

**Executive Summary**

Mary M. Bethune Elementary School

Broward County Public Schools

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Hollywood, FL 33020

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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?

ABOUT BETHUNE ELEMENTARY

Bethune Elementary, School of the Arts, is a Broward County Magnet school located in Hollywood, Florida. Our school is home to 453 students. In the current 2018-19 school year this figure includes 108 Head Start and Early Head Start students currently enrolled. This school year, is the 4 year of the TurnAround Arts Initiative through the Obama Administration's President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. Because of this program, our school has seen significant changes in the focus and delivery of instruction.

SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

Bethune Elementary School of the Arts currently has 95 HeadStart students and 348 K-5 students enrolled for the 2018-19 school year. Of this number, white students comprise 5 HeadStart students and 17 K-5 students, black students comprise 65 HeadStart and 269 K-5, Hispanic students comprise 26 HeadStart students and 52 K-5 students.

Currently there are 56 male students in HeadStart and 213 male students in K-5 students. There are 41 female students in HeadStart and 229 K-5 female students.

Out of the 443 total students approximately 213 are considered magnet students. BETHUNE COMMUNITY

This past year Bethune Elementary did see a reduction in students because of the recent opening of a charter school, Avant Garde, which is approximately 1 mile away from our school. A decline has also been attributed to redistricting. Our school has historically seen transient students that come and go to different schools throughout our community. Our community is located in a predominantly lower socioeconomic area where the majority of the families are working families. Many times, extended relatives care for the students coming to our school. Many of our students walk to and from school or ride the bus.

BETHUNE CHANGES

Bethune Elementary, School of the Arts, has experienced many changes these last four years. Within those years, their has been 3 principal changes. Our new principal, Latosha Williams, was hired at our school in July 2017. In 2014-15, our school was selected by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities to be a part of the TurnAround Arts Initiative. Through this initiative our staff has been afforded the opportunity to increase their professional development by learning strategies in which the teachers can integrate arts instruction into the regular academic curriculum in an effort to improve student's academics and engagement. Our performing arts teachers assist with this initiative by pushing into the classrooms daily to help them integrate arts instruction into the daily lessons. Our instructional and support staff along with the administrative team have participated in more than 15 before school, after school, and Saturday professional developments on arts integration as well as instructional strategies and classroom management techniques.

BETHUNE TEACHERS

Bethune Elementary currently has 55 certified teachers on staff. The demographics of these teachers are as follows; 47% white, 30% black, 22% Hispanic, and 1% Asian. Three teachers at our school are National Board Certified teachers.

UNIQUE CHALLENGES (COMMUNITY):

As previously mentioned, our school is located in a low socioeconomic neighborhood where the majority of the families are working families. As such, we have challenges with parental involvement at our school. Some of the challenges we are working towards improving are the following; improving the social and emotional behavior of students, reducing aggression in classrooms, decreasing impulsivity and

hyperactivity in difficult children, and enhance parent effectiveness. Through our Conscious Discipline trainings we hope to improve the quality of student-teacher interactions where we implement transformational discipline practices to change our school's culture to reflect that of a School Family. We are implementing two behavior change programs currently to try and address these challenges for our students.

These same programs also have parental components and we are offering trainings for our parents through our SAC meetings. Our community also lacks 21st Century Technology skills and students that come to our school do not have access to technology at home.

## 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.

VISION & MISSION:

Our vision is to provide a creative learning experience that cultivates character and provides a rigorous curriculum in a safe, secure environment.

Our mission is to provide a personalized learning experience for all students with a rigorous curriculum that builds towards college and career readiness preparing student to become global citizens.

Our school provides creative learning experiences to our students in many ways. To begin with time is allotted in the daily schedule for the performing arts teachers to provide push-in arts integration into the classrooms. Each performing arts specialist has been assigned a grade level in which they push in to the classroom to assist the classroom teacher in utilizing his/her specialty to deliver the content curriculum by infusing music, dance, arts, and drama in all K-5 classrooms. As well, our students participate in a performing arts schedule each day. K-2 students are on a rotation schedule in which they receive instruction from art, band, strings, drama, dance and Spanish throughout the week. Students in grades 3-5 select a performing arts special that they are taught in-depth throughout the year. These same students participate in many performances in which they are able to demonstrate what they have learned.

Through our FOCUS 5 and Conscious Discipline school initiatives, we are working towards improving our school culture using these character building and behavior change programs. Our school stakeholders are being provided with hands-on training which targets both the school's character building and student behavior goals. School staff members have taken several trainings this year to learn how to use these programs with our students.

