



# **Executive Summary**

**Sheridan Hills Elementary School**

**Broward County School District**

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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?**

Sheridan Hills Elementary School is a community school located in the East Hollywood Hills community of Broward County. This family-oriented community is mainly comprised of middle class families. The school is home to approximately 560 students, which consists of the following demographic make-up: 85% Caucasian, 10% African American, 3.33% Asian, 0.83% Indian and 0.83% Multiracial. There are 35 instructional staff members that are committed to serving our students on a daily basis. The majority of SHE teachers have been employed at the school for five or more years.

Sheridan Hills Elementary thrives on being an anchor for students, faculty and staff, alike. The school has not experienced many changes in the past three years. However, two years ago, we welcomed a new assistant principal, as the previous assistant principal was promoted to principal at a different school. Outside of those changes, the leadership team has remained in tack, and teacher mobility has remained relatively low at Sheridan Hills Elementary. In the past two years, two charter schools have opened in the east Hollywood neighborhood that houses Sheridan Hill's students. This led to a decrease in enrollment of approximately 70 students; however, many students return due to the familiarity and stability of Sheridan Hills.

The challenges Sheridan Hills currently faces does not differ from any other school in the county. We are adapting to the changes that came along with the new Florida standards and Florida Standards Assessment. Additionally, school-wide, we recognize the changes in the community. Not only at Sheridan Hills, but nationwide, there has been a change in the make- up of families, parents' workload and their ability to assist their students at home. For us, these challenges called for the need to adjust teaching methods and styles, in order to meet current student needs.

There are unique features to Sheridan Hills Elementary that will propel us towards meeting our challenges. In the academic realm, Sheridan Hills receives additional funding from the school district and it's business partners. Funding comes from the district for additional learning hours for students. Thus, Sheridan Hills Elementary has incorporated Extended Learning. This is an opportunity for all students grades 2-5 to receive an additional hour of learning, twice per week. Students remain with their classroom instructors and the focus is on academic skills that need to be addressed. Thus, small and whole group lessons are delivered based on the individual needs of students. In addition, Sheridan Hills has a strong Parent Teacher Organization that provides classroom teachers with mini-grants to assist them in obtaining classroom and enrichment materials.

## **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 Sheridan Hills Elementary, we believe that educating the whole child is top priority. This is evident in our school's mission, vision, and learner's creed.

Schools' Mission:

Sheridan Hills is committed to providing a stimulating, interesting, diversified, and relevant curriculum, designed to ensure that children reach their highest potential.

School's Vision:

Sheridan Hills supports the district's vision of educating today's students for tomorrow's world.

Expectations for student success at Sheridan Hills Elementary are high, as we are a 'college-bound' school. This is detailed in our school pledge:

I believe in myself and my ability,

To do my best at all times

Just for today I will listen,

I will think,

I will reason,

I will read,

I will write.

I will do all these things with one purpose in mind;

To prepare myself for college

To do my best and not waste this day,

For this day will come no more

To reinforce the vision and mission, students and teachers recite this pledge every morning on the morning announcements.

Sheridan Hills utilizes a reading curriculum that focuses on literature, informational text, and document-based questioning. These are coupled with the infusion of novel studies and print-rich classrooms at all grade levels, as the core reading curriculum. Foundations is utilized for reading intervention to provide additional support, such as phonics instruction. Novel studies support students reading at or above grade level.

Go Math is our basic mathematics curriculum. This is supplemented with online resources through BEEP, Khan Academy, Ten Marks, and i-Ready.

In science, instructors commit to weekly hands-on experiments, interactive clickers, and utilize science journals to support the science curriculum.

Sheridan Hills Elementary School is home to various ESE programs that are designed to meet the individual needs of students. Sheridan Hills offers a Gifted/ High Achieving class in the third, fourth and fifth grade levels. At Sheridan Hills, we are very fortunate to provide a variety

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of programs that meet students' various needs, included but not limited to specialized instruction, AM/ PM Speech, and PLACE.

## **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.**

Sheridan Hills Elementary prides itself on meeting the individual needs of students. Sheridan Hills has a strong RtI process where we identify students early and match the intervention to their area of need. Our Professional Learning Communities collaborate weekly to strive towards meeting the individual needs of students. These communities are formed to meet the differing needs of Sheridan Hills' students. These PLCs meet weekly to analyze data and enhance instruction.

Though we work diligently to meet the students's needs, we currently face the challenge of staying current with technology integration in the classroom. We will receive new technology from the SMART bond beginning in 2017.

Science has been an area we targeted for improvement. Sheridan Hills has declined in science performance, according to 2014 & 2015 FCAT 2.0 test results. In order to ensure that students are mastering the science standards, this year, we implemented weekly hands-on science labs and utilized Study Island computerized program to supplement our science instruction. Through monthly monitoring, we were able to adjust mid year and add team teaching as one of our science strategies.

## **Additional Information**

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

Sheridan Hills Elementary is home to many clubs and organizations that serve as enrichment for students of differing interests:

Our chorus consists of forty-eight 4th and 5th graders who are dedicated and disciplined in singing as a unit. Our goals are to ensure that students get a great experience through music, and singing different styles of vocal arrangements. Every year we host a successful winter and spring concert.

The Dance Club at Sheridan Hills has proven to be one of the most popular clubs in our school. There are two teams consisting of both girls and boys. Students learn school appropriate dances that show their excitement while teaching them discipline and respect for each other while dancing. They have performed off-campus and was a favorite at Hollywood Hills I Zone Open House. Also, both teams perform twice a year during the holidays and at the end of the year.

This year we will be hosting our 3rd annual oratorical contest. This contest grants our students the opportunity to present the art of rhythmical composition in spoken form. They get to perform for peers, parents, teachers, administrators, and other people in their community. The students continue to be excited about this contest because they have the pleasure to exhibit beautiful, imaginative, and elevated thoughts through verbal expressions. Every year there is a different theme, which aligns with our SHE mission. In 2013/14 school-year, our theme was "Bullying", our 2014/15 our theme was " College Bound," and this year "Super Heroes." In all, since everyone has different modes of learning and expressing ourselves, this is a wonderful way to give all students an opportunity to "SHINE." THIS BELONGS IN SECTION 4

Tuesday Night Live brings families, students, teachers, and community members together on a weekly basis. The media center is open every Tuesday from 4:30-6:30 for families to come and check out books, read, take Accelerated Reader tests and work on computer programs. Parents are able to network with teachers and other parents. Author Night, Fall Festival, Sunshine State Sleepover, and Dr. Seuss' Birthday Party are just some of the special events at Tuesday Night Live. Also, every child who attends receives a free book. It promotes a love of reading and literacy for our families at Sheridan Hills Elementary.

Sheridan Hills encourages scientific thinking through the SECME club. SECME is a strategic alliance to renew and strengthen, motivate and mentor students, and empower parents so that all students can learn and achieve at higher levels. This initiative focuses on Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). It culminates with the Science Olympiad in spring that combines these two philosophies into one event while focusing on STEM principles, as well as SECME competitions. Students are able to compete in mousetrap cars, water bottle rockets, banners, posters, essays, and team challenge.

Once a week, Sheridan Hills students interested in computer science meet to learn and practice computer science concepts. After learning new material, the students work together to gradually solve simple to more complex problems. Students trade solutions and programming tips. Our goal is to increase diversity in computer science by reaching students of all backgrounds where they are -- at their skill-level and in ways that inspire them to keep learning.



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