

**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?

Tamarac Elementary is a K-5 school located in Tamarac, Florida in the northern portion of Broward County. Tamarac Elementary is one of three public schools that serves the Tamarac community. Tamarac Elementary is part of the Taravella High School Zone. Tamarac Elementary has 880 students. Of the 750 students 51% are male and 49% are female. The demographic breakdown for Tamarac Elementary is 16% White, 40% Black, 37% Hispanic, 2% Asian, 3% Multi-Racial, and no American Indian students. The ESOL population at Tamarac Elementary is 143.

Tamarac Elementary has two administrators. Its leadership team is comprised of a guidance counselor, ESE Specialist, Literacy Coach, Math Coach, and ESE Support. There are 36 classroom teachers and 4 special teachers (Science, Music, Media, and Physical Education) at Tamarac Elementary; 2 are male and 38 are female. Tamarac Elementary also has 3 teachers who are National Board Certified, and at least 5 hold a master’s degree.

Tamarac Elementary also has a two Pre-Kindergarten classes (23 students), Early Childhood speech classes (21 students) as well as being a designated school for an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) cluster.

Tamarac Elementary introduced a Dual Language program for the 2015-2016 school year. In the initial year, there are two classes designated in kindergarten and 2 classes in 1st grade. This year the Dual Language program is K-4, with 5th grade scheduled to begin in the 2019-2020 school year. This program follows the two-way developmental extended model. Students receive 2 ½ hours of instruction in English and in the target language (Spanish). The team or co-teaching model involves two teachers. They both share the responsibility for teaching two groups of students. One teacher instructs all subjects in English and the other teacher will teach Language Arts, Math, and Social Studies in Spanish.

Tamarac is designated a Title I School that has 77% of its students on Free/Reduced lunch.

Tamarac, Florida is an urban city that is home to 63,155 and is expected to increase over the next few years. There 28,147 (44.6%) males and 35,008 (55.4%) females with the median resident age being 45.3 years. Tamarac is a mixed population of age and ethnicity. The demographics of Tamarac are 26,879 (42.4%) White alone, 18,507 (29.2%) Black alone, 16,030 (25.3%) Hispanic, 964 (1.5%) Asian alone, 610 (1.0%) Two or more races, 226 (0.4%) Other race alone, 81 (0.1%) American Indian alone, 27 (0.04%) Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone. “The City of Tamarac is experiencing a significant shift in demographics which is reshaping the city's image. This shift welcomes development in all areas to improve the quality of life for Tamarac’s citizens and economy. The most considerable change within Tamarac is the age bracket of citizens. The average age has dropped 10.5 years since the 1990 census and the city is continually growing younger by the years,” (<https://www.tamarac.org/index.aspx?nid=113>).

The median household income in Tamarac is estimated at $41,880 which is below the state of Florida average at approximately $46,036 and the estimated per capita income is $24,521. The unemployment rate in Tamarac is 4.9% (April 2015).

During the 2013-2014 school year, Renaissance Charter School opened its doors taking close to if not well over 300 students from Tamarac Elementary’s enrollment. The charter school has affected the school population as students come back to Tamarac, others on the waiting list are withdrawn from our school.

**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.

Purpose Statement:

"*Tamarac Elementary is committed to prepare students to be life-long learners in a 21st century global environment through a high quality education in collaboration with all stakeholders.*"

Mission Statement:

The mission of Tamarac Elementary School is to make a significant difference in the lives of young children by providing learning experiences and opportunities that promote 21st century skills and prepare for a future where our children will be college and career ready.

Vision Statement:

Tamarac Elementary will provide an engaging learning environment where students’ individual needs are met through quality, directed instruction, meaningful practice, and peer collaboration. In partnership with parents, teachers, and community we will continue our commitment of providing supportive and nurturing learning environment to all students.

Tiger Pledge:

I pledge to take responsibility for my actions, my education, and to show respect for others and myself. I can become anything I choose. This requires good choices, hard work and dedication. I am up for the challenge!

