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**Castle Hill Elementary School**

**Executive Summary Template School Accreditation**

**2018-2019**

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?**

Currently, Castle Hill Elementary School provides education to 635 students in grades pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. There are 4 White students, 2 Asian students, 5 Multi-Race students, 15 Hispanic students, and 609 Black students (consisting of African-American, Haitian, Bahamian, and Jamaican descent). Of the 635 students, 631 or 99% are on free or reduced lunch and 98% of our students walk to school. Of the 635 students, 631 or 98% are economically disadvantaged and 132 are disabled (known disabilities are 42-Developmentally Delayed, 15-Specified Learning Disability, 3-Intellectual Delayed Disability, 5-Autism, 1-Emotional/Behavior Disorders, 4-Attention Deficit Disorder or Other Health Impaired, 60-Speech and/or Language Impairments, and 1-Deaf/Hard of Hearing). As of now we have two gifted students and are testing more. Castle Hill has 40 certified teachers, 5 falling in the category of White, 1 Hispanic, and 34 in the category of Black. Six of our certified teachers fall in the category of Support Staff (Literacy Coach, Math Coach, ESE Specialist, ESE Resource Support Teacher, Speech and Language Pathologist, and Guidance Counselor) There are 29 staff members (2 Administrators, 2 paraprofessionals, 3 special education aides, 3 head start aides, 3 teacher assistants, 1 fulltime social worker, 1 parent educator for head start, 2 clerical staff, 1 community liaison, 5 custodial staff, and 6 cafeteria staff). We have a full-time nurse. We also have a Guardian Officer who monitors the safety of our school, helps direct traffic, and handles issues involving parents or students. Castle Hill Elementary is located in a low-poverty stricken area in Lauderhill, FL. Lauderhill has a high foreign-born population, with a noticeable proportion from the West Indies. According to the census quick facts report 33.65% of Lauderhill's population was born outside of the United States (24.63% were born in the Caribbean, and 14.73% from Jamaica alone). Other major West Indian populations were born in Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, and Bahamas. The census report stated that 22.9% of the population fell below poverty level, 24.9% speak languages other than English, and 36.3% are foreign born.

Over the last three years, we have experienced changes in how students learn and process information. The Common Core standards and college and career readiness shifted a change in how students learn through more performance based and discussion type learning. This change in the state standards and statewide assessment caused a setback for those students and families who speak languages other than English. Castle Hill Elementary has a high Haitian and Jamaican population and the parents state their frustrations are due to their inability to help their students at home. Also, the shift of students moving from place to place as well as the number of students received from charter schools have increased dramatically throughout the school year.

Unique features associated with our community are that there are some families and businesses that support Castle Hill Elementary, but the challenge is that there is not enough support. Some of our parents are immigrants or have other legal issues and so they usually are looking for jobs and finding ways to provide for their families. Due to the lack of education, some of our parents cannot or will not make sacrifices to support their children. A lot of our parents who may want to volunteer at the school cannot due to paperwork issues or other legal issues. We have an education epidemic in our school community that even with the free resources available, some of the parents choose not to take them and some still are trying to understand the education in America. The education of most of our parents and/or the languages they speak other than English make it hard to communicate and provide homework assistance effectively.

**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**.

Castle Hill Elementary School’s mission is “*Castle Hill Elementary Strives for Outstanding Educational Excellence*.” Our beliefs are that no matter what the trials are for our students and staff, we will continue to persevere. We have students with one or more disabilities, homeless families, students who are adopted or in foster care, students who are abused, and the list goes on, but with our loving, caring, and safe environment, we work diligently together as a team to ensure our students receive the tools they need to be successful at school. To ensure our students get the best education possible, we provide our faculty and staff with professional development courses throughout the school year and professional learning communities (PLCs).

