



# **Executive Summary**

**Margate 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?**

Margate Middle School is a (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) S.T.E.M. Magnet school with (Students Embracing a Learning Environment for Collegiate Training) SELECT+ which is an advanced college readiness program, located in Margate, Florida. Concurrently, Margate Middle School is a Title I school that has a diverse population of 1251 students. The demographics breakdown of the student population by race is: 34.8% Caucasian, 55.5% Black, 23.9% Hispanic, 3.2% Asian, 1.8% Native Indian, .39% Native Pacific and 4.2% Multi-Racial backgrounds. The student population includes students that are: English Language Learners, Specialized Varying Exceptionalities, students with Exceptional Student Education eligibilities, as well as students in General Education classes. The demographics breakdown of the student population with specific needs include: 173 students that are English Language Learners (ELL), and 219 students with an Exceptional Student Education (ESE) eligibility. Therefore it is clear that Margate Middle School is a multi-cultural, multilingual, minority school with a substantial percentage of at risk students. There are over 80% of students receiving free or reduced lunch within the last three years.

Over the last three years, Margate Middle School has experienced an influx of students that are of English Language Learners due to Margate Middle School's centralized location.

## **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.**

Margate Middle School (MMS) is dedicated to promoting a safe learning environment that provides an integrated learning experience emphasizing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Using a problem and project-based learning approach, students will use a combination of analysis, discovery, problem solving, communication, and creativity to attain 21st century skills that will allow them to be empowered lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

Margate Middle School believes in supporting positive behavior among the student population and promoting a culture of character education. Margate Hero Positive Behavior System (PBS-Hero) initiative rewards students for displaying positive behaviors such as: being on time to class, being prepared for class, turning in lost items and being helpful to teachers and fellow students. This focus on the positive aspects of students' behaviors enables us to curtail discipline issues by helping students to model appropriate behaviors. The end result is an inherent drive in the students to do what is right when faced with a challenging decision.

In addition to the Hero PBS system, students are also given ongoing Character Education lessons through the Morning Announcements, Perpetual Slide Show in the café and in classrooms on the first Friday of the month. The focus of the lessons are centered on our Spartan "STRONG" initiative. Our Spartan STRONG acronym is explained below:

SPARTAN "STRONG"

Show Self-Control

Takes Responsibility

Remain Tolerant

Obtain Accountability

Nurture Positive Attitude

Gives Respect

## **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.**

Margate Middle meets the needs of all learners by offering intensive enrichment with reading. The extended SWAG (Students with Achievement Goals) period enables Margate Middle School to bridge the academic gap with a daily 30 minutes reading class. For students who are meeting expectations, we offer project based learning and high school classes to help them realize a higher level of competency. The STEM program further offers students real world experience getting them ready for 21st century college study or careers. Margate Middle School offers Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) that include before and after school tutoring, as well as Saturday Academic Camp. Students also experience additional remediation through pull outs, which are held during elective classes. Margate Middle School students prepare themselves for Florida Standards Assessment testing, as well as careers, by use of computer based programs such as: Achieve 3000, USA Test Prep and Vocabulary.com.

Margate Middle School offers further small group assistance to students with Individualized Education Plans by push-ins and pull-outs on a daily basis with an Exceptional Student Education Support Facilitator.

In addition to the listed ELO's, we have a grant program that funds Margate Middle Schools' 'School is Cool' program, an after school outreach that allows students to get intensive support for academics, as well as aspects related to health and wellness and social adjustment. Margate Middle School is also a participant of ASPIRA, which is a grant funded program that offers academics and social support for at risk, under educated and students of low income families. The extracurricular activities provided by ASPIRA is provided to students at no cost. The incentive reward donations to Margate Middle School help to encourage students to attend the many ELO's. Thus, the school continually seeks out support from business partners to support these programs and other school initiatives for an even greater impact on students.

### **Areas of Improvement**

Margate Middle School is focused on executing a continuous improvement model with teachers, staff and students. Margate Middle School works in collaborative professional learning communities to analyze instructional plans that are the suitable for each individual learner. Group analysis of common formative assessments informs retooling of instructional delivery, so that each student's education is relevant to their needs and goals. Remediation and enrichment is further aided by the scaled up use of computer programs: Achieve3000 (Reading program), GIZMOS (Science program), USA Test Prep (Reading, Civics, Math and Science) and Vocabulary.com (all content areas).

