

Executive Summary – Sandpiper Elementary

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?

Sandpiper Elementary School is a traditional Title I school located on North Hiatus Road in Sunrise, Florida in a residential neighborhood and is part of the Piper Innovation Zone. Sandpiper Elementary was established in 1989 to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade, including Special Programs, which serve students with Autism. In 2014 one class of Voluntary Pre-school and Kindergarten was added to our school. Sandpiper's mascots are Sandy and Andy, and the school colors are blue and white.

The school community has been impacted recently by the addition of public charter schools built in the surrounding area. This has created more of a challenge as Sandpiper's student enrollment has been steadily decreasing over the years and currently maintains a student population of 539 students. At the same time, the percentage of students on free and reduced meals has nearly doubled within that same time frame. Our student population consists of 69% of minority students and 71% of students who receive free and reduced meals. The school's demographics by race are as follows: 33.7% white, 37.4% Black/African American, 20% Hispanic, 4.51% Multi-racial, 3.73% Asian, .31% Native American and .15% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. In addition, our English Language Learners are 11% of the total student population. Sandpiper Elementary has 3 kindergarten classes, 1 kindergarten/first grade multi-age class, 4 first grade classes, 5 second grade classes, 4 third grade classes, 4 fourth grade classes, 5 fifth grade classes, and 4 ASD classes. Our Specials Program serves 35 students. In grades 1 through 5 there is one Gifted/High Achiever class. Our teacher to student ratio is 18:1 in grades K-3, and 22:1 in grades 4-5. Our highly qualified teachers implement strategies aligned to Florida Standards.

Our faculty and staff members include 1 Principal, 1 Assistant Principal, 31 classroom teachers, 4 clerical staff, 10 Educational Support Personnel, 4 cafeteria staff, 5 facilities servicepersons, 1 School Resource Officer, 1 Reading Coach, 1 Autism Coach, 1 Exceptional Student Education Specialist, 1 Media Specialist, 1 Guidance Counselor, 2 Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP), 1 Varying Exceptionalities Teacher, 1 Micro-Tech Specialist, 1 Pool Substitute and 1 Health Technician supervised by a nurse. The school has weekly support from district staff which include 1 Social Worker, 1 School Psychologist, 1 Family Counselor, and 1 Occupational Therapist. Three of our instructional staff members hold National Board Certification and 21 staff members have an Advanced Degree. Many of our Exceptional Student Education (ESE) teachers are dual certified in ESE and Elementary Education. Our two SLPs are licensed by the State of Florida and hold a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Historically, teacher turn-over has been low at this school, resulting in a stable environment for the student population. Sandpiper Elementary has strived to improve strategies to meet all students' needs and it is evident in the increased school grade of a "B" according to the State of Florida School Grading System in 2015.

At Sandpiper Elementary we work collaboratively to increase student achievement and ensure a safe and secure learning environment for 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.

Sandpiper Elementary provides the highest quality education for all students. The vision of Sandpiper Elementary is educating today's students to succeed in tomorrow's world. The mission of Sandpiper Elementary is committed to ensuring a quality education, within a safe and secure learning environment. Sandpiper Elementary School works cooperatively with the community to provide academic and social experiences designed to develop individuals capable of being responsible, productive, and successful members of society.

Our three main goals are based upon Broward County Public School's goals:

- High-Quality Instruction
- Continuous Improvement
- Effective Communication

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.

At Sandpiper Elementary, we pride ourselves on the academic and social opportunities provided to our students and families in the community.

Sandpiper Elementary attempts to keep current in technology practices and trends. We strive to incorporate research-based strategies to integrate more complex tasks into students' daily activities. Through a General Obligation bond in 2015, our school was afforded 45 teacher and administrator laptops, 3 clerical computers, 4 Media Center desktops, 225 student laptops and 26 ThinkPads. Each 4th and 5th grade student has a laptop as part of the Digital 4 and 5 programs. In grades PreK-3, students have a ratio of 1 technology device for every 3 students. In addition, 7 classes have Promethean Boards or Smart Boards and 9 classes are digital classrooms. All

classrooms and buildings are equipped with Wi-Fi capabilities, making technology integration accessible school-wide on campus. Sandpiper instructional staff participates in Technology Professional Learning Communities twice a month, in which teachers learn digital citizenship, 21st century skills and practical uses of Lenovo laptops based on staff needs assessments. Strategies are monitored for fidelity of implementation and increase of student success.

Sandpiper Elementary is committed to parent involvement as a recipient of the Golden School Award for 27 years. Our accomplishments include the Little Red Schoolhouse award and Partner of the Year award based on community involvement. Parents are encouraged to participate in school events, family nights, Parent Teacher Association events, School Advisory Council and School Advisory Forum. Parents are invited to attend quarterly honor roll assemblies and monthly “Kids of Character” recognitions. In addition to quarterly report cards, parents of each student are invited to two parent conferences per school year to learn more about their student progress in school. Sandpiper Elementary maintains an open door policy in a welcoming school. We continue to promote opportunities for increased parent involvement as we strive for academic excellence.

