***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?***

Incorporated on May 26, 1955, Miramar, Florida became the southern most city in Broward County, Florida. The city began with a population of less than 200 people, with a land area of approximately 2.9 square miles. Today, the population is 122,041 people, with a land area of 31 square miles. Miramar is 14 miles in length from east to west and 2.5 miles in width, making it the third largest city in Broward County in terms of land size and fifth largest in terms of population.

Miramar’s motto is Beauty and Progress and has also been awarded the National Recognition of “Tree City, USA” for its accomplishments in landscaping and beautification of the city. From the time of its founding, Miramar has been and continues to be a family-oriented community. Eleven elementary schools, three middle schools, two high schools, various charter schools, a special needs school, and eight institutions of higher education are located throughout Miramar.

Silver Shores Elementary School was founded in 2002 and opened its doors in August 2003. It is located on the corner of Pembroke Road and Dykes Road in the city of Miramar, FL, in southwest Broward County. Since the school’s opening, West Miramar has experienced a huge population boom, resulting in the opening of more traditional public elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school. Silver Shores Elementary feeds into Glades Middle (in addition to 5 other elementary schools), who, in turn, feeds into Everglades High School. In addition, there has also been a large increase in the number of charter schools that have opened, resulting in the loss of students. From the 2011-2012 school year to the 2014-2015 school year, Silver Shores lost close to 200 students (687 students at the historic benchmark day count in 2011-2012 to 491 students in 2014-2015).

Silver Shores Elementary is a traditional K-5 public school, in addition to four (4) K-5 Intellectually Disabled self-contained classes, two (2) Developmental Pre-Kindergarten Classes, and three (3) Intensive Pre-Kindergarten classes. The enrollment on the Historic Benchmark Day for 2018-2019 was 433 students. Our student demographics are as follows: 236 (54.5%) male students and 197 (45.5%) female students; 202 (46.7%) Hispanic Students; 172 (39.7%) Black Students; 199 (46%) White Students; 41 (9.5%) Asian Students; and 21 (4.8%) Multi-Ethnic Students. There are 55 active English Language Learners and 115 students with disabilities. There are over 45 countries represented and 17 primary languages spoken. Primary exceptionalities at Silver Shores include, but are not limited to Specific Learning Disability, Gifted, Autism, Developmentally Delayed, Intellectual Disability, Speech Impaired, Language Impaired, and Other health Impairments.

There are 253 (53%) students that participate in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, which qualifies Silver Shores Elementary School to receive Federal Title I Dollars. Title 1 funds aim to bridge the gap between low-income students and other students. The U.S. Department of Education provides supplemental funding to local school districts to meet the needs of at-risk and low-income students. Title I funds have afforded Silver Shores smaller classes; additional teachers and paraprofessionals; additional training for school staff; extra time for instruction (before and/or after school programs); parental engagement activities; and a variety of supplemental teaching methods and materials.

The Silver Shores Faculty and Staff is comprised of one principal, one assistant principal, one office manager, one guidance counselor, one literacy coach, one ESE specialist, one school nurse, one technology specialist, one media specialist, one school resource officer (Miramar Police Department), four facilities persons, four food service persons, three clerical persons, 19 certified classroom assistants, and 33 teachers. In addition, we also have one aftercare supervisor and 15 after care counselors. The average total teaching experience is 16 years; the average Broward teaching experience is 11 years; and the total teachers teaching classes requiring a highly qualified teacher is 30.

The Silver Shores community is comprised of single-family homes, which significantly reduces the amount of transient families that come and go within a school year. From the first day of school to the last, we continually encourage our parents to get involved – PTA, SAC, mentoring, chaperoning, or volunteering on school committees to enhance the overall school culture (i.e. 5th grade dance committee, book fair volunteers, school store volunteers, etc.). Additionally, our parents are always invited to have lunch with their children, attend birthday celebrations, participate in all school events, and assume leadership roles that benefit the greater good of the school.