Our school provides a rigorous curriculum in which all students' individual needs are met. Our teachers use the FSA Standards as a guide for curriculum delivery. This year, Bethune Elementary also began the use of novel studies in Grades 3-5. Through these novel studies, science and social studies curriculum are infused and integrated into the reading block. Many resources are used to provide instruction to implement the Florida Standards that each student needs to master. Continuous data is obtained to track student performance and identify strengths, weaknesses and areas of growth.

Students are provided a personalized learning experience in many different ways. Teachers provide differentiated learning experiences in each classroom. Gifted/High Achieving classes are provided to those students that qualify for this service. As well, low achieving students are provided additional assistance through reading and ESE pullout and push-in programs. ELO (Extended Learning Opportunities) services are provided to students in need throughout the week as well as mentoring by teachers throughout the school day.

## 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.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS: Our school has seen a large reduction in absenteeism for both students and teachers. As well we have seen a reduction in referable offenses by students. Teachers have been able to participate in numerous trainings and staff developments resulting in improved teacher practices. Morale has improved this year as a result of the above. Teachers have been trained on data tracking practices and are better able to meet and monitor individual student academic and behavior needs.

As of January 4, 2016, our school received close to 400 computer Lenovo laptops. These computers have been distributed throughout the grade levels. Grades 3-5 have a 1:1 computer to student ratio. Teachers in Grades K-2 received five new computer laptops in each classroom. Because of this, students have been able to increase technology usage including the research based I-Ready Program.

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT: In the area of math, as measured by the FSA 2014-15 results the following areas of improvement are noted for 3-5 grade students. Last year's Third Grade students (this year's Fourth Grade students) received an average score of 2.20 on the FSA Math Reading Assessments. Last year's Fourth Grade students (this year's Fifth Grade students) received an average score of 1.96 on the FSA Math Assessment. An average score of 3 is the on grade level target on the FSA Math Assessment.

In the area of ELA, as measured by the FSA 2014-15 results the following areas of improvement are noted for 3-5 grade students. Last year's third grade students (this year's Fourth Grade students) received an average score of 2.14 average on the FSA ELA Reading Assessment. Last year's Fourth Grade students (this year's Fifth Grade students) received an average score of 2.20 on the FSA ELA Reading Assessment. Included in the ELA Score is the writing assessment score. Last year's Fourth Grade students (this year's Fifth Grade students) received an average score of 5.6 out of 10. An average score of 3 is the on grade level target on the FSA ELA Reading Assessment. This average combines the reading and writing scores.

In the area of Science, as measured by the 2014-15 Florida NGSS Science Assessment, which is taken in Fifth Grade, 30% of students scored a level 3 or higher. This is a drop from a 41% of students that scored a level 3 or higher in the previous year 2013-14.

Our mission to decrease student misbehavior has been one of our major focuses this year. In order for teachers to be able to teach, behavior has to be appropriate and the students need to be engaged. To improve this area at our school this year, teachers are currently being trained in two different behavior change programs, Focus 5 and Conscious Discipline.

During the 2013-2014 school year 84 students were retained in grades K-5 with 11 students being retained twice during his/her elementary school career. Upon entry to the 2014-2015 school year 13 of these students were provided a transition plan to 6th grade with 100% success. Four students were transitioned to the 5th grade and successfully passed to the 6th grade at the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

100% of our current Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade classes have made gains in the overall class average of Rigby Running Records results during the 2014-2015 school year as well as the current school year of 2015-2016.

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

## Additional Information

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

Additional Information about Bethune Elementary School of the Arts:

As a magnet school to students who come to us with little or no experience in the arts, we are pleased to see the increase in student attendance and participation in the arts. Our 3rd through 5th grade students have experienced performances throughout the district and community such as:

-3rd through 5th grade Band and Strings students performed for passengers and guests at the Hollywood International Airport December 2015

-4th and 5th grade Strings students were invited to perform at the Florida Symphony

-3rd through 5th grade students on the dance team demonstrated dance talents at the Broward County yearly Gifted symposium

-Kindergarten through 3rd grade students in the Visual Arts classes displayed student artwork throughout the City of Hollywood as well as our neighboring city of Dania Beach

-3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will perform in May 2016 at the Broward Center of the Performing Arts our annual school, show "Shrek" with curriculum and literature provided by MTI