

# Quiet Waters Elementary School

## Executive Summary

### **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**

Quiet Waters Elementary School is located in Deerfield Beach, Florida and is one of the 211 elementary schools in the Broward County Public School District. A state-rated "B" elementary school, Quiet Waters Elementary School serves 1,210 students in grades pre-kindergarten to fifth grade.

Deerfield Beach is home to almost 70,000 residents, with about 9% of them being unemployed. Over 70% of the residents own their homes and more than half of the population are married. During the last 3 years, the population has increased from 60,000 to almost 70,000.

Quiet Waters Elementary School is a Title 1 school with more than 68% receiving free or reduced lunch. Title I funds provide additional teachers to assist low performing students and staff development funds to provide comprehensive staff trainings. Parental involvement funds are also provided through Title I and are used to fund monthly academic parent trainings. Title I funds are also used to provide agendas as communication tools to students in grades 1-5.

With a large diverse population, there are currently 546 students, including 45 Pre-K students that participate in the ELL (English Language Learners) program.

The school has a wide-ranging ESE program that meets the needs of approximately 200 students. There are two full-time teachers that work with students with disabilities. Students receive services according to their Individualized Educational Program (IEP). Services offered at the school include reading, math, speech, and language. While some students receive services from the ESE teachers, others are on a consultation plan and receive all initial direct instruction from their classroom teacher.

The staff at Quiet Waters Elementary School includes 80 full-time teachers as well as 35 other staff members including clerical, facilities, and paraprofessionals. Over 80% of the instructional staff at Quiet Waters Elementary School have 10 or more years of professional teaching experience and 55% of staff have advanced degrees.

Quiet Waters Elementary is led by a principal and two assistant principals. The school has a full-time ESE specialist, a guidance counselor, ELL contact, Literacy Coach, and a micro tech specialist.

Quiet Waters Elementary offers families an aftercare program. Nearly 300 students in grades K-5 participate in the aftercare program. Various clubs and activities are offered to students through after care including: Zumba and soccer.

Quiet Waters Elementary has many organizations that involve parents and community members. A very active PTA plans and organizes fundraisers and events to support the school. The School Advisory Council (SAC) meets once a month and brings together parents, staff, and community members to develop, implement, and monitor the school's improvement plan.

Quiet Waters Elementary school proudly operates under governance and leadership that promotes and supports student performance and school effectiveness. The school's curriculum, instructional design and assessment practices guide and ensure teacher effectiveness and student learning.

### **School's Purpose**

Quiet Waters Elementary has a clear purpose and direction that the leadership and staff communicate to all stakeholders. This shared culture and commitment is evident through communication modes such as the parent links, the school marquee, the school website, and school survey results.

Quiet Waters Elementary School's vision is to create a positive teaching and learning environment that fosters self-motivated and lifelong learners. Quiet Waters Elementary School students, staff, parents, and community will strive to ensure all students reach their maximum potential in a safe and nurturing learning environment. School leadership and staff share high expectations for students and are committed to implementing effective instructional practices that include active student participation and application of knowledge and skills.

All stakeholders are involved in the continuous improvement of the school. School staff and leadership gather current and comprehensive data and collaborate to analyze this data to drive differentiated instruction and to increase student achievement. The leadership and staff at Quiet Waters communicate the purpose and direction to all stakeholders and provide specific feedback that enhances strategies and practices to increase student achievement. It is the goal of the school to implement challenging educational programs with measurable goals, so that all learners can be successful.

### **Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement**

Quiet Waters Elementary School has been awarded the Golden School Award for the past 27 school years. This award is presented to schools in which volunteer hours equal to at least twice the school's student enrollment. The Florida Commissioner of Education presents this award to schools with an exemplary citizen volunteer program.

FLL Robotics is an academic competition that allows students to demonstrate their creativity, teamwork, and understanding of technology competing with Lego robots designed by them. Students learn how to program and build an autonomous robot (using the LEGO® MINDSTORMS® robot set) that scores points on a thematic playing surface and create an innovative solution to a problem as part of their project. Each year FIRST LEGO League releases a challenge, which is based on a real-world scientific topic. The Quiet Waters Elementary School Robotics team has won several top prizes at local, regional, and state competitions.

Since 1973 the [Broward County Council of Teachers of Mathematics](#) or BCCTM has sponsored both team and individual competitions in north central and south Broward County. Quiet Waters competes against over 500 students in 40 public, private and Catholic schools in Broward County.

In a joint partnership between the Broward Sheriff's Office and Scholastic Books, our school was the recipient of a Reading Oasis room. This room is furnished with literature and informational text as well as a SMART board.

Quiet Waters Elementary is a Digital 4 and Digital 5 school. All fourth and fifth grade students have their own laptops which are used both at school and at home. This blended learning model provides students with authentic learning opportunities to further deepen their knowledge of curriculum standards.

### **Additional Information**

Collaboration amongst school leadership and staff is part of the school culture and helps share best practices, solicit new ideas, and shape decisions. The curriculum at Quiet Waters Elementary is individualized and provides students with opportunities to develop and apply skills. Learning goals and scales are developed and posted to guide classroom instruction. Staff and school leadership are frequently collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data to adjust curriculum to meet the needs of students as well as to achieve school goals. All instructional staff participate in collaborative learning communities that address content areas. These weekly meetings allow teachers to learn together and enhance their practice.

Technology is used on a regular basis in all aspects of the school. The technology is current, functional, and used to support and enhance the curriculum.

Quiet Waters Elementary School has the support of many business and community partners. Businesses such as Chick-Fil-A support the school in providing incentives to students meeting academic goals.