The Marzano's Super 7 high yield strategies are in school wide use. The Math department is using "flipped classrooms" monthly, so that students can get exposure to another teacher's expertise in the content. The Science department has created "Immersion days" in conjunction with the Museum of Discovery in Science (MODS) where students are exposed to the science curriculum (earth/space science, life science, and physical science). Margate Middle School has designed "Model" classrooms with an open door policy that allows for other teachers to visit and see the highly effective strategies being implemented. The staff also engages in monthly instructional rounds, visiting expert teachers to observe and acquire best practices.

## **Additional Information**

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

### Parent Resource/Curriculum Nights

Parent and school community outreach are important tools in connecting and partnering with our school community. To this end, we hold a series of resource nights that invite parents to come and learn alongside their children. An example of such an event is our Parent Resource/Curriculum Nights. The format for these events features instruction on supporting students in their academic endeavors, as well as an immersion of project based assignments, so that parents can fully understand the curriculum. Parents and students work collaboratively to complete each task. Each content area is covered through these events, so that parents feel they are able to cultivate the best outcomes for their child in every subject area.

### District Collaborative Professional Learning Communities

Margate Middle School works in a district (Professional Learning Communities) PLC group of 23 schools from similar (Socio Economic Status) SES bands, which generates content for common formative assessments and measures results competitively. This enables the school to accurately measure our progress towards curriculum goals and to plan for remediation against a wider goal of students performing well against state goals. Our school consistently performs in the top quartile for these common formative assessments and provides invaluable feedback to assist the district PLC group as a whole.

Innovative concepts are also the result of the district collaboration. Through group brain storming against results, we are able to enhance curriculum delivery that best reflects a rigorous and relevant coursework designed to lead to greater (Florida Standards Assessment) FSA success.

### STEM Projects across Content Areas

Grade level PLC's feature instruction in real world hands on authentic STEM projects, but also in adding a new technology component to the instructional base (i.e. Google Docs, Google Drive). Teachers are able to create a product goal, while formulating the instructional path to the goal that includes all core content areas as well as technology electives. Lead teachers take charge, increasing the efficacy of the overall project by ensuring all of the elements are in place and working well. An example of a project is the eighth grade concussion prevention project that will entail research (Social Studies), calculations for a stronger sports helmet (Math, Science and Technology), and writing up the project report (Language Arts). Each grade level has a specific requirement to complete a fourth quarter S.T.E.M project.

### Cross-Curricular Instruction

The responsibility for reading and writing is whole-heartedly shared across curricular areas. All teachers are in-serviced about Reading and Writing strategies and are observed for inclusion in instruction. Specific programs that demonstrates a cross-curricular and rigorous approach can be seen during the Writing Wednesdays, in which all grade levels and core classrooms require that students engage in a writing component, thereby making their base of exposure to writing stronger, and increasing resiliency. Likewise, interdisciplinary units for math, science and reading are executed during the school year across all content areas. It is believed that students will increase their potential when more than one teacher offers instruction in specific and important core content; hearing it from another perspective is often the key to increased content acquisition.

### Extended Learning Opportunities

Studies show that students in high risk groups from lower socio economic backgrounds can catch up to their peers, by the end of middle school, if offered enough hours of extended learning opportunities. Margate Middle School is keenly focused on creating increased opportunities for students to be exposed to curriculum content through pullouts, before school computer laboratory access, after school programs; Immersion Days (Math, Science and Reading) and weekend tutoring through Saturday Camp. Margate Middle School has 18 before and after school programs and clubs which include: 'School is Cool' (provides additional academic support with social mentoring).

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ASPIRA (promotes academics, social and leadership skills), Robotics Club (students collaborate to problem solve, create and program Robotics) as well as other academic, athletic and performing arts groups. In addition, our administration and support staff key into communication and personal coaching with our struggling, ESE and ELL students to be sure they feel a connection to the school. Connectedness enhance the students' ability to increase their learning goals as it provides confidence to achieve.

In addition to our on campus ELO's, we offer access to educational software for students to use outside of school hours such as: First in Math, Gizmos, Achieve 3000, Vocabulary.com, and USA Test Prep. This component of the learning environment allows students to do enrichment and remediation work, and also enables the parent support and interaction as coached through our Parent Resource Nights.