



Executive Summary

Country Isles Elementary School

Broward County Public Schools

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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?

Mission Statement:

The mission of Country Isles Elementary School is to ensure that all children entering our school will leave with the life skills that will enable them to fulfill their potential to be caring, contributing, productive members of the 21st century. We are dedicated to educating responsible citizens.

Location:

Country Isles Elementary is located in the Broward Country School District, which is in the southeast region of Florida. It was established in 1987 and is the oldest school located in Weston, FL. The majority of the students who complete fifth grade at Country Isles Elementary School will go to Indian Ridge Middle School and Western High School. A smaller percentage attends Tequesta Trace Middle School and Cypress Bay High School, depending on the location of their residence.

Student Population:

Currently, 969 students are enrolled in grades PreK-5 at Country Isles Elementary School. Of these students, 54% are male and 46% are female.

The demographic of our student population is very diverse.

44.8% White

40.7% Hispanic

7.2% Black

4.2% Asian

0.2% Native American

2.6% Multiracial

20% ELL

22% ESE

32.8% Free or Reduced Lunch

Some of our students reside in single-family homes and some of our students reside in apartment buildings. Because of our strong parent involvement, the school is supported with a high volume of volunteers, which enhance school academic programs, such as Accelerated Reader and Math Fact Fluency, as well as school extracurricular activities. Our parent volunteers support special programs such as Meet the Masters, Green Team, Harvest Drive, Career Day, Spaghetti Family Night, Fun Run, and a variety of special school events.

Staff Information:

As educators, we are facilitators who help children explore and develop their capacities and who lead by setting the example of the attitudes we expect to develop in our students. Our school employs 102 staff members.

Administrators-2

Curriculum Support Teacher-1

Media Specialist-1

Guidance Counselor-1

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Physical Education/Art/Music/Technical Teachers-4 Special Education Teachers-7

Paraprofessional Assistants-19 Speech Therapists- 2 1/2

Occupational Therapist-1 Data Specialist-1

Social Worker-1 School Psychologist- 1

Clinic Nurse- 0 Custodial Staff- 5

Cafeteria Staff- 6 Teachers PreK-5- 49

Country Isles is an established school and maintains traditions within our community. The SMART Bond Initiative will provide our school with updated resources and maintenance to our building, which will provide for a safe, engaging environment. Through a needs assessment, it was determined that the school and district will use the funds listed below for updates to Country Isles.

SMART Bond Initiative:

Current FCI Need \$3,573,240

GOB/Construction Projects:

Safety and Security Budget Fund Year

Fire Alarm \$294,000 2017

Renovations

School Choice Enhancement \$100,000 2015

HVAC Improvements \$104,000 2019

Media Center \$160,000 2018

Technology

Infrastructure \$137,000 2017

Computer Gap \$178,000 2017

CAT 6 Dataport \$15,000 2017

Wireless Network \$40,000 2017

Total In-Progress and Planned \$1,028,000

Unplanned Need:

Music and Arts

Renovations \$128,429

Renovations

Media Center Expansion \$70,975

STEM Lab Renovations \$51,026

Cafeteria Renovations \$151,507

Misc. Maintenance Improvements \$1,882,288

Misc. Site Improvements \$77,981

Misc. Interior Improvements \$837,981

Misc. Plumbing Improvements \$110,014

Misc. Specialties Improvements \$113,206

Misc. Other Improvements \$338,730

Technology

Fiber Optic Network (10 GB) upgrade \$89,997

Total Unplanned Need \$3,852,135

Country Isles believes that we are the change agents for our students. Through the leadership team, which consists of administration,

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support staff and team leaders, we continue to develop and modify instructional practices and curriculum to meet the needs of our students. As a team of educators, we enhance our learning and allow for opportunities for all staff members to continue to grow and provide a quality education to all students.

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 Country Isles Elementary School is to ensure that all children entering our school will leave with the life skills that will enable them to fulfill their potential to be caring, contributing, productive members of the 21st century. We are dedicated to educating responsible citizens. At Country Isles Elementary, we understand that education is a shared responsibility. In order to nurture such learners, we embrace and foster partnerships with all stakeholders: including family members, community member, students, and faculty and staff members.