***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 Shores Elementary School’s Vision is: “The Greatest Corner in the Universe.” The Mission Statement is: Silver Shores Elementary School is committed to providing a safe, collaborative, positively charged, fully inclusive school, supported by the new Florida Standards, to successfully prepare our students to be college or career ready. Our fundamental purpose is to cultivate high achieving, critically thinking 21st century learners. As a collective family, we work towards reaching this goal by upholding the belief that respect for everyone is paramount to teaching and learning. Moreover, we understand that education is a shared responsibility, and to nurture such learners, we embrace and foster partnerships with all stakeholders; including family members, community members, students, and all faculty and staff.

Although critical thinking is an important aspect of the education of the “whole-child,” social-emotional learning is crucial, especially at the elementary level. At Silver Shores, we firmly believe in Character Education, and every month, we celebrate students that are nominated in each classroom for every character trait: cooperation, responsibility, citizenship, kindness, respect, honesty, self-control, and tolerance. In 2014, we implemented the Fill-A-Bucket program, where each teacher, student, and staff member have a personal bucket, and everyone can write a note of encouragement, thanks, or positive affirmation and place it in one’s bucket to express kindness and appreciation. For the 2018-2019 school year, “How Are You Feeling” can be heard as students enter the class. Students rate their immediate feelings on the “Mood Meter,” an interactive wall chart that describes feelings in one-word phrases, falling into one of four color-coded categories: happy (yellow), sad (blue), at ease (Green), or angry (red). Each category has 16 words to describe the emotion. All school stakeholders participate in a daily rating in the morning to elicit their current mood.

Silver Shores Elementary School is a firm believer in the anti-bullying / choose peace program. Furthermore, Silver Shores has organized two major district and community-wide events to promote anti-bullying and choose peace as an everyday way of life. One major event that was captured by three major TV networks was our Human Peace Sign. The entire school, community and business partners went outside to our playing fields and created a gigantic human peace sign to promote Choose Peace week. Another major event was our Rockin’ Peace Garden. During the 2014-2015 school year, Silver Shores Elementary School was awarded a Peace Pole from The Peace Pole Project at The World Peace Sanctuary, which we planted in front of the school. The entire school, community, and district leadership was invited to unveil the garden during Choose Peace Week. In addition, with over 45 countries represented at Silver Shores, we ordered all 45 of the countries’ flags and placed them around the peace pole in a circle to create a perimeter. Then, everyone who attended the event was given a white river stone and wrote a message of peace and placed the stone within the perimeter. Students that come to school with a strong social-emotional understanding are ready to tackle the critical thinking skills that are required to be successful with the academic side of education.

Through the implementation of the new Florida Standards and infusion of Balanced Literacy, coupled with complex cognitive tasks and differentiated instruction, our students experience a myriad of teaching strategies that best accompany their style of learning. High expectations are present in every classroom as students engage in STEM-based activities, Accelerated Reader, balanced literacy, text-based writing, project-based learning, and real-world application. Standards-based teaching is at the heart of every classroom, and common formative assessments are given for each standard to ensure students fully understand what they need to know and be able to do with the standard. Teachers also use STAR Reading, BAS, and iReady ELA and Math Diagnostic and Standards Mastery Assessments to progress monitor and gauge continual student learning and achievement.

Students that are performing below grade level or going through the Response to Intervention process are provided remediation throughout the day. Remediation interventions include but are not limited to small group pullout/instruction in reading and math; computer-based instruction; iReady; progress monitoring; Go Math reteach and intensive intervention; and Journey’s Literacy Toolkit. In order to provide quality, interactive, and focused interventions, we are implementing the LLI intervention reading program and Reflex Math – both programs will help with students strengthen their basic reading phonics and math fluency and basic skills.

In 2012-2013, as a response to provide school-wide enrichment activities to **all** of Silver Shores’ students, we implemented our first annual Enrichment Cluster Extravaganza. The enrichment clusters allow students and adults who share a common interest and purpose to come together for given periods of time. Like extra curricular activities and programs, the main rationale for participation in clusters is that students and teachers want to be there. The model for learning used with the enrichment clusters is based on an inductive approach to the pursuit of real-world problems rather than traditional, didactic modes of teaching. Enrichment clusters are excellent vehicles for promoting cooperativeness within the context of real-world problem solving, and they also provide superlative opportunities for promoting self-concept.

For the 2015-2016 school year, we rolled out a thematic unit for our Enrichment Cluster Extravaganza: The Renaissance, whereby the entire inside of the school was transformed into a castle, and the grade levels chose an area of the Renaissance as their primary focus (i.e. games, science, art, music, fashion, etc.). Each grade level researched their topic and created either a final product or presentation that resulted in a culminating community event.