Tamarac Elementary has clubs for students to take part in before and after school. The Garden Club is for 4th grade and 5th grade students. They meet throughout the school year after school and students learn how to take care of plants and gardens while actually cleaning, weeding, and planting as well as maintaining the gardens throughout the school. The club also takes field trips to the local nursery to learn about the different plants and flowers.

This year Tamarac Elementary will continue the Young at Heart Club. Two students from each 4th and 5th grade class go to the assisted living residence home after school twice a month and do enrichment activities with the residents. One day is doing arts and crafts and the other day is physical activity. The residents get to keep the finished product to hang-up in their room.

The Recorder Club is comprised of 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. Students are chosen in 3rd grade as they learn the different notes, how to play the recorder, and how to read music. This club meets in the mornings. The Recorder Club performs for the school during winter and spring assemblies as well as public performances in such venues as the airport, holiday events, and the assisted living residence across the street from the school.

Selected fifth grade students at Tamarac Elementary participate in the AAA Safety Patrol program. These role models assist teachers and staff before and after school ensuring students are following the rules.

Students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade participate in Chess Club before school. Students learn how to play and those students with basic knowledge begin to learn more advanced moves and game theory. Our 2nd and 3rd grade students participate in First Move, a chess curriculum where students learn chess through an interdisciplinary activities and chess instruction.

Drama Club at Tamarac is for 4th and 5th grade students who want to pursue acting. The Drama Club puts on performances twice a year and for special occasions.

The school holds two curriculum nights (October and January) to model instructional strategies that parents could use to assist students at home.

The Bilingual Parent Center provides parents of ELL students with District information and resources to help students succeed.

Extended Learning Opportunities are offered to students in grades 1-5. Primary students (K-2) participate in a STEM enrichment camp twice a week. Intermediate students (3-5) are tutored on reading three times a week and on math two times a week.

Language Enrichment Camp is comprised of ELL students in grades 1-5. Students are tutored twice a week; one day for math and one day for reading.

Teachers at Tamarac Elementary have taken the time to create and update their own personal website for their class. Parents can go on these websites to see spelling words, nightly homework, and class announcements. Some grade levels also have their own website. In addition, teachers are also using Class Dojo to keep parents up-to-date with students’ behavior and class updates.

Bi-monthly newsletter is distributed to all students to take home to parents. The newsletter communicates district and school information, grade level updates, and special events.

Red Ribbon Week

Tamarac Elementary School students are “Too Cool For Drugs”! Red Ribbon Week is designed to bring awareness to the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Each day is a different dress up day. Monday this year was wear your favorite hat day because we “Put a Cap on Drugs!” Tuesday was wear your favorite team shirt or jersey day because we “Team Up Against Drugs!” Wednesday was wear a red shirt day because we pledge to “Just Say No!” Thursday was crazy sock day because we “Sock it to Drugs!” Friday was story costume parade day because “Our Story is Drug Free!” Students also signed pledges as Ms. Rasa, School Counselor, presented the pledge on WTAM. Our wonderful PTA provided our students with positive reinforcers each day (stickers on Monday, Erasers on Tuesday, Ice pops during lunch on Wednesday, pencils on Thursday, and Treats for our parade on Friday)! Teachers shared a Brainshark presentation to their class

Anti-Bully Week

At Tamarac Elementary School, bullying is unacceptable, and we work hard to make sure all students know this. During Anti-Bullying week, which takes place in November, a number of activities and lessons are put in place to bring awareness to this problem and to teach students ways to stop bullying. Our theme this year was “Tamarac Tigers Stand Strong Against Bullying!” On Monday, Ms. Rasa, School Counselor, was on WTAM to discuss bullying, talk about the activities for the week, and also presented a short video about our “True Colors.” On Tuesday, teachers did an Anti-Bullying lesson in class discussing how bullying hurts, ways that people bully, and how to stop bullying. Ms. Rasa provided teachers with the lesson handout and also provided links to other resources to help supplement their lesson. On Thursday, students and staff were encouraged to wear white in celebration of peace and respect towards all. On Friday, Ms. Rasa appeared once again on WTAM and presented the “Steps to Respect Anti-Bullying Pledge” that all students signed in their classroom. In addition, Ms. Rasa created a banner that displays our theme. It has been hung in a main hallway for all students to see as a reminder on a daily basis. Every student was given a handprint to write down ways that they will help stop bullying. They decorated those handprints as well, and they were attached on our banner. Furthermore, our awesome PTA was able to secure a presentation for all of our students with Ronald McDonald and friends discussing bullying and teaching our students how to be Bully Busters! Two assemblies were held on Wednesday, which really helped to drive the message home.

