



# **Executive Summary**

**Westglades Middle School**

**Broward County Public Schools**

Mr. Matthew Bianchi  
11000 Holmberg Road  
Parkland, FL 33076

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Description of the School.....	2
School's Purpose.....	5
Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement.....	6
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?**

Westglades Middle School's impressive teaching staff obtained the following degree levels:

Degree Level	Number	School %
		2015-16
Bachelor's Degree	44	55.7
Master's Degree	32	40.5
Specialist Degree	2	2.5
Doctorate	1	1.3
<b>Total All Degrees</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Staff Type	Total Number
	for 2015-16
Instructional Staff	79
School-Based Administrators	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>

Westglades Middle School is located in Parkland, Florida with a current enrollment of 1,594 hosting students from within our boundary. The demographic breakdown is as follows:

Grade	White	Black	Pacif	Indian	Asian	Multi	Hisp	Male	Female	Total
6th	420	44	0	4	45	16	94	245	284	529
7th	439	35	0	1	40	24	94	272	267	539
8th	442	25	1	3	36	19	87	251	275	526

Our campus covers approximately 9 acres in size consisting of three main buildings and 16 modular classrooms. The campus has a full gymnasium, outdoor track, three tennis courts, soccer/ football field and outdoor basketball courts.

Approximately 80% of our students take advantage of advanced classes. We offer high school classes in Algebra 1, Geometry, Spanish 1 and 2, Debate 1 and 2 and Engineering & Design. Since less than 30% of our children take reading in the 7th and 8th grade (they are identified as proficient on the Florida Student Assessment) this allows 70% of our students two additional elective courses per year.

Our elective choices are as follows:

Art 1,2 / Environmental Science / PE / Chorus 1,2 / Band 1,2,3,4 / Orchestra 1,2 / Drama1,2  
Spanish 1,2 / Debate 1,2 / Pre-Engineering Academy / NAF Finance Academy / Peer Counseling/ National Middle School Cadet Corp

## Executive Summary

Westglades Middle School

---

(NMSCC). The academies will award Microsoft Certification in Word, Powerpoint, Excel or Outlook. Our technology students often place 1st in our county Robotics competition and have participated on the National SECME (Southeastern Consortium of Minorities in Engineering, Science, Engineering, Communication, Mathematics, and Enrichment) Competition held annually at the University of Alabama. For the 3rd year in a row, one of our students attended the State Science Fair in Lakeland, FL.

Our school is designated as a Fine Arts Innovative program emphasizing the wonderful work done by our students under the direction of incredible teachers. Our children earn placement in both State and county level musical groups annually. We also place many students in the Broward County Literacy Fair with students receiving the distinguished "Poet Laureate" recognition three years running. Finally, one of our students graced the halls of the State legislature as a legislative aide/ page for Representative Kristin Jacobs.

We offer both before and aftercare as well as a plethora of clubs. Our teachers volunteer their time every week:

Math Club - 6th,7th and 8th gr.	Best Buddies	Youth Crime Watch
Environmental Club	First Priority	National Junior Honor Soc.
Student Government	Spoken Word Poetry	Chess Club
Future Educators of America	SECME	Creative Writing Club
Environmental Club	Thespians Club	Debate Club

We also have very active intramural and middle school conference sports programs. They include: Basketball/Boys & Girls, Soccer/ Boys & Girls, Flag Football/ Boys & Girls, Track/Boys & Girls and Volleyball/Boys & Girls. Cheerleading is also offered for the girls during the basketball season.

Westglades also boasts of the only 140 tower Hydroponic garden in Broward County Schools managed by our students as part of the Environmental Science elective.

Two of our teachers are published authors and many of them also awarded advanced degrees. The support staff is comprised of 3 assistant principals, 3 guidance counselors, an ESE Specialist, a Reading Coach, 1 security specialist and 1 behavior tech.

