



Executive Summary

Attucks Middle 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?

Attucks Middle School was built in 1927 as a high school and officially became a middle school in 1970. It is located in the neighborhood of Liberia, in the city of Hollywood, Florida, in Broward County. Liberia is a close knit, traditionally African American community with an average household income of \$44,688.00 in 2013, which is just above the average household income for the City of Hollywood as a whole. There is a strong community surrounding the school, with many families having multiple generations who have graduated from Attucks. Since 1927, the school has been retrofitted to provide internet and technology access to 100 percent of the classrooms. In 1978, a two story building was added to the campus, and is now home to our eighth grade students. Housing our eighth grade students in their own wing of the school allows us to better prepare them for the transition to high school. Our beautiful campus boasts a large auditorium, open sport's fields, as well as a pool, tennis courts, and open outdoor areas for students.

Attucks Middle School's student population is truly diverse, and currently consists of 649 students from a predominantly urban community. Current demographic information shows the student population is: 50 percent Black, 30 percent Hispanic, 15 percent White, 3 percent Multiracial and 2 percent Asian. Economically disadvantaged students account for more than 87 percent of the population as indicated by participation in the free or reduced lunch program, which gives the school a Title I designation. Additionally, 13 percent of students are Students with Disabilities (SWD), 9 percent are classified as English Language Learners (ELL) and 2 percent of students are gifted. Working with such a socioeconomically diverse population presents many challenges and opportunities. In order to best serve and support all of our students our staff and faculty work closely with support agencies, student services, and mentorship organizations.

Attucks Middle School employs a staff of 75 employees, 45 of which are full time teachers. Included in our staff are several Student Support personnel, who strive to assist students with special challenges succeed academically. On average, our teachers have 12 years of total teaching experience, which is 3 more than the district average of 9 years. Out of the 169 classes taught at Attucks Middle School, 156, or 93% are taught by Highly Qualified teachers as defined by the Federal Government. Currently, Cambridge training is being provided to the teaching staff in order to provide all students at Attucks with the best possible education. The demographic breakdown of the teaching staff is 25 percent White (non-Hispanic), 40 percent Black (non-Hispanic), 6 percent Hispanic, 8 percent Asian/Pacific Islander, and 11 percent Multi-Ethnic.

Today, the school is home to the Cambridge Global Communications Academy, the first Cambridge Middle School in Broward County. The 2015-2016 school year was the initial year of the program. Our 6th grade students were the first to experience this exciting new concept, and we expect to implement one grade per year to eventually become a 6 through 8 magnet program in 2018. The school strives to promote public school choice, and thereby improve the quality of education of its diverse population. All stakeholders supported the school's efforts to become the first Cambridge Global Communications Academy in the district. The magnet program draws students from the neighborhood, as well as from several target schools throughout the district, south of Sunrise Boulevard and as far west as Weston.

The vision of the Cambridge Global Communications Academy is to engage students in proven active learning strategies and a rigorous curriculum to the students. Our curriculum, magnet electives, and general electives embody the themes of the program. Attucks continues to offer Communications Broadcast Arts coursework as part of our new Cambridge Global Communications Academy. The school is currently offering students opportunities in Video Production, Microsoft Certification, Foreign Language, Debate, as well as reviving our Band program. The school offers nine high school credits, with rigorous course work, including: Algebra, Geometry, Biology, Spanish I, Spanish II, Debate I, Debate II, Television Production, and Microsoft Certification.

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The thematic principles help our students acquire interpersonal skills, better work habits, and help shape their values and morals. Students are given a full range of opportunities to develop these principles and skills throughout their classes within the guidelines of the magnet program. The long term goal is that the combination of ideals, principles and skills will carry over into their high school years, ensuring students will be college and career ready, and into adulthood.

The new magnet program is the product of our efforts and commitment to excellence and diversity. Recently, due to a declining technology magnet program, the opening of new schools in the area and increased competition from charter and magnet schools, Attucks has seen some decline in enrollment. We have worked hard these past three years, in conjunction with the district, to rebrand our school and revamp our magnet programs. We are currently actively marketing the Cambridge Global Communication Academy and working closely with feeder elementary schools to increase awareness of the exciting things happening at Attucks Middle. One of our school's best attribute is our small population, which affords for true connections to be made between faculty, staff, and students and their families.

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.

Attucks Middle School consistently strives for excellence in order to meet or exceed expectations for the academic, social, and emotional growth and success of our students. We create lifelong learners by providing opportunities for students to become innovative learners, and develop creative and critical problem-solving skills, to meet dynamic global demands and ensure that all students are on the path to college and career readiness. We maximize our resources through collaborative partnerships with our community, and our business and education partners. We pursue excellence for every student, every day!

Attucks Middle School's ultimate mission is to provide a quality education to all students, in a safe and secure environment while providing unique educational opportunities through the study of our Cambridge Global Communications Academy Magnet Program.

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.

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In order to achieve our vision, in the past three years Attucks has undergone a steady growth and transformation process. This shift in culture, led by our principal, Mr. Errol Evans, is steadfastly moving Attucks towards regaining our A rating from the State of Florida. From capital improvements, to technology, to staff and faculty training and culture, Attucks is on the move!

