



# **Executive Summary**

**Pioneer Middle School**

**Broward County Public Schools**

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Cooper City, FL 33328

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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?**

Pioneer Middle School is located at 5350 SW 90th Avenue in Cooper City, Florida 33328. Cooper City is named after Morris Cooper who founded the community in 1959. Currently, the city's population is 34,126. The demographics is as follows: White 65%, Hispanic 23%, Asian 6% , African-American 5%, Multi -Racial 1%. The median income is approximately \$89,000.

Pioneer Middle School was built in 1976, the same year America celebrated its Bicentennial. To commemorate the Bicentennial the school colors are red, white, and blue. Currently, the school population for the 2015-2016 school year is 1,320. The school demographics for the last three years has remained relatively unchanged and is as follows: White 57%, Hispanic 27%, Asian 6%, African -American 5%, Multi-Racial 5%. The percentage of students who receive free and reduced lunch is 29% .

The team at Pioneer Middle School consists of highly qualified educators who possess vast knowledge of their subject matter. The demographics make-up of the faculty reflects a variety of backgrounds, cultures and ethnicities. Currently, the staff demographics is as follows: White 78%, Hispanic 14%, African- American 8% .

## **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.**

The mission of Pioneer Middle School is to provide an equal educational opportunity to all students within a safe and positive environment. Staff, students, parents and the community work together as a team to ensure students become responsible and productive members of society.

Our staff works diligently to follow our mission statement by engaging in professional learning communities and by ensuring our instructional practices address our students' academic needs. Our staff is committed to continuous improvement and participates in ongoing professional growth activities.

The leadership team and instructional staff engage in a systematic, comprehensive process to analyze student assessment data in order to make the necessary adjustments to increase student learning and success through-out the academic school year. The staff meets bi-weekly in their professional learning communities to assess pre/post testing data and to identify teaching strategies to improve the testing results of the lowest student quartile.

Making appropriate data-driven decisions is of utmost importance to ensure student success. In order to improve student achievement, instructors monitor students' level of performance, provide immediate feedback and provide appropriate enrichment and remediation opportunities as needed.

In an effort to support teachers and staff who work directly with students, Pioneer Middle School provides quality, ongoing professional growth opportunities throughout the school year. In addition, teachers meet twice weekly in their Professional Learning Communities to share ongoing best practices and to review their data driven results.

Of great importance is our Response to Intervention (Rtl) team. (Rtl) is a process that provides interventions and educational support to all students at increasing levels of intensity based on their individual needs. The goal is to prevent problems and intervene early so that students can be successful. Rtl is a process designed to help schools focus on interventions that are matched to student needs and monitored on a regular basis. The information gained from the Rtl process is used by school personnel and parents to adapt instruction and to make decisions regarding the student's educational program.

The Behavioral and Academic Support Information System (BASIS) is the comprehensive District electronic tool providing ALL the data needed to drive decision-making and instruction in schools. BASIS enhances our continuing efforts to standardize student achievement and Response to Intervention (Rtl) district-wide, and the Florida Continuous Improvement Model. Student assessment, academic, behavior, and demographic information are centrally located. Data is continually updated and current; enabling school administrators, teachers and staff the opportunity to gain a full grasp of their school and their students. By tracking and monitoring school-wide and individual student performance data, BASIS ensures fully informed decision-making and promotes high quality instruction to help all students succeed.

## **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.**

Pioneer Middle School has had a consistent "A" rating since 2002. The proficiency rating for the last 3 years has stayed relatively consistent and is as follows: ELA 75%, Math 79%, 2014-2015 Civics 75%, Science 65%. Areas of improvement are in Civics and in Science.

Pioneer is currently sharing best practices in with higher performing schools within our SES Band in Science and Civics.

