

**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?

Beachside Montessori Village opened in 2010 as Broward County’s first prekindergarten to eighth grade school. BMV is a full Montessori magnet school with multi-age classrooms in prekindergarten through fifth grade. Our middle school is traditionally grouped just as other middle schools with a sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. However, our middle school is very small in comparison to other middle schools in the county, with approximately 220 students enrolled in sixth through eighth grade. We are located close to downtown Hollywood in Broward County, Florida. Enrollment at BMV for the 2015-2016 school year is approximately 770 students. BMV enrollment doesn’t vary greatly year to year because we are a Magnet school with limited enrollment. We accept students throughout Broward County residing south of I-595. Our community consists of upper, middle class working families.

Acceptance into BMV is through a lottery process conducted by the Broward County Schools Innovative Programs. The prekindergarten 3 and 4 program is fee supported. Our students are fairly equal in gender. 61% of our students are white, 10% Black, 23% Hispanic/Latino, and 2% Asian. Approximately 26% of our students are economically disadvantaged and 4% ELL. Our staff has remained mainly consistent since the opening of our school 6 years ago. We have twelve middle school core curricular teachers and twenty-eight elementary school teachers including pre-kindergarten teachers. There are four prekindergarten teachers, nine kindergarten/first grade teachers, eight second/third grade teachers and seven fourth/fifth grade teachers. Teachers at BMV are in different stages of completing their Montessori certification.

For the 2015-2016 school year, we have a new principal at BMV who brings over 17 years of experience as a principal in Broward County and approximately 7 new staff members. Another major change that is being implemented for the 2016-2017 school year is that BMV’s prekindergarten 4

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students (who don’t have siblings currently enrolled at BMV) do not automatically matriculate to kindergarten. These students will have to reapply for kindergarten and become part of the lottery. Our report card is aligned with the Montessori Philosophy in grade levels Prekindergarten to fifth grade. Our students are scored utilizing a various word for degrees of mastery. These words are: consistently, usually, sometimes and rarely. They are indicated on the report card using the first letter of the word. All reports cards at Beachside are different than schools within our county which use 1, 2, 3’s in kindergarten through second grade and use letter grades for third through fifth grade. These report cards and scoring of students create a challenge when the students matriculate to middle school and then have to transition to receiving letter grades on assignments and report cards. This change is particularly difficult for the students and parents of Beachside..

BMV has provided many professional learning opportunities to increase classroom teacher’s use of learning goals and scales. This practice has a high-effect size and closely aligns with increased student achievement. This practice has also been the focus of school-wide professional learning communities focusing on standards based instruction.

**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.

Beachside Montessori Village follows Broward County Public School’s vision educating today’s students to succeed in tomorrow’s world. All students and staff follow the Montessori core values of respect for self, respect for others, and respect for the environment. BMV staff follows a child-centered approach based on scientific observations of children from birth to adulthood, emphasizing the importance of developing the whole child.

Our strengths lie in our ability to involve and provide our stakeholders with the information they need in order to ensure that their participation in our collaborative decision-making is done in a way that reflects research and sound educational practice. We use our SAC and SAF meetings as a forum for disseminating information about Montessori, Common Core, legislative reforms, district initiatives, and school-wide programs.

Another strength is the data meetings administration and support staff conducts two times a year with each classroom teacher. At these data chats, teachers and administration discuss progress and/or needed remediation of each individual student. Resources and support is collaboratively discussed in order to help the teacher meet each individual student’s needs.

Once Benchmark Standards Assessment data was available, team/grade levels worked together to create standards based curriculum maps in English Language Arts and math. All teams were given a day to collaboratively analyze data and create a standards based curriculum map to ensure all curricular standards are taught to mastery in each subject level before the Florida Standards Assessment in the spring.

Conferences focusing on academics, themes, and empowerment are an important focus of the Montessori philosophy. Money in the school’s budget is allocated so various teachers can attend conferences throughout the country. This year, staff members will attend conferences on the Montessori philosophy, empowering girls learning through STEM, various environmental conferences and reading conferences.

