1. **Description of School**

**Location:**

Deerfield Park Elementary Magnet School of Performing and Visual Arts is dedicated to the academic and social success of students by providing a caring environment that promotes high expectations, academic rigor, and infuses 21st Century Learning. Deerfield Park Elementary is located in Deerfield Beach, Florida and is part of the Broward County School district. We currently service students in Pre Intensive Programs on campus.

**Student Population:**

Deerfield Park Elementary current enrollment is 590 students. We are a Title I school where 95% of our students qualify for free/reduced lunch. Specific demographic information includes the following: 10% of our students are English Language Learners and 14% receive Special Educational services.

**Staff Information:**

We currently have 98% of our instructional staff and teacher assistants are classified as highly qualified personnel. We have 28 classroom teachers, 1 ESE instructor, 1 ESE Specialist, 2 Curriculum coaches, 1 Media Clerk, 2 Pool Substitute Teachers, 7 Paraprofessionals, 4 Performing and Related Arts Teachers, 1 Guidance Counselor, and two Administrators (Principal and Assistant Principal).

**Unique Features & Challenges**

A unique feature of our school is that we are the only Magnet School of Performing and Visual Arts in North Broward County, as well as the City of Deerfield Beach, Fl. In addition to our academic programs, our students participate in courses in Band, Art, Dance, Chorus and Physical Education (PE). This creates a well-rounded student, and attracts students from all over Broward County.

One of the challenges that we are currently facing includes overcoming the barriers of a large number of struggling students. Currently we are rated as a “B” school. According to 2016-2017 FSA (Florida Standards Assessment ) data, less then 35% of our students in Grade 3 were proficient in the ELA Reading Standards. To overcome these challenges, our teachers are provided with Professional Development to learn a variety of Instructional strategies to assist all students. Struggling students are provided extended learning opportunities before school (in morning tutorials) and within the classroom. This includes small group instruction, differentiated instruction, literacy centers, and a “double dose” of reading for targeted students. Saturday school tutorials are also provided for select students in Grades 3-5.

Parents and Community Partners are invited to a variety of events that are held throughout the school year. Events such as Family Literacy Night and Math & Science Night assist parents in gaining additional knowledge to assist their child at home. Parents are trained on the Florida Standards and provided with information for grade level expectations.

**Purpose & Mission:**

Deerfield Park Elementary Magnet School of Performing and Visual Arts is dedicated to the academic and social success of students by providing a caring environment that promotes high expectations, academic rigor, and infuses 21st Century Learning. The purpose and mission of Deerfield Park Elementary School is to prepare our students to be College and Career Ready. With supportive community partnerships, we will meet the diverse needs of our students and the challenges of a changing society by integrating the arts with academics.

It is our vision to provide the highest quality of education for all students, and to instill life long skills for our students to be successful academically and socially. We are able to embody our purpose by providing students with a rigorous interdisciplinary curriculum aligned with Florida Standards that synthesizes academics with Art, Band, Chorus, Dance, and Drum Line. Incorporating the Arts allows our students to infuse their individual creativity to drive (and/or ignite) their passion for learning. Our students are able to problem solve and thrive in an environment that inspires vision, innovation and creativity.

Throughout our school you will see visual representations that align with our purpose, mission, and vision. Bright murals are painted on the walls throughout the school. These murals reflect the Performing Arts Program. College Pennants are displayed the front office and throughout the hallways of the entire school. A culture of high expectations is set by celebrating student success at Honor Roll assemblies, and providing other academic incentives. Positive behavior is rewarded through the use of “fawn bucks” a school based incentive program in which students can earn tickets. These tickets can be redeemed at our school store for a variety of prizes, stickers, snacks, and more.

**Notable Achievements:**

Over the past years Deerfield Park has been a recipient of the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF Grant). This grant provides additional Professional Development opportunities and resources for Instructional Staff Members. Through the TIF Grant, we have been able to purchase additional technology such a Mimio Teach Interactive Whiteboard Systems, document cameras, LCD Projectors, and iPads for students. Professional Development for teachers has also accompanied these purchases. Teachers have learned strategies to provide differentiated instruction to our students. This includes meeting the needs of struggling students, ESOL Students, ESE Students, and Gifted Students. Professional Development has also been provided to inform teachers how the technology can be used to meet the needs of various types of learners including, Auditory, Visual, and Kinestitic Learners.

In 2014-2015, we became a Digital 5 School. This means that all of our fifth grade students received a laptop and they are able to access learning both at home and at home. Our teachers strive to make interactive lessons that peak student interest through various technology platforms such as CPalms, Mathletics, iReady, Powerpoint, etc. These platforms also allow teachers to individualized students learning. As a result of the District passing the SMART Bond in 2014, Deerfield is purchasing additional laptops for students and teachers that will further allow technology implementation into the classrooms and enhance diversified learning.

In 2013 our school received a special honor from our Community Partner, The Kiwanis Club of Deerfield Beach. We were selected to receive a $10,000 Reading Oasis Room. This room was designed to promote literacy and included a partnership with Scholastic Books. The Reading Oasis room was completely transformed to create an environment in which parents, students, and teachers could collaborate and learn. In addition to furniture, bookshelves, and decorative paintings, we received over $10,000 worth of new books and a Promethean Board. During the first year of it’s inception, our reading scores increased by 30%.