The Country Isles Elementary School faculty and staff believe that each child is a complete individual unto himself. His physical, emotional, and intellectual development are his own and because of this, his needs are different from those of his peers. In order to meet the needs of our children, we must learn all we can about them, their interests, their concerns, their capabilities, their out-of-school environment, and their level of achievement.

Knowing these things, we can then build a program for each child, which recognizes their individuality and provides experiences for students to grow and develop to their optimum potential. We must make them feel that they belong and have the ability to achieve. We provide opportunities for students to experience success in academics, in human relationships, and in the discovery of self as a person of worth and dignity. Our primary goal is to provide our students with the essential skills necessary to become a well-rounded, well-adjusted, contributing member of society. As educators, we are facilitators who help children explore and develop their capacities and who lead by setting the example of the attitudes we expect to develop in our children.

In order to meet the needs of our students, they complete beginning of the year assessments to establish current academic levels. We continue to monitor student progress closely throughout the year in order to differentiate their instruction and to keep them working on a level that is appropriate. In order to ensure that all children thrive in their learning environment, Country Isles' teachers and staff work to address all types of learning styles.

To address the emotional and physical aspects of the child, our school utilizes special programs and activities to enhance their emotional well-being. Our school wide behavior plan (Positive attitudes, Respect, Integrity, Drive to do the right thing, and Effort towards learning-PRIDE) is incorporated in all aspects of our day from starting our day with positive chants on the morning announcements to a monthly spotlight recognizing students throughout the school who have exhibited the monthly character trait.

These programs include a character education program called "Kids of Character", "I Am Thumbody Program", and Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.). We focus on anti-bullying education school-wide. In addition, small groups meet with our guidance counselor that offers support focusing on stress management, social/friendship skills, test anxiety, self-confidence, divorce and grief management.

Support staff members and community members work together with teachers in order to provide additional support in settings that can be whole group, small group, or individualized.

Country Isles is a superior performing school rated A for the last 14 years based on results from state wide testing. Our staff strives to provide a balanced learning environment. We embrace the belief that all children will learn and Country Isles is committed to excellence. The

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staff at our school ensures academic success through high expectations and innovative thinking in a safe learning environment that empowers students to reach their full potential as students prepare from "Crayons to College".

One of the unique features of our school is that we provide multiple opportunities for students to reach their full potential by advancing through the curriculum at their own pace and depth. Teachers at Country Isles offer opportunities to enrich and remediate learning throughout the school day. Throughout the day teachers are working with small groups who either need enrichment or remediation of a specific standard or skill. For the past two years we have provided opportunities for our students to participate in programs that promote the arts, chess, foreign languages, as well as after school language enrichment camp, robotics and coding, and physical education.

At Country Isles, we teach our students why it is important to set goals and give them the tools on how to set goals so that they are specific, measureable, achievable, result-focused and time bound. Students are taught from the moment they enroll that they are on the path for higher education. They are also taught that how we perform today will make a difference in their future. Students learn about various colleges and careers and what steps are needed to make those goals reality. Our partnership with parent in our students' education is critical in meeting their goals. Together, we collaborate and ensure success based on each child's needs.

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.

Country Isles' school community is very proud of teaching the whole child. We have high academic goals and continue to provide opportunities for our student to grow academically and socially. Our school is proud to be an "A" school for the past 15 years. Although we have met this criteria there is room for growth in our school and our students. At Country Isles, we strive for all students to achieve and make learning gains. We have developed and implemented school-wide activities to improve student achievement. These activities consist of bi weekly PLC's, common planning time for collaboration, Reflex Math (math fluency program), AR common goals, iReady usage and vertical common assessments.

Notable Achievements:

- Top Performing School in the National Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge
- Golden School Award
- Multiple Donors Choose Projects awarded

Areas of Improvement:

After analyzing the data, Country Isles will continue to foster growth in all students and work towards a 5% learning gain. We need to continue to increase the number of students proficient on state and school learning goals. Instructional staff will utilize common assessments and disaggregate data to foster differentiated instruction in small groups, create lessons that foster critical thinking skills and explore students interest to promote a learning environment that is engaging. It is imperative that we meet the needs and goals of our ESOL and ESE population. Academic after school camps will be utilized for our language students. This will provide additional opportunities for our students to grow. Our ESE team will provide additional training to our staff involving research based programs to assist in the growth with these students. Knowledge is power and it is imperative to continue to analyze the needs and work towards the common goal for all students and staff.