Our largest accomplishment has been the addition of the previously mentioned Cambridge International Examination to our magnet program. This program, which offers cutting edge teaching strategies, as well as high rigor, and international recognition of its graduates offers our students the best preparation for the next stage of their education, university and beyond. Becoming a Cambridge School shows our strong commitment to excellence in education. The program's Global Communication pathway was a perfect fit with our Video Production program and will give teachers the tools and training to truly engage and inspire our students.

As part of our transformation to the Attucks Cambridge Global Communications Academy, we are committed to actively recruiting students who are looking for a highly rigorous curriculum. We have begun hosting an annual Magnet Open House and the school is open for scheduled tours as well as shadowing experiences for interested students. Additionally, this is the second year of our second open house titled, "Spotlight on Attucks." The focus of the evening was to allow potential students and parents the opportunity to interact with school personnel in a fun, family friendly environment. All faculty and staff came and showcased what makes each department unique, and shared their best practices with the potential parents and students.

Because our goal is to develop successful learners that are confident, responsible, innovative, engaged, and ready for college, career, and beyond, we are committed to providing students with engaging and interest-based courses. Attucks has added the Cambridge English, Mathematics, and Science curriculum, which promote an inquiry-based approach to learning to develop critical thinking skills and encourage intellectual engagement of our students. We have redesigned our communication magnet and electives to offer multiple pathways for our students to explore the communications field. Our electives engage students by having them tackle real-life communication issues, develop usable communication skills, and build a strong portfolio. Our certified teachers bring real-world lessons, experience, and best practices to the classroom. Pathways include our original Film & Television Production, Microsoft IT Academy, Digital Media & Graphic Design, Journalism, Yearbook Publishing, adding Speech & Debate, to our offerings in the communications field. We have also made a renewed commitment to the arts with our brand new Band program. By sharing a band instructor with Bethune Elementary, we were able to bring music and performance back to our school! The program has been a big hit, and a welcomed alternative to P.E. for many of our students. We hope to continue building the music and arts program at Attucks as our enrollment increases.

The 2015-2016 school year was also a big year for our new Debate program. Our school became the host for the County's new Debate initiative, hosting as many as 550 students on three separate evenings, as they competed in Speech and Debate events. The events brought much welcomed positive feedback for our school and its facilities, which reinforces our resolve to become a leader in innovative programs within Broward County Schools. The Debate program is growing, and will offer Middle School Speech and Debate, High School Speech I, and High School Debate I Honors next year.

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Our athletics department has also been successful in the past three years, racking up awards and medals. Attucks offers basketball, flag football, cheerleading, volleyball, soccer, and track. We are excited to announce that we will be adding swimming to the list next year.

Staff and faculty culture and development is another area where Attucks has made much progress in the past three years, beginning with a commitment to hire the best teachers, and train them to meet our standards. Working with curriculum leaders, administration, and teachers, Attucks is now using data to more efficiently run classrooms and plan better curriculum. By optimizing our master schedule, we were able to allow our teachers to have common team planning time to work together and analyze student performance. Additionally, teachers' classrooms were moved in order to strategically place teachers next to their subject area and grade level partners for optimum collaboration. All of these efforts have begun to bear fruit. Collaboration is at an all-time high, and grade level teams feel like families working towards a common goal.

Part of the culture change has been a push towards bringing unified dress to our school in order to help build a culture of achievement and professionalism. While some students are resistant to the idea of Unified Dress, parents and teachers overwhelmingly support our efforts. The proposal has been approved by SAC, and is currently being voted on by our families. Unified Dress would not only increase student security, school pride, and awareness of the Cambridge program in the neighborhood, but would also help students feel like they are a part of a special community.

In the next three years, our ultimate goal is to regain our A rating. In order to reach that goal, Attucks is committed to continuing the progress made with using data to drive instruction, as well as our effort to bring true collaboration to curriculum building and planning. We will continue to market the Cambridge Global Communications Magnet to attract a more diverse student population and increase enrollment to 1000 students by the year 2020. As part of our capital improvements, we are planning updates to many areas in our school such as the media center and front office to make them more inviting and functional. We are looking to expand the use of technology throughout the school and encourage students to become technologically proficient to compete in the new world economy.

One area where Attucks hopes to make more progress in the next three years is in community and parent engagement. While our parent nights, and community evenings are a success, PTSA and SAC memberships remain opportunities for improvement. Parent involvement in the school is a keystone to academic success. As our enrollment grows, we will continue our efforts to engage parents and the community in supporting our continued success.

Additional Information

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

Attucks Global Communications Academy is working to create a school organization that will be the heart of the city of Hollywood by developing our young Eagles to soar in their educational journey through a dynamic, rigorous, and innovative approach to teaching and learning. We are excited about the relationships we continue to build with our Hollywood elementary and high schools through the use of vertical teaming, which allows for a seamless transition from elementary, to middle, and high school. We look forward to serving Hollywood families from all backgrounds for years to come!