Castle Hill Elementary networks with other schools so that we are able to provide a variety of learning styles and strategies to our students. We host academic and fitness family nights to educate our parents on ways to help their children at home. We have purchased technology for our students in kindergarten through fifth grade so that they are able to practice skills for college and career readiness. We provide technology classes for our parents so that their skills can be aligned to help their children. We have increased our literacy and reading activities in the form of mentors coming to read to our students, performances, and field trip experiences. We have partnerships with community businesses that come provide in-house field trips with our students. Castle Hill Elementary has one literacy coach and one math contact, who provide resources and trainings to the teachers as well as work with selected students in small group settings.

To provide additional counseling services to our students who have mental and emotional challenges, we have a guidance counselor, one behavior technician, one social worker, and on-site counselors from outside agencies who work with our students one-on-one.

Castle Hill’s "*Be Amazing!*" program model will create a strong literacy and social-emotional culture throughout the school and community. Focusing on the key components of early childhood literacy foundations and students' literacy and social-emotional development will guide students towards grade level reading proficiency and success in college and career readiness.  Listed below are ways we are striving for outstanding educational excellence:

Our ***Outreach to External Early Childhood Programs*** support high quality experiences and family engagement for children before they enter the kindergarten; collaborates with providers receiving support through Early Learning; and includes early childhood community in family experiences and professional development opportunities. Our ***Internal Pre-K programs (Head Start, VPK***) increases quality of teacher-child interactions; and deliberates focus on connections between emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support. Our ***Community and family relationships*** reaches out tocommunity partnerships in order to enhance literacy resources; provides monthly literacy and family experiences with take-home books and activities revolving around peace and communication; and implements the Reading Pals Mentor Program. Our ***Social-Emotional Development component*** implements the School-wide implementation of CHAMPs (Conversation, Help, Activity, Movement, Participation, Success) Classroom and Behavior Management System <http://www.safeandcivilschools.com/services/classroom_management.php>. The school-wide behavior program as well as the classrooms implemented behavioral systems are used across the grades and school campus for consistency and structure. Our social worker and guidance counselor also work with students one-on-one and in small groups to provide assistance and services. Our ***School-wide Bookroom*** provides literary and informational texts; a wide variety of levels and topics; and books for Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade students; <http://www.booksource.com/departments/services-and-products/booksource-bookroom.aspx>. Our Fountas & Pinnell ***Leveled Literacy Intervention Program***implements reading intervention for targeted students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade; provides sequenced sets of literary and informational text along with teaching strategies focused on meeting the needs of struggling readers; provides materials designed to accelerate children’s progress in order to build skills to grade level, so that early literacy difficulties do not become long-term deficits (<http://www.heinemann.com/fountasandpinnell/lli_Overview.aspx>). Our Literacy Coach provides professional development to teachers on a weekly basis through the Professional Learning Communities (PLCs); provides in-class support and modeling for teachers and students; provide resources, activities, and assessments for students to use; provide small group support and enrichment to our students through during Lunch Bunch sessions, and Reading Café. We have our **Family Nights** throughout the school year to provide families and communities an opportunity to bond with the school and learn strategies to provide assistance at home.

Through these programs, hands-on learning, technology infused lessons and practice, Accountable Talk, and extracurricular activities, we will continue to help our students strive for outstanding educational excellence.

**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**.

Castle Hill Elementary strives for outstanding educational excellence in a variety of ways. Through professional development, evaluations, incentives for our students and staff, persistence, family nights, and hard work, Castle Hill Elementary was able to earn a high C in 2016-2017 (1% away from earning a B). Castle Hill improved its letter grade from an F to a D in 2015-2016. In 2016-2017, Castle Hill was removed from the Lowest 300 school list, allowing the school to stop the extended day and go back to a regular time schedule. In 2016-2017, one of our third grade students placed Second in the City of Lauderhill Spelling Bee. With our outreach and collaboration skills, we have received an abundance of support and donations from community businesses and volunteers.

