



Executive Summary

Silver Lakes Middle School

Broward County School District

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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?

Silver Lakes Middle School serves the North Lauderdale Community. Currently, the school educates approximately seven hundred and six students (706) students of varying backgrounds, needs and abilities. Silver Lakes Middle School first opened its doors in 1986 and the school's population has changed with time to match the fluid demographics of the community due to a high immigrant population.

Our mission is to ensure that all students achieve success while preparing them for college to meet tomorrow's global challenges in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) within a safe and civil environment. We are a Title One and STEM Magnet school with a minority rate of 97%. Ninety (90%) of our students meet the criteria for Free and Reduced Lunch. The current socio-demographics of Silver Lakes Middle School consist of 55.6% male students and 44% female students. Of that demographic, 76.2% are Black, African American and 12% are Hispanic, 2.3% are Asian, 3.8% are white. It should be noted that SLMS serves the largest ESE population amongst Broward County Public Middle School. 16.1% of our student population meets the exceptionality criteria for support services. Our staff demographic is reflective of our student population. Silver Lake Middle student body consists of one hundred and ninety eight (198) 6th graders, two hundred and forty- (240) 7th graders and two hundred and sixty-eight 8th graders (268).

Over the last three years, Silver Lakes Middle School has seen a slow but consistent decline in enrollment. We face the challenge of being located in a small community that is also home to multiple competing charter schools. Based on informal observations and feedback in our School Advisory Council (SAC) meetings, the overarching perception of the school within the North Lauderdale community suggests that many parents and community members have negative pre-conceived notions about the school. For this reason, SLMS is "rebranding" itself and projecting this image through our 2015-2016 marketing plan.

Our plan focuses on strategically showcasing the great opportunities and programs we offer to students while highlighting the highly effective and dedicated administration, instructional and support staff who lead the charge daily for individual student success in the classroom and beyond. As a result of our "rebranding" initiatives, we hope to see an increase in student achievement, with a parlay to an increase in enrollment. A major part of our success focus involves building authentic and purposeful partnerships that align with and which will propel our mission and goals. We have been able to secure new partnerships with nationally recognized organizations such as the Urban League, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Broward County Public Libraries, Kiwanis Club, Flippany and American Express, while sustaining healthy relationships with our existing partners such as Publix, Frankies Pizza, and Zuccarelli's Italian Grille.

Like many schools with a significant low socio-economic population and a high representation of immigrant households, we have experienced low parental involvement. We realize that much of this is a product of significant gaps created by home-school language and cultural norm barriers. Being a Title 1 school, however, we capitalize upon the funding opportunity to increase our initiation of family engagement events to close the gaps. Working towards creating a family of stakeholders, we invite parents in to participate in family night events where we share parenting academic support strategies, learning activities, and family engagement interactions over dinner to personalize and build healthy relationships to bridge the gap between school and home. This has led to a significant increase in parent attendance to family engagement events, as evidenced by the attendance at our most recent event of 126 parents.

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.

Our mission at Silver Lakes Middle Magnet School is to ensure that all students achieve success while preparing them for college to meet tomorrow's global challenges in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) within a safe and civil environment. All faculty and staff take pride in our belief that all children truly can learn. For the 2015-2016 school year, we used the Lego movie as inspiration for the school-wide theme - Master Builder. Our theme sends the message that there is a master builder in all of us. We believe that all students and teachers at SLMS are master builders, and through direct support from leadership, teachers will consistently and effectively work towards developing and helping each student reach their maximum individual potential.

All students at Silver Lakes Middle School are taught the S.T.A.R.S. acronym, which represents school wide expectations. Each student is expected to embody five core characteristics that develop the "whole- child" - Self-Awareness, Tolerance, Achievement, Respect, Success. The STARS program, in conjunction with a school-wide behavior plan has led to a drastic improvement in student behavior. As a result, discipline referrals at Silver Lakes Middle School have decreased by 50%.

Silver Lakes Middle School believes that all students can and will learn when paired with teachers who are monitored and trained professionally with high expectations and excellence as the goal. Our leaders operate as instructional leaders who value the need to invest in the professional growth of teachers through continuous monitoring and feedback and by providing the necessary aligned resources and professional development for the faculty's continuous improvement on instructional practices for student success.

