

## **Sheridan Park Elementary School**

### **Description of the School**

Sheridan Park Elementary has been serving the needs of its community for 50 years! As a neighborhood school, Sheridan Park serves the students within a 2 ½ mile radius of the school as well as over 100 students who are at Sheridan Park on a reassignment or as a part of our Autism Special Program. Sheridan Park first opened its doors in 1966 and has undergone three major construction projects with additions since it's opening. The most recent addition was completed in 2009 and includes eight 21<sup>st</sup> century classrooms, a science lab, a beautiful cafeteria and auditorium, a covered Physical Education pavilion, playgrounds, and a music room complete with a soundproof studio room.

We are home to 680 students ranging from Pre-K3 to Fifth Grade. Our programs include a Headstart Program with 18 students, an ESE Pre-K program with 12 students, and an Autism Special Program with 53 students alongside our General Education K-5 Programs. Sheridan Park is ethnically diverse with 49% of our students being Hispanic, 21% White, 18.5 % Black, 7% Asian, and 4.5% multi-racial or Native American. Our demographic trend data over the last three years has remained relatively unchanged. Additionally, 74% of our students are on Free and Reduced Lunch.

The faculty at Sheridan Park are all highly qualified. Thirty three percent of our teachers have advanced degrees beyond a bachelor's degree. The demographics of our faculty is diverse with 63% white, 28% Hispanic, 16% black, and 2% Asian. All teachers also have or are working on ESOL endorsement.

We are an Innovative Program School for STEAM, Science Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Math. STEAM activities and lessons are embedded in the curriculum throughout the day as well as in our after school programs such as Chess, Ecology, LEGO Robotics, and more. Sheridan Park has 6 edible gardens that the students plant, tend to, and harvest throughout the year. We are also home to burrowing owls and have partnered with "Project Perch" of the Arbonne Society to have man made burrows placed on our campus to protect the owls from predators.

At Sheridan Park Elementary, we also run our own aftercare program that has received the highest distinction in each year of it's operation. Our goal is to extend the school day into the afternoon program and provide students with additional experience and opportunities to enhance their education. Some of the activities we provide are sign language, Spanish, performing arts such as drama, music, and art, homework help, and more. Approximately 150 of our students attend this program. We also offer extended learning opportunities after school and on Saturdays in the spring to further prepare our students and ensure their success on state accountability assessments.

### **School's Purpose**

The faculty and staff of Sheridan Park Elementary believe in educating each child as an individual. We believe that each student should receive individualized/differentiated instruction. Differentiated instruction is provided through small group instruction in all academic areas. We believe that all students should take ownership of their learning and we

strive to provide students with a curriculum that is both rigorous and engaging. Additionally, we provide an environment where students are provided with meaningful experiences in various modes of learning, using available technology and teaching strategies.

We believe in an on-going partnership among the school, home and community to help each student acquire a positive self-concept, respect for one's self and others, and the knowledge that each is responsible for his or her own academic and social success.

It is also our belief that:

- Respect for each individual is fundamental to teaching and learning.
- All children can learn given appropriate time, instruction, and access to resources.
- Students must have an opportunity for high quality education in the least restrictive environment necessary to realize their potential.
- Students benefit academically in a safe, supportive and stimulating environment.
- Students' learning, attendance, and behavior improve when they are actively engaged in meaningful work.
- Education is a shared responsibility. It is a partnership of home, school and community.
- An effective balance and interdependence must exist between the written curriculum, instruction in the classroom, and assessment for and of learning.
- High standards and expectations must be maintained through a system of accountability for all students, staff and schools and is achieved through data conversations as well as professional learning communities.
- Quality faculty and other staff are essential to school excellence.

The **vision** of Sheridan Park Elementary is "Preparing today's students to be tomorrow's leaders." With our 21<sup>st</sup> century initiatives, we strive to provide our students with a wide variety of educational experiences in and out of the classroom that will prepare them to be college and career ready.

The **mission** of Sheridan Park Elementary is to facilitate the development of lifelong learning in our students by providing a foundation of academic and social skills for the 21st century.

### **Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement**

At Sheridan Park Elementary, we pride ourselves on providing our students with a solid foundation that will carry them into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond. This year, as part of the SMART Bond Initiative, we were able to purchase 55 teacher laptops, 152 student laptops, and 3 clerical computers. With this initiative, we were able to bring our 5<sup>th</sup> grade into the 1 on 1 Digital 5 program in which each student has a laptop to use throughout the day. Over 90% of Sheridan Park's faculty completed the 21<sup>st</sup> century training courses thereby giving Sheridan

Park the distinct recognition of being one of the first 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Schools in Broward County.

Sheridan Park Elementary was an A-rated school from 2009 through 2012. In 2013, we saw a slight decrease in scores thereby dropping our school grade to a B. Over the last two years, we have received a 'C' rating as part of the state's accountability system. While our proficiency ratings stayed roughly the same, the grading criteria and the tests changed thereby dropping our school grade. As a result, we have had a laser focus on standards based instruction for the last two years. In 2015, our Deliberate Practice was math and as a result, our math proficiency was 64%, an increase from 54% the year prior. In English Language Arts (ELA), our proficiency decreased from 58% to 50%. As a result, this year our deliberate practice is in ELA and each grade level has a professional learning community that meets weekly to discuss the standards and design learning activities that meet the intent of the standards. Learning goals and scales are utilized consistently in the classrooms to ensure students are moving toward mastery on each standard. We continue daily to increase student achievement through the consistent progress monitoring of curriculum, student and teacher data, and staff professional development.

Along with rigorous academic instruction, Sheridan Park also offers our students a variety of special classes including Physical Education, Art, Music, and Media/Techology. We are also exploring the possibility of adding a STEAM special and/or a language special. Decisions on school offering are made in collaboration with all stakeholders including, parents, teachers, and community members.

In 2013-14, Sheridan Park applied for an Innovative Programs Grant. We were awarded the grant and became a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Math). With this grant, we were able to incorporate STEAM activities into the curriculum. Each quarter has a different theme and is followed up with a showcase activity with students and parents. In addition, we were awarded a \$5,000 grant build raised garden beds throughout the campus. Each grade level has a bed that they plant, tend to, and harvest throughout the year. With this grant, an outdoor classroom space was also built allowing the teachers the opportunity to take the learning from the inside out.

While Sheridan Park has been a recipient of the Golden School Award for volunteer hours for the last 34 years, we continue to work on ways to get more parents and community members involved in our school. We currently have mentor programs with Big Brother, Big Sisters, America Counts, America Reads, and most recently, the City of Hollywood Police Department. Members from each organization come in on a regular basis to work with students who need additional support whether that be emotionally, socially, or academically. We have also worked to create additional opportunities for parents to be involved activities during the school day.

### **Additional Information**

Sheridan Park has had FIRST LEGO League Robotics Program for the last ten years. This is an after school program offered to students in grades 4 and 5. Through a project based learning model, students work on leadership, teamwork, research, planning, technology, and computer programming. Students work to prepare research projects and presentations on an annual STEM challenge along with building and programming robots based on LEGO's Mindstorms EV3 software. Robots are used to complete various missions on a field set up based also on the annual STEM challenge. These project presentations and robot performances will be judged during local qualifying, regional, and state competitions. The FLL robotics teams have advanced to the regional competitions the last 6 years and also advanced to the state championships in 2012.