needs of the child while providing developmentally appropriate instruction.

To continue preparing our students to become college and college ready we will provide students a venue to be inventors, designers and marketers of their own ideas and projects through a program called "Genius Hour". This program is based on the idea that everyone needs a place where they can explore their passion. We are hopeful this program will expand within our school walls and will prepare our students to be global competitors where they can research and develop their passions.

As a school and community of active stakeholders, we take pride in our achievements, growth, and high standards. We believe in fostering a community of lifelong learners who value quality and integrity as we strive to create a nurturing environment in which children will develop self-esteem and respect for themselves and others.