**Description of the School**

Challenger Elementary serves a PreK-5 population of approximately 1021 students. We have 359 Hispanic students, 165 English Language Learners, 136 ESE Students, and 483 Free or Reduced Lunch. We currently have enrolled 68.2% White or Caucasian or Hispanic, 51% Non-Hispanic White or Hispanic with a 22.1% African American Community. There are 61 classrooms for students plus rooms for Art, Media, PE, Science, Technology, and Music.

The biggest change for the citizens of the community is the age bracket. Average age has dropped 10.5 years and is getting younger.

Most importantly, each year at our school, many parents from outside of the boundaries request reassignments to our school. We have large charter schools open near our campus, and any students who leave, have always returned. Each year we get more 3rd graders from charter schools who enroll at Challenger. Our yearly projections increase, and are met each year.

One of the challenges we face is the fact that we are landlocked, and students are restricted in the amount of space they have for physical activity.

The following information on the community of Tamarac was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2012-2015.

The total population of Tamarac is 60,427. The city of Tamarac can expect enrollment to continue to remain at current levels according to the statistics from the 2010 Census Bureau. The Tamarac community has a higher high school graduation rate (90%) than the national average (85.0%), yet the community has a percentage of 25% for those holding a bachelor's or higher degree. This percentage is well below the national average of 29 percent. 11.4 percent of persons in Tamarac are in poverty which is below the national percentage of 14.8%. The average Tamarac household has 2.3 individuals in the family while the national average is 2.63.

Community Contexts

Tamarac covers 11.62 square miles in Broward County, which is 787.1 square miles in size. All the communities of southern Florida are well-served by a modern network of roads, rail, and air transportation. In addition, parents are active in the Broward County schools by participating in each school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Parent involvement has also been enhanced through the use of Pinnacle, an online portal that allows parents to view his/her child's grades, attendance, and discipline starting in middle school.

**School’s Purpose**

School’s Purpose

Educating children for the 21st century, so they will be able to compete in a global economy, enabling them to be productive citizens who embody our educational ideas worldwide.

School’s Mission

Challenger Elementary will provide a positive learning environment, which recognizes the importance of individual needs, and encourages community involvement. Challenger is committed to educating all students/staff to reach their highest potential.

School’s Vision

The vision of Challenger Elementary is aligned with the District’s vision. We are dedicated to educate today’s students and staff to succeed in tomorrow’s world.

**School’s Expectations**

Expectations for student success at Challenger Elementary are high. Our school is driven by the Florida Standards in an effort to close the achievement gap for all students. Our school community shares the belief and practice that all students can and will learn.

Our school's program, offers support to our vision and mission. The curriculum at Challenger is driven by technology rich classrooms that enhance student learning in all areas. Broward County’s CARE (Curriculum, Assessment, Remediation, Enrichment) plan is rooted in teachers’ planning. Journeys, Study Island, iReady, Reading Eggs, Aceceletics, Reflex Math, School City, Core Connections, and Accelerated Reader drive our reading and language arts instruction. Go Math, Flocabulary, Singapore Math, Multiplying through the Milky Way are our basic Math curriculum, which we supplement using Touch Math, Morning Math Madness, Calendar Math, Mountain Math, Soar to Success, and Study Island. For our reading intervention, we use the Journeys’ Write-in Reader, C-Palms, and Phonics for Reading to provide phonics instruction. In intermediate grades, we instruct using Author at Work and Journey Grammar practices for our writing curriculum. For enrichment, a variety of novels are utilized to support those students reading above grade level. In science, students have a weekly Science special, STEAM activities, daily instruction is driven by the county adoption series, StemScope, Fusion, and other sources to supplement their classroom curriculum.

**Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement**

Students created robots out of recyclable materials. This was the culmination of a project-based learning aimed at teaching core subject matter with meaningful activities that examine real world issues. The idea of project-based learning is that real-world problems capture students’ interest as the students acquire and apply new knowledge in a problem-solving context.

The Kiwanis K-Kids sponsored a project called "Have a Heart for Pets In Need" to benefit the Tri-County Humane Society, a no-kill animal shelter.  Staff and students donated 75 pounds of cat food and dog food.  The shelter was delighted to receive the donation.

In March the Kiwanis Kids were involved in spring planting as part of an environmental stewardship project. They planted 15 Ixora hedges to beautify the school.  In addition, in honor of Earth Day (April 22nd) the K-Kids will plant a tree on the school campus.

We are so fortunate to have the Kiwanis of Tamarac sponsor our school. Our Kiwanis K-Kids in fifth grade serve leadership roles with community outreach projects. As an act of kindness this year they will be collecting canned goods for Thanksgiving meals. K-Kids also sponsor our recycling project that involves collecting cell phones and rechargeable batteries. If you have any old cell phones that you would like to donate to this recycling project, please bring them to the front office where the recycling box is located.

Many positive changes occurred that have affected the school wide program. Challenger Elementary became a Cloud 9 school in 2014-2015. The school has experienced a shift toward providing more rigorous, differentiated instruction that is guided with current FSA data. Sustaining and accelerating academic achievement by providing ongoing support and training for instructional leaders will ensure that our students receive a quality education. Teachers are committed to employing researched based strategies and techniques to promote depth of knowledge and critical thinking skills. All classrooms are equipped with the latest technology such as Smart boards, Mimios, Promethean boards, computers, and computer assisted instruction programs to prepare students for the 21st century.

The main area Challenger is working to improve upon is parental involvement. This improvement is necessary if Challenger is to become what we envision, a school for the future success of our students. To facilitate parental involvement, the faculty called each family and personally invited them to our Back to School night.

In addition, we built relationships with our community partners and parents. Various activities such as Walmart Night, Barnes and Noble Night, Science Night, Math Night, Technology Night, and Harvest Festival are examples of community outreach by Challenger. The primary focus at Challenger is student achievement; as a result, Challenger is poised to make academic progress. In the short term, learning gains in reading, math, and science are an emphasis. In the long term, teachers are concentrating on increasing grade level proficiency. We are confident that with continued rigorous planning and instruction, Challenger will be an "A" school in the upcoming year.

Challenger Elementary (SES Band 4) is aiming to improve the proficiency quartile in each subject area. We are currently at 55% proficiency ELA, and 58% proficiency in Math. Our goal is to achieve the top scores for our SES Bands and district wide.

In the next three years our school is working on improving our BEST Practices, which are PLCs (Professional Learning Communities), RtI (Response to Intervention), and Community Relationships. For RtI, we have increased the amount of training that teachers are receiving in this area. We also established a system that involves each grade level having an RtI Liaison. This provides each grade level the opportunity to receive support when needed. We are working on improving communication with all stakeholders. It is currently being improved through SAC meetings and partnership meetings that are being held. We generate parent communication via our marquee, parent links, and campus newsletter.

**Additional Information**

The community has joined Challenger in helping to create an environment where children feel safe and comfortable. DonorsChoose Grants, Miami Dolphins’ Academy, and Lowe’s Grants have facilitated events in which various corporate members of the community have donated their time and talents. Other partners such as Walmart, Rotary Club, Nancy May, and Party City have contributed school supplies, computers, meals for needy students, and toys during the holiday season. In addition, a local artist named Michelle Morse is donating murals to beautify our school. The Green Thumb Garden Club has also taken the lead in creating a lush landscaping and organic garden. Other partners such as Horace Mann, Mass Mutual, and AXA Equitable have contributed their time, services, and monetary support. Teachers have honed their craft through the support of our Professional Learning Communities. In these sessions, among other activities, teachers perform action research to enhance their understanding of their individual classrooms, thereby improving their skills as instructors.