Peace Week

We encourage all Tamarac Elementary School students to be “PeaceMakers”! Peace Week is celebrated in the month of September and this year we kicked off our peace week with the international day of peace. Students and staff were encouraged to wear white on Monday in observance of this important cause. Ms. Rasa, School Counselor, appeared on WTAM to discuss ways that students can “Be A PEACEMAKER, not a PEACEBREAKER!” Teachers followed up with discussions in class as well. Two Imagine Peace Wish Trees were set up on the cafeteria stage as well as a peace banner. Each student was given a Wish Tag where they were encouraged to write down their wish for peace through personal messages or quotes. Students were asked to reflect on peace and each day during the morning hours of that week, teachers took part in escorting their class down to the cafeteria so that students can tie their wish for peace to our peace trees. Music promoting peace was also played during lunch and students were encouraged to make new friends. On Thursday, a peace video was shown and a proclamation was made in support of Broward County’s Choose Peace, Stop Violence initiative. We as a school made an oath. And on Friday, in an effort to raise awareness of bullying among girls, our theme was “Go Blue To End Mean”. Students and staff were encouraged to wear blue to school and girls were encouraged to paint their pinky blue as we made a “Pinky Promise” to stand up to bullying. Ms. Rasa and guests appeared on WTAM to make a pinky promise as all students made a pinky promise with each other.

No Name Calling Week

The observance of this important week focuses on students realizing that words have power. They can hurt, or they can heal. We remind students to choose their words wisely! No Name Calling week is observed in January. Tamarac Elementary School had a week long observance with activities and incentives to promote the importance of being kind and nice to each other. The week kicked off on a Tuesday this year with Ms. Rasa, School Counselor, appearing on WTAM to talk briefly about the power of words and to discuss the week’s activities. A “Caught You Being Nice” raffle box was set up in the main office and “Caught You Being Nice” tickets were distributed to all staff members. If a staff member witnessed a student being nice to another student, they were awarded a ticket that they could put in the box and to be part of a drawing at the end of the week. Five tickets were pulled from the box at the end of the week, and the winners were given a lunch with ice cream from one of our wonderful partners, Dairy Queen. In addition, students and staff were encouraged “Be Bold, Be Yourself” on Wednesday by wearing their bold colors. We “Teamed Up Against Name Calling” on Thursday by wearing our favorite team shirt. And we “Put a Lid on Name Calling” on Friday by wearing our favorite hats. Furthermore, Ms. Rasa put together a class activity that she shared with all teachers called #ONEWORD. Each and every student received a card with one word from their teacher that was meant to describe and empower them! We were setting the tone for the new year in a positive way to help instill critical life messages into the developing minds of our children. The students shared the #ONEWORD card with the class, and then the students went around and wrote one compliment on the back of each of their classmates’ card. Students learned to think and believe: 1) I AM PROUD TO BE uniquely ME, 2) SOMEONE at school, namely by teacher, BELIEVES IN ME, and 3) I AM SUPPORTED IN SCHOOL, and because of that, I know that I CAN ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS! The students really enjoyed the activities of this week and really made an effort to earn those tickets for the raffle.

Listener Program

The Listen to Children program is a wonderful program we have here at Tamarac Elementary School that partners up a mentor volunteer with two or three of our students. The mentors meet with our students one-on-one once a week for about 30 minutes of uninterrupted quality time. Some Listeners play games, and others just chat; however, all of them focus on communication giving the student an opportunity to explore issues, examine alternatives, and to understand the consequences of their decisions and actions. The mentor program is provided to us through the Mental Health Association of Southeast Florida. The students that have participated and still are participating in this program love meeting with their listeners and over time, teachers have reported improvement in academics and/or behavior.