***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.***

For the last three years, Silver Shores has focused on improving school-wide initiatives that align with the District’s vision to promote student achievement by maximizing all Stakeholders’ potential. The School Board of Broward County’s plan focuses on four vital areas: Professional Learning Communities (PLC’s); Response to Intervention (RtI); Internal and External Relationships; and Scaling up Best Practices. Silver Shores has authentically committed to improving our PLC’s, RtI, and professional development by scaling up best practices.

Silver Shores’ PLC’s have become more laser focused over the last three years. Three essential questions are posed at the onset of each school year’s PLC cycle: (1) What do we want students to know? (2) How will we know when each student has learned it? (3) How will we respond when a student has trouble in learning? At the center of each grade level PLC lays a plethora of data that is used to begin each PLC conversation. Student data-driven discussions, sharing of best practices and teaching strategies to maximize student proficiency, and the implementation of learned professional development drive each PLC. Teachers engage in reflective practice which result in gained confidence in professional judgment and autonomy over their teaching, increased knowledge base in their grade level and classroom practices, and increased use of data-driven decision making to positively impact student achievement at higher levels.

Response to Intervention at Silver Shores has been revamped to be more comprehensive and evaluative at the leadership team and classroom level. The leadership team, consisting of the principal, assistant principal, guidance counselor, ESE specialist, literacy coach, ESE inclusion teachers, school psychologist, and school social worker work very closely with the teachers that are implementing interventions at the classroom level for both tier 2 and 3. Teachers provide work samples, data charts, anecdotals, and any academic/behavioral information that may be pertinent to the student’s progress. Teachers, with the support and guidance of the case managers (each leadership team member oversees a grade level), implement increasingly intensive academic interventions to match each student’s needs. Progress is continually monitored and altered if needed. Ultimately, the end goal is to remediate the student, so they climb back up the academic ladder to grade level instruction.

Conversely, Silver Shores Elementary has achieved an overabundance of notable achievements over the last 3 years. With the support of all Silver Shores’ stakeholders, our accomplishments have ranged from a comprehensive STEM program to overall academic achievement.

With the recent increased focus on STEM nationwide, Silver Shores quickly hopped on board to make sure our students had a wide variety of STEM activities available to them. We began in the 2012-13 school year with our Rocket Club, where students worked to build and launch their own rockets. We continued with the addition of an organic vegetable garden supervised by one of teachers, where students helped to plant, cultivate, harvest and consume their own produce. In addition, a portion of our outside area was expanded to include an organic butterfly garden. In 2013 our entire school participated in the very first Hour of Code, introducing computational thinking and computer science skills to students. One of the nearby major TV networks sent their education correspondent to capture the Coding event and interview the principal and media specialist. The segment was aired on the 6:00pm news. The Hour of Code was such a success, that in addition to participating in the Hour of Code each year, we implemented coding into our K-5 curriculum during the Media Special, providing an opportunity for every student to learn Code.

In addition to the implementation of computer science, Silver Shores also partnered with Cornell University’s Department of Ornithology. Our 4th graders have assisted the university with the tracking of different area bird species. Our 4th and 5th grade math teams have competed in the BCCTM Competition each year. In 2014 we became a D5 school, which provided each of our 5th grade students with their own Lenovo laptop (1:1 student/computer ratio platform) and enabled a more blended learning environment within our classrooms. For the 2017-2018 school year, we added the 4th grade as a Blended Grade Level (D4). In addition, our 3rd grade is also 1:1 with laptop computers. Currently, grades 2-5 are all 1:1 student to laptop ratio.

We also began a Recycling Club that has helped to educate our entire school population on ways to reduce, re-use and recycle. Within our innovation zone, Silver Shores opened its doors for students from Everglades High School to come in for a STEM night where students and parents alike participated in a variety of science activities. For the 2018-2019 school year, we are implementing a VEX IQ Robotics Team for 4th grade students and a SECME (Southeastern Consortium for Minorities in Engineering) club for 5th graders. **SECME** is a strategic alliance to renew and strengthen the professional capacity of K-12 educators, motivate and mentor students, and empower parents so that all students can learn and achieve at higher levels. STEM is a Nationwide initiative which focuses on Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The **SECME** – STEM Olympiad combines these two philosophies into one event and will focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics principles.

