



Executive Summary Template School Accreditation

2012-2013

The Executive Summary (ES) provides the school an opportunity to describe in narrative form its vision as well as strengths and challenges within the context of continuous improvement. Use this template to complete the responses to the various questions below. The responses should be brief, descriptive, and appropriate for the specific section. Transfer completed narratives into the corresponding sections of the Executive Summary found online in ASSIST.

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?

A few years ago Margate Elementary School celebrated its Golden Anniversary with over 50 years of educating children in the Margate community. As such, it holds itself as the gold standard for education through excellence and caring. Located in the heart of city, it is just blocks away from Margate Boulevard, City Hall, the Margate Police Department, the Margate Library, and the Community Center. Situated amidst the quaint homes and churches of the surrounding area, its location and first view belie the huge campus that exists behind the front door. The historic architecture that welcomes you to the entrance of the school, and its original first buildings, harken one immediately to the school's birth in the 1960s. Continue on any path through the school and one is taken on a trip to the present, with the most recent additions having come in the last few years; they support the ever continuing interest in the school, which for over a decade has enjoyed a population of at or above one thousand children.

Current enrollment at Margate Elementary, including pre-K students, is 1,017 students. The ethnic breakdown of these students is approximately: 36% Black/African American; 24% White; 32% Hispanic; 3% Asian; 5% Multi-Racial; and less than 1% Native American/Native Indian or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

Encouraged by our large enrollment, and our previously cited location in the center of the city, Margate Elementary also figuratively serves as the beating heart of the community at large. Along with partnerships including other schools, churches, and local businesses, Margate regularly hosts

community events that boast attendance in the hundreds; including families both current and past, local city dignitaries, and countless other members of the community.

The certified teaching staff consists of 61 female teachers and 5 male teachers. These include a Librarian/Media Clerk, a Physical Education Teacher, an Art Teacher, a Technology Instructor, a Guidance Counselor, a Literacy Curriculum Coach, a Math Curriculum Coach, an ESE Specialist, 4 ESE Support Teachers, 1 full time Speech and and six Pre-K teachers. Additional staff includes 5 Café staff, 6 Facilities Servicepersons, 6 Office Staff, a Social Worker, a School Psychologist, 20 Student Support Paraprofessionals, a health tech and a School Resource Officer. The entire faculty and staff work under the leadership of Principal Thomas J. Schroeder and Assistant Principal Vicki Flournoy.

Principal Schroeder has led the school for 15 years, first as the Assistant Principal and over the last eight years as Principal. Assistant Principal Flournoy is an amazing part of our administrative team. Constantly innovating, one new program is a Dual Language program for English and Spanish; We have a Dual Language class Kindergarten through 4th grade. Another program is our Interventionalist Program, wherein we have an Interventionalist in 1st Grade.

As noted earlier, Margate Elementary is an older school for South Florida, and the campus has expanded to the edges of the surrounding homes of the community. Maintaining and beautifying our large campus, finding locations for new programs, and ensuring efficient space for operational things like arrival and dismissal, are unique challenges. Faculty, staff, parents, students, alumni, community members, and business partners constantly come together to assist in whatever ways they can. From assistance with daily operations, to a campus beautification day, to a community and business led creation and update of a campus butterfly garden; Margate Elementary continues to be held in the care of a very enthusiastic, committed, and loving community of trustees.

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.

Although countless hours of hard work and a half century of dedication is behind our success, the purpose of Margate Elementary School is exemplified by its simple, pure, and beautiful motto: Excellence through Caring. As simple as the Golden Rule, to treat others the way one wishes to be treated, the entire Margate Elementary Family embodies this in all they do.

Our mission: to create a nurturing environment so that our students will become independent, successful, lifelong learners by providing a high quality, differentiated, and innovative curriculum based on the Florida State Standards.

Our mascot is Marty the Panther, and we believe that all of our panthers will show Panther Pride. The following are the student-generated top ten ways to show appropriate and model behavior at our school.

