



Executive Summary

Silver Trail Middle 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?

Silver Trail Middle School (STMS) has been serving the Pembroke Pines and Southwest Ranches community for the past 15 years. In 2013 there was a change in boundaries, which has increased the number of students that STMS serves in the Weston and Cooper City communities. The surrounding community is characterized as: upper middle class, moderately educated, and primarily composed of children and teenagers (under 20) and mid-career adults (35-44), which are the most prevalent age groups. A unique feature associated with our community is that a majority of our students are of Hispanic descent. 677 students, or 45.8% of the student population at STMS identify as Hispanic, making up the majority of the student body. A typical school in Southwest Ranches is made up of 41.8% Hispanic students, so STMS has a very similar ethnic distribution compared to other schools in the city. The demographic breakdown of Silver Trail Middle School is very different from that of a typical school in the state of Florida, which is made up of 30.0% Hispanic students on average.

STMS teachers have an average of 10 years teaching experience. STMS has a total number of 109 staff including: 2 (1.83%) Campus Monitors, 10 (9.17%) Clerical/Secretarial, 1 (0.92%) Clerical Confidential, 6 (5.50%) Facilities, 4 (3.67%) School Based Administrators, 1 (0.92%) Security Specialist, 3 (2.75%) Teacher Assistants, and 82 (75.23%) Teachers. Our teachers have the following years of experience: 6 (5.50%) less than 6 months, 26 (23.85%) between 1 to 5 years, 16 (14.66%) between 6 to 10 years, 33 (30.27%) between 11 to 15 years, 16 (14.67%) between 16 to 20 years, and 11 (11.01%) with 21 plus years. Currently, there are 4 National Board Certified teachers, 1 Clerical with a Master's Degree, 4 School Based Administrators with a Master's Degree, 1 Teacher with a Florida Specialist Degree, 36 Teachers with a Master's Degree, and 2 School Based Administrators with a Doctorate Degree. That is a total of 44 (40.37%) of staff members with a higher degree and/or specialist degree. Our staff is made up of 2 (1.83%) Asian or Pacific Islander, 22 (20.18%) Black/Not Hispanic Origin, 24 (22.02%) Hispanic, and 61 (55.96%) White/Not Hispanic Origin.

Current challenges being faced by the school are the growing number of charter schools being built in the community. There have been 2 new charter schools and 1 opening next school year that serve the same boundary communities as STMS, which has had an effect on enrollment. STMS does have a small percentage of re-assignment students based on hardships or full time school board employment. Another challenge faced is the large student population that attends STMS. The student to teacher ratio is 19:1, which is significantly higher than the average for all U.S. middle schools (15.70:1) and significantly higher than the average for middle schools in Florida (15.20:1). The 2016 official twentieth day total enrollment count is 1481, which includes 34% White, 11% Black, 45% Hispanic, 5% Asian, 0% American Indian, and 4% Multi Racial. The special education population consists of 152 gifted and 140 ESE students. Our students feed from 4 main elementary schools in the area, which include Hawkes Bluff, Chapel Trail, Panther Run, and Manatee Bay.

Our students ranked in the 54thile overall for ELA grade 6, 56thile overall for ELA grade 7, 57thile overall for ELA grade 8, 57thile overall for Math grade 6, 57thile overall for Math grade 7, and 59thile overall for Math grade 8. School-wide for ELA students ranked 9% in the bottom quartile, 16% in the second quartile, 32% in the third quartile, and 43% in the top quartile. School-wide for Math students ranked 8% in the bottom quartile, 16% in the second quartile, 25% in the third quartile, and 51% in the top quartile. School-wide for Geometry students ranked 0% in the bottom quartile, 0% in the second quartile, 0% in the third quartile, and 100% in the top quartile. School-wide for Algebra students ranked 0% in the bottom quartile, 0% in the second quartile, 9% in the third quartile, and 91% in the top quartile. The average number of students for middle schools in Florida is 619, so STMS is very large.

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.

Silver Trail Middle School promotes scholarship, achievement, individual and group talent, while valuing character, pride, and diversity. The mission of the Silver Trail Middle School Family is to provide a safe, progressive, stimulating learning environment that enables students to reach their fullest potential as responsible, productive citizens in a diverse society. This vision and mission is embodied in our Pre-AP Research Innovative Program that is implemented in the reading classes for all students, 6th through 8th grade. This program prepares students for high school and increases the number of students enrolled in AP classes. Students also have the opportunity to receive high school credit through Spanish 1 and 2, Geometry, and Algebra courses. Silver Trail Middle School has an award winning band, colorguard, and sports teams. Students also have an array of clubs that they can join including STEM, math, first priority, drama, art, ecology, NJHS, student council, cheerleading and dance. Each year our students participate in the history and science fair to strengthen their research and non-fiction education by incorporating real world events and problems. Student council is responsible for community projects such as juvenile diabetes, Vietnam veteran honor flight, toy drive, and harvest drive to name a few. Recently the school participated in the BPIE (Best Practices in Inclusive Education) assessment to find areas of strength and weakness within the current ESE policies and procedures. The BPIE team included teachers, department chairs, reading coach, support facilitators, general education parents, special education parents, administration, and a district facilitator. The anti-bullying campaign at school was introduced several years ago to make our community aware of this ever growing problem within our society. The students sign a pledge and wear their anti-bullying shirts to show their support. Each morning during anti-bullying week the Guidance department shares inspirational quotes, videos, and messages that align with treating others with respect.