In order to help develop the whole child, before and after school clubs sponsored by staff are offered to students in various grades. Some of the clubs available are gardening, art, music, sports, engineering, robotics, fishing, drama, etc. After school enrichment clubs are also offered for a fee. These clubs were created to allow our students the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities on the school-site due to BMV’s later dismissal time. These include tennis, basketball, Spanish, engineering, robotics, critical thinking, and chess.

**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.

Beachside Montessori Village was awarded the National Green School Award, numerous teachers have been awarded grants (gardening, literacy materials, pets, etc.), multiple volunteer awards (PAL program recognized by the Florida Department of Education and *2016 Broward County Program Organizer Volunteer of the Year!*), Golden and Silver volunteering award five years in a row, BMV’s garden is a certified wildlife habitat, group of 4 middle school student chosen to attend the Algalita Plastic Pollution Youth Summit, competitive robotics team that qualified for regionals, students chosen to participate in the all county chorus, students participate and place in county-wide literacy fair and science fair, a student won the 2016 Holocaust Reflection Contest, and FLDOE recognized BMV as an A school ever since it opened in 2015.

Since Beachside Montessori Village opened 6 years ago, our lower school students have demonstrated proficiency in reading, writing and math on standardized assessments by scoring higher than the district and state averages year after year. We are ranked number one in our SES Band in the state for reading and math in grades 3-8. School-wide schedule allows for remediation in grades 4-8. Our upper school students have also demonstrated mastery in all academic areas by demonstrating proficiency on standardized assessments as well as having 100% passing the EOC in Biology, Algebra, and Geometry.

An area of improvement is science for our fifth grade students. For the 2013-2014 school year, fifth grade students scored lower than expected in our SES band on the science FCAT. In 2014-2015, staff and administration at BMV visited high performing schools within our SES band and made some curricular changes. BMV fifth grade students scored above state and district levels on this Science FCAT for the 2014-2015 school year.

Another challenge our staff has is teaching to the rigor and complexity required of the LAFS and MAFS at each grade level. Our staff is also in the beginning stages of understanding one of Marzano’s high-yield strategies, utilizing learning goals and scales.

For the 2013-2014 school year, 64% of BMV students scored satisfactory in writing. This is below the district’s writing average. A writing focus school-wide has been implemented for the 2015-2016 school year. Kindergarten through fifth grade teachers and upper school ELA teachers attended Core Connections Writing Trainings throughout the school year. These training will assist them in teaching opinion and informative writing to align with the rigor of the LAFS.

[**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.

Beachside has made great strides to respect the environment as part of the Montessori Philosophy. Beachside Montessori Village is one of three schools in the entire United States to be a finalist for the Green Ribbon Award. This award is sponsored by the United States Department of Education and the results will be decided on Earth Day, April 22, 2016.

Beachside has also created an Environmental Sustainability elective for upper school students. In this class, students learn about nonrenewable resources, pollution and renewable resources. The course focuses on the three pillars of sustainability: environmental, economic and social.

A Green Team also was also created consisting of teachers who meet throughout the year to create ways of respecting the environment within the school. Some of their initiatives have been to unplug the marquee so it doesn’t light up at night, the creation of the Green Carpool, turn off hallway and classroom lights, maintain the labyrinth, the creation of a gardening club, and putting computers on energy save mode, to name a few.

The Green Team also fundraised to create a labyrinth where students can have a peaceful, natural place to reflect, learn or just hang out. Water filters were put on many of our existing water fountains. These water filters clean the water and allow students, staff, and visitors to refill their water bottles with clean water. They are similar to portable, refillable water bottle stations. The helps decrease the pollution and encourage the reuse of resources.

A separate green carpool area was created to address the idling problem within our regular carpool line. Parents picking up three or more students can pick up the children at a separate, quicker, more environmentally friendly area. Currently we have about 40 students who participate in this program.

Beachside was among the first round of schools to receive the SMART Future Bond Money to put towards improvements to the physical building and instructional environment. Our school will be installing a school wellness/fitness lab and sound system to the north side of school, music instruments to enhance the music curriculum and portable science lab carts. Later this school year, Beachside will also be receiving the technology upgrade as part of the SMART Bond.