1. Display all eight character traits.
2. Accept responsibility for your actions and learn from your mistakes.
3. Be kind, respectful to adults and classmates and treat others the way you like to be treated.
4. Show your school spirit.
5. Do your homework and read each night.
6. Wear your school uniform.
7. Be in your classroom ready and prepared to learn by 7:50 a.m.
8. Walk in a Margate line.
9. Always do your best by giving 100%.
10. Follow all cafeteria procedures.

Every child at Margate Elementary is educated as an individual, with everyone on our faculty and staff catering to each student's individual needs. In the last few years, our school developed a program wherein every student from Kindergarten through Fifth Grade maintains his or her own S.W.A.G. folder (Students with Academic Goals.) Based on the research of John Hattie, focusing on the importance and effectiveness of Visible Learning, students are able to track and view their achievements across all subject areas, and see where they are through continued formative assessments as the school year progresses.

In the classroom, each student maintains his or her information in a S.W.A.G. folder under the guidance of the classroom teacher – conferencing with the teacher throughout the week. We have 7 targeted classes with students who individually conference with different members of the Administrative Team and Support Staff, including the Principal, Assistant Principal, Guidance Counselor, ESE Specialist, and Curriculum Coaches, to discuss their learning with student led conversation. On display around our Curriculum room are wall sized graphs, organized by grade level showing classroom data. The rich student-led discussions that take place with each student are some of the most engaging and effective

ways that students show and explain to adults, how they are learning and what they plan to continue to work on to increase their own success and achievement.

Another fantastic program we created at Margate Elementary this year is our Push in model. Support staff and ESE support teachers push in to provide support to ESE students and identified students. Students attend these small push in groups and utilize the Leveled Literacy Intervention program for reading – Margate Elementary School has become a leader of instruction using this program.

Recently added to our school wide behavior plan is the ROAR acronym. R stands for Respect Others, O stands for Own my behavior, A stands for Act responsibly and the last R stands for Ready to Learn. We are a PBIS school, Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports. This positive behavior incentive program fits perfectly with the Margate Elementary School motto of Excellence through Caring. This is another school wide, historically relevant event, which engages the entire school and surrounding 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.

At Margate Elementary, there is a history of warmth and happiness that envelops everyone on campus – and it is often noted by visitors. Perhaps this is because as a school, we are always celebrating our many successes. Using funds awarded by a Bond to the county, we were able to update our technology. While 3rd to 5th graders now have a one-to-one ratio and at K – 2nd grade levels there is much greater availability for students to utilize computer based learning tools. Additionally, all teachers have new and working computers to use for planning and instruction. In order to ensure appropriate and effective use of technology, every faculty member was trained on and passed the coursework and exams making us one of only five schools in the district to be recognized as a 21st Century Certified School, with a 100% passing rate!

As highlighted earlier, Margate Elementary engenders such a wonderful feeling of community, encouraging community involvement with a breadth and depth far beyond a school of our size. The volunteer capacity is truly astounding. From simple displays of school spirit like the summertime fourth of July Parade, to the rigors and doldrums of being a testing proctor, to the excitement of the monthly birthday celebrations, to the engagement of one-on-one tutoring of students, the level of volunteerism constantly amazes and inspires all of our school. Such dedication has regularly been part of the Margate Elementary culture, which is why we are again proud of our being a recipient the Golden School Award for volunteer service hours.

In conjunction with volunteerism, in the last year we were also awarded the District Mentoring Partnership of the Year award with Cokesbury Methodist Church, for our Thumbs-Up Thursday program; a wonderful tutoring program wherein teachers trained church and community volunteers for additional reading practice with any students who were interested in participating. Along with that, our teachers regularly hold tutoring sessions after school, with their own students, to enhance the student learning. This is especially noteworthy, as our teachers work incredibly hard and are constantly putting in extra hours, yet they take their own time, as volunteers to supplement their own instruction after school.