Character Education Program

Students are often reminded to remember that their character is everything they say and do that shows how much they care about themselves and others. Here at Tamarac Elementary School, students are taught good character and expected to display good character day in and day out. Each month Ms. Rasa, School Counselor, appears on WTAM to talk about that month’s character trait. And each month, students from each class can be selected as the student of the month from their class by really showing good character, and in particular that trait for that month. Those recipients get to enjoy a pizza party funded by our wonderful PTA, are awarded a student of the month ribbon, and have their picture displayed with their certificate on our Student of the Month wall of fame. The students really strive to earn a chance to come to the party and work hard for it. These reinforcers help to remind them of the importance of good character on a daily basis.

Storybook Parade: The Storybook Parade is held every year at the end of October to celebrate literacy. Each student reads a book and dresses up as their favorite character. Our fourth grade team has each student write their own story and dress up as one of the characters they created. The parade is sponsored by the Tamarac Elementary School PTA and the Tamarac Recreation Center. The PTA provides the students with water and treats while the Tamarac Recreation Center allows us to use their grounds so that the students can show off their costume to one another and so their parents can attend the event.

Polar Express: Polar Express Day is held every year in December right before Winter Break. Students are invited to wear their pajamas to school that day to take a ride on the Polar Express. Every year, our Kindergarten Team dresses up as railroad engineers and create a Polar Express train for their students to pass through down their hallways. All students listen to the story *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg and then view the movie while drinking hot cocoa and eating candy canes.

**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.

Notable Achievements

During the 2014-2015 school year, Tamarac Elementary celebrated its 40th Anniversary. Students and staff collected items that were placed in a time capsule and buried on campus.

Every year, Tamarac Elementary collects food for the Harvest Food Drive.

Tamarac Elementary maintains a partnership with the City of Tamarac. Under their collaboration, the students have access to an indoor gymnasium and other sport facilities throughout the school year.

Areas of Improvement in last three years

Three years ago, Tamarac Elementary earned a B, however dropped to a C during the 2016-2017 school year. Last year, there was an increase in math scores which raised Tamarac to a mid-C.

Over the next three years, we are expecting to see growth in all tested areas of the Florida Standards Assessment (Reading, Math, and Writing) as well as the Science FCAT. This expectation is for grades 3-5 and in all subgroups.

Based on data from 2017-2018 Curriculum Night sign in logs, Tamarac Elementary’s area of need is increasing the attendance of ELL and ESE parents to family curriculum nights.

PTA membership has slowly increased over the past couple of years.

[**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.

Broward County Schools were awarded SMART (Safety Music&Art Renovation Technology) Bond money to spend within the school. From the SMART Bond, Tamarac is proud to have a new sound system in the cafeteria, a new electronic marquee in the front of the school, and new projection units, laptops, and other technology for teacher and student use.

Tamarac Elementary was one of Broward County’s pilot schools to run the Primary Literacy Intervention Program Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI). LLI is a small group reading intervention program made to remediate and accelerate low level students and catch them up to grade level. LLI is used in grades K-3.

The school will offer a variety of programs and activities to address a diverse student population in a safe, warm, and welcoming environment where:

* The academic, social, and emotional needs of students are always first,
* Students are engaged and challenged to meet their full potential,
* Students are effective communicators, critical thinkers, problem solvers, responsible, respectful of one another, goals setters, risk takers, and productive members of our democracy,
* Teachers are learners, reflective, and supportive of the school mission and vision,
* All staff work and plan cooperatively and always seek what is best for students,
* Data is valued and used consistently to raise students and school performance,
* Learning opportunities for students, high quality teaching, and leadership are an example to others,
* All stakeholders work together for the benefit of the students,
* Parents are a vital part of students learning and feel encouraged to participate in their education,
* All resources are utilized to ensure student success, and
* School leadership is committed to student achievement.