This year we have an Equity Liaison who will implement different programs, resources, and support for teachers, students, and parents. We will continue to support our extracurricular activities and serve as role models to our students. In 2013 the Everyone Counts Program was developed. Over the past three years, four of our teachers have applied for and won the Broward Education Teacher IMPACT grant. The Everyone Counts Program serves students and families in a low-income community located in Lauderhill, FL. The Everyone Counts Family Program is one that believes in building strong and lasting relationships with parents, students, and community partners. We believe in “Team Work” with students, parents, and teachers so we make sure the events held are not only fun, but also educational. We collaborate with students in the Student Council Club, parents, staff members, and community partners to address the needs of our school and to find ways to improve them and make them acceptable to all. These parental involvement nights focus on academics, fitness and health. We also provide students with books and have hallway reading competitions to motivate students to read more books, improve their writing skills, and most importantly, improve their reading skills. We have academic competitions, and provide professional development trainings to teachers and parent trainings. We do believe that “Teamwork Makes the Dream Work” and we will continue to work together with staff, students, parents, and the community to close gaps and build bridges to success for our students and their families. Because of the success of the Everyone Counts Program, Castle Hill Elementary was provided with the 2013 Parental Involvement Award from the District and state. The Everyone Counts Program has increased parental involvement and community partnerships significantly. Also, during the 2013-2014 school year, one of our former teachers who taught Chess helped three of our students go nationwide to win Chess tournaments. Our students enter essay, art, and spelling bee competitions offered in our community and have won multiples prizes and recognition. From in-house spelling bee competitions to volunteer awards, we will continue to help prepare our students to strive for educational excellence beyond the classroom.

For the 2017-2018 our school grade dropped drastically from a high C to a D. We are working on targeting our lowest 30% along with students with disabilities and English Language Learners. Intervention programs have been put into place along with detailed pacing guides and mentoring support.

[**Additional**](http://www.advanc-ed.org/assist/s/diagnostic/section/view?surveyId=1147697&sectionId=265) **Information**

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

Our school district has implemented the SMART (Safety, Music and Art, Athletics, Renovation, and Technology) Initiative. With the funds received from this program, our school has purchased laptop carts and computers for students in grades kindergarten through fifth, our entire school was rekeyed to prevent break-ins and to make it easier for faculty and staff to maneuver throughout the school buildings. In collaboration with parents, students, and teachers, our school is looking to install more cameras, beautify our school with more plants and color, and add more covered walkways for those students in the modules as well as for those students who have to wait in the parent pick-up area after school.

A few of our teachers collaborate with students and administration to write grants to help beautify our school and increase student morale and the love for learning. We have received grants from Lowes, the IMPACT Expo Adapter grant, Youth Services of America (YSA), Dollar General Literacy Grant, and Target Field Trip grants to name a few. These grants have allowed us to provide volunteer opportunities for our students and parents, purchase more books for our students, renovate part of our playground area, provide paint to repaint our benches, purchase picnic benches and tables and provide flowers to place around our school. Our teachers will continue to work together to identify the needs of our school.

Our school has increased partnerships with several businesses throughout our community. These businesses provide some financial support, but they also provide volunteer services in the form of coming to our school to read to our students, helping during our family night events, as well as providing free books and food to our school.

To expose our students to volunteer experiences, responsibility, and work ethic, we have some extracurricular clubs. The Student Council Club allows our students to speak up for their peers, voice the needs and concerns of our school, and provide fundraisers to support school related events such as making donations to some of the family night events, providing funds to the fifth grade ceremony, purchasing incentives for students and teachers. The I Am Beautiful Mentoring Club provides mentorship to our fourth and fifth grade female students. These students discuss etiquette, short and long term goals, grooming and other issues related to girls and the world. They volunteer with the Student Council and Recycling Club so that they are exposed to volunteer experiences. The Recycling Club teaches students about recycling and keeping their school and environment clean and beautiful. The Totally Talented Club teaches students about stage performance and responsibilities and provides skills in dance, acting, singing, and poetry. The Poetry Club collaborates with the Jason Poetry Foundation and with other schools using televised sessions to share poetry. The Poetry Club teaches students about various poetry themes and performance skills. During the 2017-2018 school year, Mrs. Letitia Ingram-Phillips collaborated with the music teacher and took a group of students to go Caroling at a few nursing homes and hospitals as the school’s community service project.

Castle Hill Elementary believes in preparing our students for the future through academics and extracurricular activities because everything we do becomes an educational experience!