### Description of the City:

The City of Parkland, Florida has a population of approximately 28,000 and is located in northwest Broward County. Established in 1963, the City has grown from humble beginnings while remaining environmentally proud and is home to nine parks and five public schools. The City has been named the best City in Florida in which to raise a family by WalletHub and was ranked the 13th safest city in America in 2016 by Neighborhood Scout. To learn more about the City of Parkland visit us online at [www.cityofparkland.org](http://www.cityofparkland.org) and [www.facebook.com/copfl](http://www.facebook.com/copfl).

The City of Parkland is viewed as a prestigious, semi-rural community and is a suburban part of Fort Lauderdale's Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA). The City's highly rated schools and proximity to the Sawgrass Expressway and Florida's Turnpike, coupled with the natural beauty of the region help make the City a highly desirable residential area. Currently, a variety of residential developments are in place including single family and multi-family alternatives. The city boasts of a strong commitment to environmentally sensitive initiatives and green space. They have an Educational Advisory Board that meets periodically with the principals of their 5 (3 elementary, 1 middle, 1 high) schools. Managing the growth in conjunction to school needs is the current challenge of this board. Safety is also paramount - they fund the additional dollars to secure a school resource deputy at each school.

Additional new residential developments are planned as the City develops vacant land in the Wedge. There are four commercial properties

## Executive Summary

Westglades Middle School

---

totaling approximately 61 acres that have been developed: Parkland Commons, Parkland Village, the Waterways and Riverstone Shops. This added upscale commercial development will diversify the City's economic base. Commercial development comprises only .80% of total land use.

The population in the City of Parkland as of 2013 was 26,518 (100% urban, 0% rural). This represents a population change since 2000 of +91.7%. The median resident age is 40.1 years as compared to the State of Florida median age of 41.5 years.

The estimated median household income in 2013 was \$115,908.00 as compared to the year 2000 when it was \$102,624.00. In the State of Florida the estimated per capita income for 2013 was \$44,874 as compared to 2000 where the average was \$41,896.00.

The estimated median home values in 2013 was \$503,604.00 as compared to 2000 when it was \$303,600.00. The State of Florida estimated median home value is \$153,000.00.

A more detailed breakdown can be found at:

<http://www.city-data.com/city/Parkland-Florida.html>

The biggest challenge for our community is helping our kids manage the expectations placed on them. They grow up in a very competitive environment both on the field and in the classroom. Parents have very high expectations and sometimes priorities may become confused. This will only continue as the State of Florida continues to push for more high school credit classes to be taught in middle school.

## **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 purpose of our school is to prepare students for an evolving world with skill sets that ensure them success and sense of purpose in life. Westglades middle school's mission, in conjunction with the parents and community, is to guide our students in becoming independent, college and career ready adults who thrive and contribute responsibly in a global community through innovative educational programs infused with technology and the arts in a safe, supportive environment to ensure success for all. Our vision with Westglades Middle School's innovative educational programs: Orchestra, Chorus, Band, Art, and an Industrial Arts course with CTACE (Career, Technical, Adult, and Community Education) Engineering is to provide students with opportunities to thrive and contribute to our environment and our community.

## **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.**

In the area of school grades, Westglades received the highest overall rating of all 39 middle schools in our county by the State of Florida DOE. This is largely due to the expansion of our high school course offerings. All of our scores in the areas of math, ELA and science are among the highest in our county as well as the state. We have shown steady increases over the last two years.

Our biggest challenge is to identify ways to improve the performance levels of the 20% of students not deemed proficient. We are working diligently at helping teachers move from a teacher directed environment (Sage on the Stage) to one that empowers students. We liken this shift to an environment in which teachers support student learning through scaffolding of content from basic knowledge to complex application. Students are placed in the center of the classroom to grapple with challenging content individually and collaboratively, and students must demonstrate that they own their learning.



## **Additional Information**

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

Prior to the start of the 2015-16 school year, the Administrative team assessed the needs of the staff and determined two focus areas to concentrate on in developing the Staff Development initiatives for the school year. The two identified areas were Response to Intervention (RtI) and infusing the Super Seven Marzano elements into daily instruction.