



Executive Summary

New Renaissance Middle 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?

New Renaissance Middle School (NRMS) is located in Miramar, FL serving students in grades six through eight. It is one of the three public middle schools in Miramar, with H.D. Perry Middle School to the east and Glades Middle School to the west, operated by Broward County Public Schools.

Our current enrollment is 908 students, consisting of 175 white students (19%), 669 black students (74%), 1 Pacific Indian student (0.1%), 39 (4%) Asian students, 22 (2%) Multi-racial students and 129 Hispanic students (14%). The number of classroom teachers totals 62.

Furthermore, 100 % of the teachers have been defined as Highly Qualified in their field. The ethnic breakdown of the instructional staff is 67% Black, 19% Hispanic, 18 % White, and 2% Asian. NRMS also employs one literacy coach, one media clerk, two guidance counselors, one social worker, one ESE program specialist, one technology specialist, and two paraprofessionals and unique aids.

NRMS is situated in the Southwest part of Broward County, within a primarily African-American residential community consisting mainly of working class families. Since the opening of the school in 2002, the percentage of students living in poverty has increased year after year. In 2002, the number of students on free or reduced lunch was 46%, compared to 86% for the 2015-2016 school year.

NRMS is a Title I school. Title I schools are schools that receive funding from the federal government due to the high percentage of students from low-income families. Due to their family financial situations, many of our students face many challenges academically. Many of our students, due to limited resources at home, are limited in their exposure to cultural and social experiences outside of their immediate community.

Although the school is located in a relatively new residential area, the high poverty rate affects the school readiness of students. Unlike other schools of poverty, the students and families at NRMS are impacted mostly by situational poverty as opposed to generational poverty. The high cost of living in the area places many families in a paycheck-to-paycheck financial situation. The loss of a job or life changing events places them in situational poverty. Many of our families are from the Caribbean, prior knowledge or school experiences differ from what the educational system is like in the U.S.A.

The steady increase in poverty has impacted student performance. Proficiency in reading and mathematics has steadily declined as the poverty rate increases. Recruiting and retaining highly effective teachers is an annual challenge. Student behavior causes many beginning teachers to leave. Realizing that pay is the same regardless of the socioeconomic status of a school, teachers choose to go to non-Title I schools. Despite the challenges, the NRMS does produce learning gains.

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.

NRMS is committed to providing all students a rigorous and challenging curriculum that is learning focused and standards based to ensure high school readiness upon completion of eighth grade. We believe that students and staff have the right to attend a safe and secure school where the focus is on academic success and personal growth within a positive learning environment. Our vision is to prepare students who are college and career ready through student mastery of the Florida Standards.

We believe every student deserves a quality education and has the ability to be successful academically. Classroom teachers and guidance counselors monitor the progress of our students closely. Students who struggle both academically and behaviorally are placed in the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). The state of Florida has adopted this model of strategies and accommodations to assist students. All students receive Tier I strategies to encourage academic success. When Tier I strategies are not sufficient, students are placed in Response to Intervention (RtI) and provided with more intense and / or more frequent accommodations. The accommodations are provided both in the classroom setting and through individual and small group instruction and counseling. The goal of MTSS is to ensure the success of all students.

NRMS provides students a rigorous and challenging curriculum. NRMS also offers many rigorous advanced classes and high school credit classes such as Algebra Honors, Biology, Geometry, and Spanish. Students are able to select from a variety of elective classes such as broadcasting, computer technology, computer science and programming, dance, band, creative writing, debate, and peer counseling.

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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 next three years, we strive to not only increase our student enrollment but also increase our student achievement, with the addition of our new academies and programs for the upcoming school year. NRMS is in the candidacy phase of becoming an IB/MYP School. This distinction will allow the school to continue to grow and develop students to be global learners. We are proud to also offer the following academies: Advanced Academy, Academy of Performing Arts, Academy of Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Success Academy. Through our new academies, we aim to provide the support to ensure each student reaches their academic and intellectual potential.

In the next three years, we aim to improve in the following areas:

1. Increase our student achievement in the following areas: ELA, Math, and Science.
2. Increase the number of eligible students taking High school credit classes, such as Biology, Algebra I, and Geometry.
3. Improve the public perception of our school, thus increase our student enrollment.

Over the past three years, New Renaissance Middle School has experienced a significant decline in student enrollment. The decline is a result of charter schools that have opened in the neighborhood. Administration will continue to use various strategies to market and promote NRMS through our elementary school visits, curriculum nights, and our school tours. On select Tuesdays, we host our "Touring Tuesdays" school tours. Parents and students interested in NRMS can tour the campus and visit classrooms while in session.

Our students earned various awards through their participation in district academic competitions such as the Social Studies fair, Science Fair, Foreign Language and Literary Fair. The New Renaissance Middle dance program continues to grow and earn accolades in the community and is especially honored to have the 2014 Broward County Arts for Dance Teacher of the Year as their current dance teacher. Our current Peer Counselor teacher was also honored and named the KAPOW 2015 Teacher of the Year. KAPOW, Kids and the Power of Work, seeks to inspire and educate our students about working and working through partnerships among businesses and communities. Our Peer Counselor students work closely with our community participating in various food drives and have partnered with KAPOW, Kids and the Power of Work.

In 2015, New Renaissance Middle implemented a PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System) program that focuses on improving student behavior. Students are able to earn points for exhibiting the following target behaviors: wearing their student ID, adhering to unified dress code, being on time to school and class, and exhibiting the Character Trait of the Month. The students use the points earned to redeem various school spirit items such as hoodies, shirts, water bottles, and bags from our Cavalier Store.

Additional Information

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

New Renaissance Middle is one of the many middle schools in Broward County that is an innovative program school. It is currently has a Performing Arts Program, offering dance, band, and creative writing. Since NRMS is a Performing Arts Innovative Program School, students are provided with experiences in dance, instrumental music, creative writing with a focus on spoken word, and video production. The students are engaged in a rigorous study of stage performance, video production and music appreciation. The students are exposed to exceptional artists, professional artistic performances through various field trips and experiences outside the classroom.

There are many extracurricular programs offered at New Renaissance. Many of these extracurricular activities include many clubs and sports such as basketball, soccer, volleyball, creative writing club, Future Educators of America, and ASPIRA, to name a few. NRMS also offers many rigorous advanced classes and high school credit classes such as Algebra Honors, Biology, Geometry, and Spanish. Students are able to select from a variety of elective classes such as broadcasting, computer technology, computer science and programming, dance, band, creative writing, debate, and peer counseling.