



Executive Summary

Apollo Middle School

Broward County Public Schools

Mr. Shawn Aycock
6800 Arthur Street
Hollywood, FL 33024

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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?

Apollo Middle School is a Broward County Public school located in Hollywood, FL. There are approximately 1243 students that are enrolled. The population consists of 14% White, 34.7% Black, 42.6% Hispanic, 3.05% Multi-race, 4.04% Asian, .41% Native American, and .33% Pacific Islander. Apollo student enrollment increased over the past 3 years despite numerous charter schools opening in the same community. Our enrollment increased due to our highly successful recruitment fairs and innovative magnet programs offered to students. Currently, Apollo Middle School is a "B" school. Staff and students are working extremely hard and are committed toward regaining our "A". The school fosters an environment committed to the success of every student with a belief in developing the child holistically. Apollo offers many different courses and activities to peak the interest of its student body. The STEM magnet program continues to grow over the past three years, changing the culture of the school. The school-wide STEM curriculum is incorporated in all courses offered at Apollo.

All core teachers are structured in teams based on a specific grade level with each team consisting of a Mathematics, Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science teacher. Teams include Reading teachers to instruct intensive reading to low performance level students and instruct critical thinking skills to students that scored a level 3 or above on FSA reading portion.

Apollo comprises of 80 instructional staff members including 2 academic coaches (reading and math), 3 support facilitators, an ESE specialist, 3 guidance counselors, a media specialist, a curriculum specialist, a magnet coordinator, a behavior specialist and 2 pool subs. There is a principal and three assistant principals. Each assistant principal is responsible for a grade level.

Our school is designated a Title 1 school. Our school receives federal funding to add more programs and activities for students, as well as covering additional teacher salaries for critical positions and parental engagement. Every student receives free breakfast. Over 79% of Apollo Middle School students receive free/reduced lunch.

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.

Apollo Middle School's mission is to ensure an optimal teaching and learning environment that sets high expectations and enables all students to reach their maximum learning potential. Through a joint community-wide commitment, Apollo Middle School will meet the diverse needs of our students and the challenges of a changing society.

Here at Apollo, teachers and students utilize collaborations between local organizations and businesses to introduce students to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematic industries and the skills needed to thrive in STEM field.

Community Business Partners work with us to provide opportunities for students to understand the relevance between education and work related needs in STEM jobs. An Interdisciplinary approach to curriculum infuses math units in the areas of:

- Earth and Space Science

- Research in Aeronautics

- Computing for Engineers

- Aviation Maintenance Technology

- Lunar Exploration

- Environment of Air Traffic Control

- History of Flight

- Space: The Next Frontier

- Flight Technology

Students and teachers work side-by-side utilizing IMACS, Virtual Labs, DigiTabula, First in Math, GeoGebra, Gizmos, GIS, Venier, Microsoft, and other techrelated software. Our rigorous hands-on learning approach is designed to promote student interest in STEM-related fields and to engage students in practical learning experiences that will prepare them to compete for jobs in a global economy.

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.

Over the past three years, Apollo students have accomplished numerous notable achievements in extra-curricular activities and competitive performances. Student participation has steadily increased in extracurricular activities and competition participation. Our Principal realizes the strong connection between enhancing student educational experiences with activities outside the classroom and students' academic success in the classroom. Apollo offers many activities for students to be involved outside of the classroom. Our students in Business Professional of America (BPA) prepared for and competed in areas in Finance, Business Administration, Management Information Systems, Digital Communication & Design, and Management, Marketing, & Communication. Last year our students of BPA competed on a national level in California. This year all 15 student members BPA were invited to compete on a national level in Boston. All of our students placed in Orlando at state competition.

Our students have completed a significant amount of community service within their respective clubs and organizations. Two years ago, the student members of Future Educators of America and Developing Intelligent young men joined together to form a partnership to mentor students at Hollywood Park Elementary. The students in both organizations met twice a week before and after school at Hollywood Park Elementary to assist elementary school students with homework. These students were able to develop relationships with elementary students while "giving back" to their community through volunteering. Hollywood Park Elementary School teachers found that positive changes in their students resulted through mentorship by Apollo students.

Apollo offers diverse opportunities for students to get involved in sports. Our students are very competitive in sports, and this is another area where the entire school, including staff experiences the pride of success. Apollo students have reached playoffs in flag football, volleyball, soccer, track-n-field, and basketball in the last three years, and this serves the school well in motivating students, as well as helps recruit business and high school partnerships in Broward.

Academically, Apollo accomplished notable achievements. 100% of 7th graders and 97% of 8th graders in Algebra 1 Honors passed their EOC for high school credit. Eighth grade students in Geometry had 100% passing rate on the Geometry End of Course Exam. Eighth grade students in Biology had 100% passing rate on the EOC and received high school credit. Our Microsoft students had over 90% passing rate on the Microsoft exam to receive Microsoft certifications. In 2016, our 8th grade students, entered a group website on The Louisiana Purchase. After being selected winners at the Apollo's History Fair in January, these hard working, dedicated, "History buffs", traveled to Pompano Beach High for the District competition. Out of a field of 20 other group websites, Apollo team placed 2nd.

Additional Information

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

Apollo Middle School staff is dedicated to developing students academically and socially. The staff works relentlessly to prepare academic lessons that are content rich and engaging. Teachers are "highly qualified" and attend professional development to maximize instructional strategies to improve student achievement. Staff members go beyond the call of duty to sponsor clubs and events for our students. Faculty and staff continue to reach out to parents by hosting the SAC meetings monthly, Title 1 Nights, Curriculum Nights and Open House events. At our events, we offer translators to welcome and assist families during school activities. Parental involvement has steadily increased over the past three years. We will continue to host events at Apollo Middle School to increase parental involvement. In an effort to increase parental involvement, we will create a families "suggestion or comment" box in our main office for families to anonymously provide their questions, concerns and recommendations. We will also provide training and materials for parents on how to improve children's study skills, grade book information, and standards for learning in various academic subjects.