Sandpiper embodies its high expectations and purpose through its many extracurricular clubs and activities. Enrichment clubs are an essential part of the school spirit and culture. Intermediate students partake in Chess club, city sponsored tournaments, and the chess art calendar contest. Sandpiper’s students have even played chess against students in England via Skype. Each morning Safety Patrols assist in creating a safe and secure school environment. They guide students to correct locations and they are especially helpful with younger students on campus. The patrols are learning and playing a role in citizenship by assisting other students and peers on campus. The Student Council students are civic minded and also promote an awareness for citizenship. Students collaborate on ideas and bring forth their ideas to the Principal. Students started a school store based on the needs of their constituents. In addition, Student Council raised funds for Relay for Life and veterans’ Honor Flights. They promote the increase of energy and water efficiency. The Student Council reminds students to recycle and reduce waste in school. At Sandpiper Elementary, we believe the arts are an important part in molding the whole child. Students participate in the Art Club and Choir. Students combined their artistic abilities and performed a Multicultural Show during the holiday season. At special events, Cheerleaders perform to increase the energy and motivate students in the school spirit. The male students of Men of Tomorrow club are assigned to a mentor. They build relationships to positively impact the students’ life based on their individual needs. Students provide service hours as a school-wide project. Third grade students integrate science into the upkeep of the local garden. The Math Club enjoy weekly meetings and compete in district sponsored BCCTM Competitions. Fifth grade students learn about situations involving bullying, drug prevention, digital citizenship, and peer pressure from the School Resource Officer (SRO) in G.R.A.D.E (Gang Resistance and Drug Education).

The Sunrise city community is a supportive part of Sandpiper Elementary School and provides meaningful activities and events. Our local Business and Community Partners in Education donate food for breakfasts and lunches, student rewards for high performance, garden materials, and assist in integrating writing with real world applications. Our Partners include: City of Sunrise, Target, I9 Sports, Scutto’s Pizza, Sawgrass Lanes, Rain Forest Café, Monkey Joe’s Stratmore Bagel &

Deli, McDonald's, and Hands On Broward. The City of Sunrise provided students the opportunity to attend local businesses and create a welcoming brochure to all new residents. Each experience had an impact in educating the whole child. The collaboration between the school and community members foster an advantageous educational life experience.

Areas of Improvement

In the next three years our areas of improvement focus are to increase student achievement in English Language Arts, Math and Science with the integration of technology. In the primary grades we implemented the LLI intervention program based on the new BAS assessments of students in first grade. Over the next three years we will expand BAS implementation to kindergarten, second and third grade to improve reading comprehension and application. To bridge the gap from learning to read and reading to learn. A literacy resource room is desired to maintain resources for small group instruction.

With the new Florida Standards, teachers were trained on the Depth of Knowledge levels and how to increase rigor in their classrooms. We are gathering resources to promote more non-fiction texts and provide students with more complex tasks with real-world applications. This year we implemented the use of Learning Goals and Scales in reading with the intent to incorporating all subject areas over the next three years. The purpose of the Learning Goals and Scales is to transfer the ownership of the learning from the teacher to the student. The teacher will become the guide on the side, a facilitator of learning. Students will use accountable talk and have a purpose for their learning.

In math, we will continue to focus on math fluency of facts using Reflex Math and Math Practice Standards. The goal is to improve math automaticity in the intermediate grades by focusing on the fluency of math facts in the primary grades.

In Science, each grade level will participate in hands-on science experiments and the use of science journals on a weekly basis. Students plan on attending field trips including the Museum of Science and Discovery, Water Ventures and the GABIE bus. Additionally, 5th grade students will participate in Science Bootcamp, a hands-on academic game approach to science.

In 2016, with the influx of technology devices faculty members will continue Professional Learning Communities with a focus on the integration of technology in teaching 21st century skills. Teachers will make the transition of platforms to PC from Apple. In grades 4 and 5, teachers and students will implement the Digital 4 and 5 programs. They will effectively use Schoology to individualize instruction and maintain a flipped classroom. As we move towards 21st century skills, our students will become critical thinkers in the future and continue to move toward college and career readiness.

Additional Information

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

Sandpiper Elementary School participated in the Special Olympics and Basketball program. Our school has a team of athletes that work together on track and field events. This past and present year, students with Autism Spectrum Disorder were encouraged to participate and felt a sense of accomplishments.

At Sandpiper Elementary, we are proud to have a master teacher on campus who is the recipient of the IDEA Expo grants and a presenter at the expo. She shares her best practices with her peers.