



Executive Summary

Deerfield Beach 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?

Deerfield Beach Middle is located on a 32-acre campus in the middle of Deerfield Beach. Our campus features two large class buildings, which house our sixth and eighth graders, as well as a series of modules, portables and smaller buildings including a Cafeteria, Chorus Room, Band Room, Aerobics Room, Physical Fitness room and Gymnasium. Our current enrollment is 1,151 students. Our demographics are as follows; 41% African American, 35% White, 22% Hispanic, 1% Asian and 1% Multicultural. Approximately 87% of our students are on Free or Reduced Lunch. The population for the city is 78,041 people; of which, 53% are white, 26% African American, 16% Hispanic, 2% Asian and 3% multiracial. The estimated per capita income is \$23,384 and the median household income is \$42,090. The median house or condo value is \$96,600. Our staff consists of the following demographics: 63% African American, 31% White and 7% Hispanic. During the past three years, our school has gone through a pretty drastic change in terms of leadership. Our Principal, Ms. Francine Baugh became the principal in 2012 and our three Assistant Principals were each hired within the past two years. One unique feature that is associated with the community that we serve is that we truly are a "community school." We are a community school because a high number of adults in our community actually attended Deerfield Beach Middle years ago and now their children attend the same school. Because of this, there is a great sense of pride in DBMS and our school plays a pivotal role in the city. One unique challenge we face is finding ways to involve our community who are not DBMS Alumni in our after-school & community events. In an effort to create a bond with these community members, we participate in every city sponsored event that is available and show our Buck pride every opportunity that we get.

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.

At DBMS, we are an International Baccalaureate (IB) school, which is designed for students in grades 6 to 8. It provides a framework of learning that encourages students to become creative, critical and reflective thinkers. The Middle Years Program (MYP) emphasizes intellectual challenge, encouraging students to make connections between their studies in traditional subjects and the real world. It fosters the development of skills for communication, intercultural understanding and global engagement--essential qualities for young people who are becoming global leaders. Our school embodies our vision of preparing our students for college and career readiness by offering a wide variety of high school courses to challenge our students and tailoring our elective schedule to meet the expectations and interests of our students. These opportunities allow our students to excel and become well-rounded individuals who are college and career focused. In every classroom, our students are pushed academically. We continually assess our students for academic mastery, then we create remediation and enrichment activities that specifically address the needs presented by the data.

VISION: Deerfield Beach Middle School will foster an environment of educational excellence, which will result in all students meeting and exceeding mastery of standards for college and career readiness.

MISSION: Deerfield Beach Middle School will provide all students with high-quality, rigorous and relevant instruction.

BELIEFS

- We believe all students can learn, and are capable of high achievement.
- We believe all students should learn in an organized and safe environment.
- We believe all students learn best in an environment that is engaging and students are actively involved in the learning process.
- We believe all students should be equipped with 21st Century skills to achieve success in college and career; therefore, all students must be taught to collaborate, think critically, apply knowledge, problem solve, communicate effectively and use technology as a tool for learning.
- We believe in preparing our students to be innovative thinkers and responsible citizens.
- We believe that all students should be respected and treated fairly, and celebrated for their success.
- We believe all students should receive high-quality instruction; therefore, teachers participate in professional development that directly impacts student achievement.
- We believe that instructional decisions should be based on student data; therefore, teachers will continuously monitor students' progress through formative assessments.
- We believe that high expectations must be maintained through a system of accountability for all students and staff.
- We believe in cultivating a relationship between students, teachers, administrators, parents and community by fostering open and direct communication and establishing trust and collaboration.

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.

In the past three years, we have seen significant gains in the amount of rigor that our students are exposed to in the classroom. Additionally, our teachers participate in weekly Professional Learning Communities where they share instructional practices and focus on research-based teaching strategies. Our Instructional Focus Calendars consist of five to six-week C.A.R.E cycles where students are taught the Curriculum, Assessed, taught Remediation & Enrichment. Several of our teachers facilitate professional development throughout the district for New Educators, Marzano, Gizmos and many other things. Last year, DBMS had the highest percentage of students who passed the Algebra and Geometry End of Course Exams (EOC) in the county. Over 99% of our students passed these exams, which earned the students high school credit while still in the 7th and 8th grade. We earned a School Grade "C" in the 2014-2015 school year and this year, we are looking forward to increasing our grade to an "A" or a "B." Our school is proud to have the reigning Broward County Public Schools Teacher of the Year, Ms. Nicole Brown and Social Studies Teacher of the Year, Ms. Heide Garrett. Moreover, we have great partnerships with non-profit organizations to provide programs for our students that equip them with social emotional learning skills, peer mentoring, adult mentoring and college tour field trips. We have partnerships with Big Brother Big Sister, Urban League, Jim Moran Foundation, JM Family, and ASP, which are all non-profit community based organizations.

Over the next three years, we would like to improve in our course offerings. Our goal is to add additional courses, programs and clubs in order to give all of our students an opportunity for them to apply what they are learning to authentic scenarios where they think critically and are challenged to be innovative. We feel that it is vital for students to feel a sense of belonging at their school, which will foster growth academically as well as socially and emotionally. We will add more advanced coursework and high school course options, which will help our advanced students to begin high school with some of the courses completed and provide them with the option of taking Advanced Placement courses and/or enroll in Dual Enrollment college courses. We would also like to offer on non-advanced students the opportunity to earn high-school credits while ensuring that they do not jeopardize their high-school GPA before they are ready to take on high school courses.

Additional Information

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

Deerfield Beach Middle provides our students with a high-quality education with a wide-variety of clubs, programs and sports that allow our students to truly feel like they belong. Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, we will increase our course options to include a new Social Studies track where students take American History as 6th graders, Civics in 7th grade and World Cultural Geography Honors for high school credit. Additionally, our advanced students will have the opportunity to take High School Algebra Honors, High School Geometry Honors, High School Biology Honors and High School Physical Science Honors. They will also take two years of High School World Language, Debate Honors and all of our students have a variety of options for their elective courses: Band, 2-D Art, Computer Technology, High School Introduction to Information Technology where students will earn Industry Certifications in Microsoft PowerPoint, Word and Excel, Aerobics, Team Sports and Weight Training. As an IB World School, our goal is to cultivate well-rounded learners who think globally and are constantly growing to meet the needs of our ever-changing world. We are striving for an "A" and we will continue making improvements to our programs, instructional plans, and support initiatives in order to reach our goals and meet the needs of all learners.