Pioneer is proud to acknowledge our Band/Chorus Director Mr. Uhler and his outstanding students for their following accomplishments:

- Recipient of the Florida Bandmasters Association Five-Year Superior Award (2011-2015) for five years of consecutive Superior ratings at the Florida Bandmasters Association District Music Performance Assessment.
- Mr. Uhler was nominated at the end of last school year to hold the position of District Secretary (Chair-Elect) for the Florida Bandmasters Association. This is a two-year position as District Secretary (2015-2017) which leads into another two-year position as District Chair (2017-2019).
- 2014-2016 Florida All-State Middle School Band
- 2013-2016 Broward All-County Middle School Band
- 2013-2016 Broward All-County Middle School Chorus
- 2014-2015 Florida All-State Middle School Band
- 2013-2014 Florida Middle School Honors Band
- Over 150 students in the Band program perform solos during the Florida Bandmasters Association Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessment and a large percentage of the students receive a Superior rating for their performances.
- All of the students in Band and Chorus (approximately 350 students a year) perform in the Winter Concert in December and the Spring Concert in May. The Chorus, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble also perform in a Costume Concert in October.
- The Wind Ensemble performs at Walt Disney World as part of their Disney Performing Arts program, participates in the Disney Performing Arts "You're Instrumental" Workshop, and performs at the Give Kids the World Village in Orlando for children (with life threatening illnesses) and their families.
- The Wind Ensemble also leads the Griffin Elementary School Halloween Parade. Also in October, the Wind Ensemble performs with the Cooper City High School "Sound of Pride" Marching Band and Color Guard at one of the Cooper City High School football games. These two events allow for students in the Wind Ensemble to be inspired by the high school band students while serving as an inspiration to many elementary school students.
- Members of the Chorus, Jazz Band, and Wind Ensemble perform at Pioneer Middle School's Evening of the Arts.

Pioneer is also very proud to acknowledge Ms. Hammer and her Speech and Debate Team for their outstanding accomplishments. The Pioneer Eagles have made their mark on the County's new Speech and Debate Initiative. Out of over 50 middle schools who participated this year, Pioneer's new Speech and Debate Team has consistently excelled and earned a spot as one of the top three teams in the district. To describe our year in a few words is not easy, but these come to mind- challenges, dedication, bundles of nerves, creativity, determination, pride, and reward.

This high school honors curriculum requires students to challenge themselves in both competitive debate and speech events, including: Student Congress, Public Forum, Lincoln/Douglas, Original Oratory, Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation, Impromptu and Declamation. At each competition this year, our students have earned top scores, winning decisively, and brought home many blue-ribbon gold

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medals...rewards for their excellence. To master these new challenging events, students must learn to research, analyze complex issue and events, listen and speak effectively and convincingly, step outside their comfort zones, and memorize long speeches performing as multiple characters. When asked why they love speech and debate this year, the enthusiastic reply is, "We are a family! The confidence we earn and the support of our teammates is matched by the thrill of accomplishing something we never thought possible. This class is so alive; we are always learning something new. We learn to look at both sides of an issue, to become more aware of the world around us, and to believe in ourselves."

In Sports, Pioneer is proud to congratulate Coach Torres and his awesome boys soccer team for winning the Broward County Boys Soccer Team Championship and Coach Ramirez and her girls soccer team for winning the Girls Soccer Division Championship!

## **Additional Information**

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

In an effort to ensure community involvement in our school, we have established active and formal relationships with local businesses and corporations in the surrounding area. These relationships have provided funding opportunities and other resources that support our various student programs. A special thank you to the following partnerships:

- Brunt Insurance, Horace Man Insurance
- Menchise, Davie
- Ligouri's Fired Up, Davie
- Law Office of Alex Borrell
- Papa John's Pembroke Pines/Cooper City
- Mathnasium of Cooper City
- European Wax Center, Cooper City
- Memorial Hospital, Pembroke Pines
- Target Red Card, Davie

At Pioneer Middle School our highly skilled teachers and staff are committed to educate, innovate and inspire our students to reach their full academic potential and become contributing and responsible members of society!