The huge amount of community involvement has also been recognized with our academic and community and business partnerships, with the presentation of the Five Star School award. Overall, it stems from the leadership provided by our administrators, who constantly have a finger on the pulse of the community – sensibly, considering, we are the heart of the community. In the last few years, Principal Schroeder was recognized as the North Area Advisory Council Principal of the Year for his leadership in the outreach to the school community and community at large, and setting a positive example of relationship building for all stake holders.

Through our School Advisory Council, our School Improvement Plan has the following Goals for improvement in the upcoming years:

- **62%** of our third-fifth grade students will score at or above a level 3 on the 2018 Florida Standards English Language Arts Assessment.
- **65%** of our grades 3-5 students will demonstrate learning gains as measured by the 2018 Florida Standards English Language Arts Assessment.
- **62%** of our struggling students in grades 3-5 will demonstrate learning gains as measured by the 2018 Florida Standards English Language Arts Assessment.
- **65%** of grades 3-5 students will score at or above a level 3 on the 2018 Florida Standards Math Assessment.
- **70%** of our grades 3-5 students will demonstrate learning gains as measured by the 2018 Florida Standards Math Assessment.
- **62%** of our struggling students in grades 3-5 will demonstrate learning gains as measured by the 2018 Florida Standards Math Assessment.
- **55%** of our fifth grade students will score at or above a level 3 on the 2018 FCAT Science Assessment.
- **100%** of parents surveyed will indicate an awareness of the school's goals on the 2018 Customer Survey.

Additional Information

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

Much like the beginning of Dickens's classic *A Tale of Two Cities*, in considering Margate Elementary one can find a series of contradictions. From one perspective we are a small community school, while alternately we can be viewed as the center of the city. From the front we appear small in size and old in years, yet once you come onto school grounds you see it is a sprawling campus that has merged both architecture and technology of the current times. From the traditional roles our faculty and staff hold as educators, we also share the innovative teaching styles of today and are always looking towards ever increasing educational ideals of the future. These contradictions might seem dichotomous but it is precisely this well incorporated diversity, which truly make Margate Elementary into the family that it is.

Recently Margate Elementary was a founding partner of MICAH – the Margate Initiative for Community Action and Hope. MICAH works together with local religious organizations of all types and denominations to bring together the varied people, ideas, and ideals of our city in a positive and caring way. Our recently appointed Assistant Principal, Ms. Fournoy, is also an ordained minister, and has been a great resource for guidance and leadership within this organization and the community. What some may see as an opposing ideal or thought process, our school views as another opportunity to welcome all community members. As such our school has been a pioneer for LGBTQ educators within the district. In a time when there are so many different ideas in the world, Margate Elementary School has never set out to court controversy or promote any one particular agenda; however, as a rule, it is always focused on its motto, Excellence through Caring. Through this a pattern of teaching and educating with the Golden Rule in mind, we have made our school a truly loving place.

In terms of extracurricular activity, our school not only offers multiple free opportunities for further academic study and tutoring, but also varied other clubs. These include Art, Drama, Book Club, Chess, Chorus, Crafting, Debate, Fit Club, Lego Club, Math, Recycling, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics), Sign Language, Soccer, and Student Council.

Always listening to the community, Principal Schroeder and Assistant Principal Fournoy lead as open-minded communicators. There is always room and opportunity for students, teachers, staff, volunteers, community members, local business, and friends and colleagues from other communities to contribute ideas and opinions to continuously build the esteem and pride of Margate Elementary School. One of the greatest accolades we have is the family history that grows each year within our school. Many of our students have parents and even grandparents who are alumni of the school. We even have several teachers who were once students of Margate Elementary, working alongside their past teachers, and their own children who are current students. As a school, we set the gold standard for excellence in education to include the best interests of all stakeholders. Margate Elementary, in all it does, truly exemplifies its motto, Excellence through Caring.