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.

Technology is one of the cornerstones of the SMART initiative. The work to improve technology infrastructure and provide new devices in schools is already underway. The goal is to ensure a very successful implementation of technology in the District by building the necessary capacity and then delivering the devices for students and teachers. STMS has been chosen this year as one of the schools to pilot the program. The school received additional technology for students and teachers in meeting the District's technology goal. The SMART bond ballot has been approved and will be disseminated to the schools stakeholders. The ballot will allow the stakeholders to decide how the funds will be utilized in regards to purchasing fixed projectors for teachers, digital marquee to display school events and achievements, and furniture for the schools common areas. Currently, the schools roof is being repaired due to age, which has caused water damage within the building. The repairs and enhancements are expected to be completed within the next 2 years.

Over the last few years the science scores of students has raised 7 percentage points with the implementation of student symposiums and common formative assessments. Our 8th grade students from last year ranked 1st overall in highest percentile ranking for ELA amongst our local public schools. Also, our 7th grade students from last year ranked 1st overall for their proficiency rating on the Civics EOC. Overall our student's percentile rankings are above that of the District and State year after year.

The STRIDE (Students Taking Responsibility in Demonstrating Excellence) Pride program has assisted with decreasing the number of referrals in all grade levels. STRIDE pride includes mini-lessons and activities that review classroom and school procedures. The program has recently added bullying and cyber awareness to its coursework. This year we were asked to host 9 Korean exchange students for one week. The students were given the opportunity to experience being a Silver Trail student. This year we have implemented a free math tutoring program that is offered to the community. It was realized that there was a gap in our students learning, specifically with the area of math. This program was developed to better prepare our students and meet their academic needs.

STMS is proud to support award winning athletic sports and extracurricular clubs including basketball, flag football, soccer, volleyball, track and field, cheerleading, colorguard, dance, STEM club, math club, drama, band, first priority, art club, ecology club, Best Buddies, and National Junior Honor Society. The boys' basketball team went to semi-finals, the boys' volleyball team went to the 1st round of playoffs, and track and field came in 1st place at their initial meet. The colorguard program at STMS was implemented four years ago and has been extremely successful. The guard won 1st place last year and were voted as "fan favorites" by other local guard programs. This year the guard has placed 1st and 2nd amongst other high schools becoming a competitively recognized middle school program. Students placed in the Broward County Science Fair this year and one student went to state competition. The STMS drama program has been producing show stopping plays and will be showing The Music Man this coming May to the community. The National Junior Honor Society has been integral in assisting the community with their outreach programs and charitable drives that have had a positive effect on our student population. This year we have implemented a Best Buddies middle school chapter that has 42 peer buddies paired with 14 of our special needs buddies. The students have created long lasting friendships and supported their buddies academically and emotionally.

Additional Information

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

Silver Trail Middle School implemented a District recognized Innovative Program to assist our students in becoming college, career, and life ready. Our primary goal is aligned with the District's Strategic Goals as well as the State's push to encourage more high school students to enroll in Advanced Placement courses, and become college and career ready. We created a theme for instruction, which involves all three grade levels. The essential questions driving these themes are as follows: (1) Can I make a difference in the world? (2) What can I contribute to my nation? (3) What is my place in this community? Each grade level focuses on a specific aspect of the essential questions building from community to nation to world. The quarterly design of this program focuses content and curriculum one grade level ahead, so as to provide an opportunity for acceleration and prerequisite instruction. The formation of this Pre-Advanced Placement program further enhances our already high academic standards. The Pre-Advanced Placement program was designed by a cadre of Silver Trail Middle School teachers who believe our students will benefit from being exposed to this level of critical thinking and synthesis of information which is necessary for Advanced Placement classes in high school, and needed to be a viable citizen in a global world. This program affords our students the opportunity to investigate specific needs within their own community, the needs of our nation and the needs of a global society. At the same time, it will expose them to complex text and concepts. In order to reduce the referral rate, the STRIDE (Students Taking Responsibility in Demonstrating Excellence) Pride program was developed. The program was designed to promote positive behavior, be proactive instead of reactive, ensure consistency throughout the campus, and educate all students, staff, and administration of the schools goals and expectations.