We provide a rigorous, academic program through which effective educators lead students to take responsibility for learning. We are committed to sustaining a school in which individuals from diverse cultures and experiences instruct one another to value the meaning of community and the importance of lifelong learning. At SLMS students can take academic electives that focus and target students based on their multiple intelligences. Teachers and staff are aware of the social-emotional needs of the pupils. In addition to utilizing a multi-tiered support system (MTSS) to address student needs during regular school hours, Silver Lakes Middle School offers an array of auxiliary clubs and organizations to sustain student growth and development after school. Student participation in these groups provides an extra layer of support both academically and socially and they afford the opportunity for students to have personal growth experiences with numerous mentors who provide them with positive avenues to engage in traditional and non-traditional real-world experience learning.

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, Silver Lakes Middle School has recognizable accomplishments in key focus areas. We have maintained a "C" grade for the past three years. Considering the high transient community we serve, being able to maintain a "C" is a notable achievement. The 2014-2015 grade release was based on student proficiency only.

Our school embraces a culture that strives to support each child with an adult advocate so each individual can attain success towards post-secondary readiness. We will continue to work closely with our feeder school pattern to close the learning gaps between elementary and middle school, while providing more opportunities for high school credit that support models at Coconut Creek High school. Silver Lakes has won several awards and competitions within our STEM Magnet program. Also, we have been awarded several grants in the 2015-2016 school year alone.

Silver Lakes Middle will focus on turnaround results in three main areas for the next three years:

- a. Raising Proficiency in Academics - SLMS will continue to use data to work towards improving instructional practices and student achievement to ensure their post-secondary readiness. We will also work on increasing elective courses that will provide more high school credit and pre-high school exposure for transition success.
- b. While we have made great strides in increasing our parental involvement, we will continue to focus on improving models of communication that reflect a wider cross-section of home- language representation in print and audio communication. We will also improve our process of tracking parent engagement by using a counter tracking system that will keep accurate track of the number of parents at an event in conjunction with our present sign-in sheet system. The goal is to increase parental involvement by twenty-five percent (25%) over the next three years; we will work to improve this level stakeholder relationship by conducting post-event surveys for feedback for continuous improvement.
- c. We will continue to strive to increase enrollment even in an environment with a competing charter schools and a public elementary school that is expanding its services to offer K-8 services in a small community. Our drive for an increase in enrollment is a product of our strong belief that we offer quality programming and service that is the betterment of the students of the North Lauderdale Community.

Other notable achievements and awards include, but are not limited to being named a designated 'No place for hate' school for ensuring that all students are educated in a diverse and safe space. Also, Silver Lakes Middle School was given an outstanding institution of the year award by the Manhood on the go organization. Many SLMS teachers, staff and students have won numerous grants, awards and recognitions throughout the year including but not limited to, being recognized as Sun-sentinel staff character of the year, Broward county public schools art awards winners, and grants from organizations and companies such as the Urban league and American express.

Additional Information

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

At Silver Lakes Middle School, all students receive a quality education in a safe and civil environment. Students who qualify can complete up to six (6) high school credits before they enter high school. We are a technology rich school with multiple mobile computer labs, two free-standing computer labs for instruction, remediation and technology certification preparation, a media center outfitted with desktops, iPads and distance learning infrastructure.

Silver Lakes offers many electives and extra-curricular opportunities for students including but not limited to Student Government Association, Junior Honor Society, Future Educators of America, Positive Interaction Futures Knowledge (P.I.N.K. mentor group for young women) ADIMU (mentor group for young men), band, chorus, debate, dance, chess, and the Super Hero Art Club. Students enrolled at Silver Lakes Middle School will have the opportunity to take student-centered learning courses in which the focus of these classes will be to provide both enrichment as well as remediation in an academic area. To effectively prepare SLMS' students to be a success on the Florida Standards Assessment, we integrate literacy across the curriculum. SLMS takes a project based learning approach to instruction, with scaffolding research-based practices including the Gradual Release of Responsibility model.

Another component, has been adding layers of interventions for our students. Previously we had many students 'slipping through the cracks' academically and behaviorally, which in turn affects their academics. To troubleshoot the problem Silver Lakes has infused a number of remediation programs such as USA test prep, iReady, Sunbay Math, and achieve 3000 as additional support for students. Silver Lakes also has provided many extended learning opportunities for students such as a course recovery remediation infrastructure, in which students can review and make-up failed material. Our credit recovery framework is a pull-out model in which students are pulled from electives to remediate and review important academic content, and also adding a free before and after school tutoring service that is free to all Silver Lakes students.

Systemically, tracking of students has been changed at Silver Lakes. Students are no longer tracked, and now students may take courses tailored to their individual weaknesses and areas of needed development. For example, students needing additional support in reading and/or math may now take an elective specifically designed for the purpose of remediation.