As a part of the **SECME** club, students will be responsible for following the engineering design process in the building of mousetrap cars and water bottle rockets and will gain a sense of accomplishment and pride by entering the countywide competition against other local schools. Students will learn the value of hard word, dedication, and what it means to be a part of a truly excellent team.

Silver Shores also provides its students with a variety of activities and programs to enhance their academic achievements. We celebrate student success each quarter with our Principal “A” and “A/B” Honor Roll. Student Council not only offers students an introduction into government, but a way to socialize and create programs to help those who are less fortunate. The Accelerated Reader program encourages our students to read and earn points by taking comprehension quizzes on books to earn stars that are displayed in the main hallway of our school. This year we also began a March Book Madness tournament, similar to college basketball, but using children’s books to promote literacy, where the top books checked out in our Media Center were put into brackets to find the most popular book or series of the year for both intermediate fiction and easy fiction titles.

Silver Shores will continue to improve our RtI process, PLC’s, and professional development by fully unwrapping the Florida Standards; using learning goals and performance scales to determine student proficiency and mastery with the standards; ensure a seamless RtI process, whereby students experience a multi-tiered educational experience and high-quality instruction; and ensuring collective teacher efficacy through meaningful PLC’s and appropriate professional development. In addition, with the ever-changing climate of education, as it pertains to State-Wide educational mandates and District initiatives, we will continue to focus on how we internalize these changes, so they cause the least amount of stress and anxiety on teachers, staff, students, and the community at large.

[***Additional***](http://www.advanc-ed.org/assist/s/diagnostic/section/view?surveyId=1147697&sectionId=265) ***Information***

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

Silver Shores Elementary School promotes the Arts in a variety of ways. Our students have had opportunities to express themselves in both the visual and performing arts. Our art teacher began showcasing student work at an annual school-wide art gallery night. Parents and community members are invited to browse student artwork and can purchase framed versions of the pieces to help raise money for further arts education. Additionally, each year our music teacher puts on multiple musical theatre and chorus productions at the school, as well as off-campus appearances at our Barnes & Noble Book Fair nights. Productions have included The Jungle Book and The Lion King, among others.

For the last four years, our students have participated in the school-wide Black history Wax Museum Extravaganza. The Wax Museum Extravaganza is an open-house style event where the students of the school have chosen a famous African-American that has made a positive contribution to either National or International Culture. Students come dressed like their person of choice and give a 20-30 second monologue in first-person (e.g. My name is Michael Jordan and I was the greatest basketball player ever…). The monologue focuses on their importance in society and/or the world. In addition, the students create a tri-fold board display, which includes the famous person’s name at the top center; a one-page written paper about the life of the chosen person; another page with bulleted items regarding the person’s contribution(s) to the world; a bibliography of sources used; and any extra space can be used for photos of the individual or photos of their contributions. The last item the board must have is a large red dot at the top right corner of the tri-fold board – this is the activation button of the wax figure (the student). Guests of the museum have free reign as they walk through the museum and activate the students by pressing the red button (who will perform a 30 second monologue of their person’s attributes).

Silver Shores has a very positive, inviting, warm climate. Every stakeholder brings something special to the Silver Shores table, and every stakeholder is valued and respected. Silver Shores takes every opportunity to include our students’ families and community members in our events. Our two annual Scholastic Book Fairs, run by our PTA, not only help promote literacy and raise money for our school, but also enable our community members to promote their businesses during after-school hours. Similarly, our annual Barnes & Noble Book Fair brings our school family together off campus and gives our students the chance to present their own works on the Barnes & Noble stage. Each fall, our Curriculum Night and Fall Festival offers insights to student curriculum and district resources to our parents, allows community members exposure and enables students to display pumpkin projects relating to book characters. Sometimes, it’s simply about socializing at our McDonald’s McTeacher nights, where teachers work behind the counter to serve our families, or several times a year at the dances we hold in our Cafeteria where students, parents and our staff mingle and dance the night away together.

Silver Shores Elementary School **IS** the Greatest Corner in the Universe!