Additional Information

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

As educators, Country Isles' faculty and staff focus on developing the needs of each child, socially/emotionally and academically. We are very fortunate to work with a dedicated staff and school community. Our PTA and Partners in Education work together to provide additional support to our students. This strong bond allows us to provide opportunities and additional resources for our students. The relationships we have with our community foster growth and academic achievement.

At Country Isles Elementary, we are very fortunate to house a Special Program for Autism in our Innovation Zone. This program is created for students with Autism requiring specially designed instruction to best meet their unique needs while providing the opportunity to mainstream with their general education peers for appropriate lessons/subjects/classes/activities. The program fosters independence while systematically teaching curriculum, communication skills, and social/emotional skills.

Additionally, Country Isles Elementary provides pre-academic, social/emotional, independent functioning and communication skills to preschool children ages 3-5 with Individual Education Plans.

Academically, we provide opportunities to support our students in becoming lifelong readers. Literacy is promoted through our summer and winter reading challenges, Author-In-Residence presentation, ELL and FSA camps and AR (Accelerated Reader) book challenge offered throughout the year. When challenges are met, administration recognizes students and rewards their accomplishments.

This year Country Isles is proud of implementing a Dual Language Program in grades K-2nd grade. In the Dual Language Program, two languages, in this case being English and Spanish, are used for instruction. The goal of the program is to provide students with the opportunity to become fully bilingual by learning listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English and Spanish. Students learn the second language in context. Language Arts, Social Studies and Math are taught in English and Spanish. The program adheres to high expectations and rigorous standards for all students. Students will continue in the Dual Language Program at the next grade level the following year, and it will continue to grow with each passing school year until we have a Dual Language Program available in each grade level.

Country Isles' fourth and fifth grade students participate in the BCTM (Broward County Teachers of Mathematics) math team challenge. Honor Roll assemblies are held quarterly to recognize students and their academic accomplishments. Third grade students enhance their science curriculum by actively engaging in the creation of a school garden. Each class has a separate grass area and each student learns about gardening from the initial stage of planting to the final stage of food preparation using their crops.

Our grades 3-5 are digital classrooms. Each student has their own device and instruction is personalized.

Socially/emotionally, we provide opportunities for students to attend fun filled and exciting field trips. To name a few, first grade is fortunate to go to Flamingo Gardens which offers them the opportunity to observe and learn about plants and nature using a hands-on approach. The fourth grade team attends the Everglades field trip each year, which involves an air boat ride, a reptile show, and a history lesson on the Everglades (incorporating the curriculum). They also have fun attending the overnight field trip to St. Augustine and Kennedy Space Center. This trip is jam packed with activities including the history of the Nation's Oldest City, Castillo De San Marcos (fort), Spanish Quarters, Oldest School/House/Jail/Store, the Colonial Museum and Ghost Tour. Our fifth grade students have the opportunity to attend a week-long trip to

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the nation's capital. They explore museums, monuments, and so much more. The students can also attend a local trip to Marine Lab in the Florida Keys to learn about marine life while snorkeling and participating in academic "lab" sessions. The extraordinary thing about Country Isles is that the students who attend the Special Program for Autism are included in all activities and field trips.

Our Heron Hobbies program offers after school clubs, encouraging and promoting social growth and interaction for students. Students are given opportunities to participate in programs that promote physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development. This program includes Cheerleading, Tennis, Soccer, Creative Crafts, Book Publishing, Spanish, Drama, Sight Words Centers, Yoga, Kids in the Kitchen and Fun with food. As a school community, we look at the needs and desire and offer classes based on the student interests.

Country Isles prides itself in our relationships and school traditions. It is not only a school, but a home away from home for all stakeholders. As the oldest school in Weston, we continue to create an environment that is welcoming and personal to all stakeholders.