



## **Executive Summary Template School Accreditation 2018-2019**

The Executive Summary (ES) provides the school an opportunity to describe in narrative form its vision as well as strengths and challenges within the context of continuous improvement. Use this template to complete the responses to the various questions below. The responses should be brief, descriptive, and appropriate for the specific section. Transfer completed narratives into the corresponding sections of the Executive Summary found online in ASSIST.

### **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?

Heron Heights is located in **Parkland**, which is an affluent city in Northwest Broward County, where zoning laws are designed to protect the "park like" character of the city. Initially, there were no stores or traffic lights in Parkland, though this changed in the early 2000s. As of the 2010 census, the population of Parkland was 23,962. The school was constructed in 2007 as relief for Park Trails Elementary & Riverglades Elementary also in Parkland. It was constructed in 2007 with a capacity of 960 Students, including Kindergarten, Primary and Intermediate classrooms, Administration Suite, Media Center, Kitchen, Cafeteria, Multi-Purpose Spaces, Teacher Planning Area, Student and Staff Restrooms, Art and PE Spaces, Parking, Bus Loop and Covered Parent Drop Off Area, Playfields and Play Courts. The facility includes "green" features utilizing Solar Panels for the Multi-Purpose Spaces. The parking lot lighting also utilizes Solar Power.

Growing population in the Parkland community is directly related to the student population growth at HHE. For the last 10 years student enrollment has surpassed projection each year. To meet the demand of students moving into Parkland, additional classroom spaces were added to the school for the 2016-2017 school year. The school's projections for the next five years show overall growth. For 2017-18 the projected enrollment was 1125 students, 2018-19 1144 students, 2019-2020 1154 students, 2020-21 1200 students and 2021-22 1225 students. This will take the school over its capacity for the next 5 years.

Demographics at the school have been consistent over the last 10 years. White has always been the majority ethnic group. The past two years the Hispanic/Latino student ethnic group has been on the rise at HHE. For the 2018-19 school year only 8% of the students are eligible for Free/Reduced lunch, one of the lowest in the district. Additionally, 60% of the students are White, 22% are Hispanic, 11% are Asian, 3% are African American, and 3% are Multiracial.

Due to increased enrollment at Heron Heights Elementary and the neighboring Park Trails Elementary in 2013 the School Board of Broward County changed the boundary scenario for both schools to equal out enrollment at both schools. Presently, all elementary students residing in the combined Heron Heights Elementary and Park Trails Elementary attendance area

have the opportunity to request either school for the school year. Parents indicate their preference by completing a Choice Option Area application. Current elementary school students may remain at their current school until they reach the sixth grade. All students who are not currently attending their desired school may indicate their preference by submitting the attached application. Siblings will be guaranteed placement in the same school. Following sibling placement, all remaining seats, pending availability, will be filled through parent application, giving geographic priority based on the 2013-2014 Heron Heights Elementary and Park Trails Elementary attendance areas.

## **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.

The mission of Heron Heights Elementary is to provide an innovative teaching and learning environment that will empower the school community to excel in the 21st century. The school's vision is based on tenants laid out by the School Board of Broward County. The Heron Heights Elementary School Community believes that: All students will learn when their individual needs are met; Positive stakeholder involvement enhances student achievement; Learning is a lifelong process; Everyone must be held to the highest ethical standards to achieve excellence; Every student has a right to a high-quality educational option; Everyone must contribute to and be held accountable for student achievement; Engaged families combined with highly effective teachers and school leaders are the core components of a successful school; Students must be prepared as innovative thinkers and responsible citizens to compete in a global economy; An equitable education provides all necessary resources to meet student needs; and Positive character education is essential to whole child development.

### **Multiage At Heron Heights**

In 2012 HHE began multiage classes. These classes were drafted on the model used at other schools in the district and Montessori Education. Multiage classes are created when children of different ages and grade levels are intentionally combined in a single classroom to realize academic and social benefits. Multiage is an option for HHE families, who may choose between multiage and a traditional single year classrooms. Heron Heights offers K/1 and 2/3 multiage classes. A student that enters in Kindergarten would remain in the same class for First Grade, becoming an "older" as the new Kindergartners arrive. Students become role models, showing the "youngers" the ropes and developing at their own pace. Our multiage classes are run like families and are taught by teachers who believe that children learn as much from their peers as they do their teacher. Lasting friendships, differentiated instruction, and an understanding of how children learn makes multiage a great option for Heron Heights families that you can't find just anywhere.

During the 2012/13 school year we created a looping class with two kindergarten teachers. Students looped with those teachers to first grade. The looping option was designed for parents who wanted consistency in the two foundational years with the same teacher and students. This option provides opportunity for increased and enhanced social development and academic performance. As with the multiage program, students develop and maintain lasting friendships,

receive differentiated instruction, and teachers have a deep understanding of how students learn.

### **ACCEL and Gifted Classes at Heron Heights**

Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) options at Heron Heights are educational options that provide academically challenging curriculum or accelerated instruction to eligible students in kindergarten through grade 5. ACCEL options include whole-grade and midyear promotion; subject-matter acceleration; virtual instruction in higher-grade level subjects. Additional ACCEL options include, but are not limited to, enriched science, technology, engineering, and mathematics coursework; enrichment programs and flexible grouping.

Heron Heights has a district-approved model or models for gifted education, in grades Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Gifted services are not limited to curriculum and learning environment. Services must be differentiated based on the individual needs of the students. Gifted students at each grade level should be concentrated within the same classroom(s) to insure they have substantial time in academic content with their intellectual peers. Gifted content instruction that is prescribed by the individual gifted student's Educational Plan (EP) is designed and delivered by a gifted endorsed teacher. HHE has over 177 students presently identified.

### **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.

Since opening 10 years ago the HHE has received a letter grade of "A" as designated by the Florida School Accountability System. During the last 10 years the school has averaged 83% proficiency in Reading/ELA in grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> as it relates to the Florida standardized assessment tests. The Math average during this same period has been 85% proficiency. Writing has had an average of 78% over the same time period and science 75% proficiency.

Writing has been an ongoing work in progress at the school. In the 2015-2016 school year the Lucy Calkins Units of Study was implemented Kdg-5<sup>th</sup> grade. This program helps teach opinion/argument, information, and narrative writing with increasing complexity and sophistication by unpacking standards as you guide students to attain and exceed those expectations. It fosters high-level thinking, including regular chances to synthesize, analyze, and critique and develops and refines strategies for writing across the curriculum. The program provides a ladder of exemplar texts that model writing progressions across grade levels, K-8 and gives teachers opportunities to teach and to learn teaching while receiving strong scaffolding and on-the-job guidance.

### **Additional Information**

#### **Heron Heights Elementary School Garden**

Our garden began with one tomato, the tomato lover's tomato! Each student took 1 seed out. We let them dry and planted them in little pots of organic soil. We learned that not all seeds grow. Out of 19 seeds, 14 grew into seedlings that we planted in big 45 gallon pots. We also planted radishes, green beans, carrots and yard long beans. We have been writing our observations in our individual Plant Journals. The weather has been unusually cold, wet and windy for this time of year. We noticed that our green bean plants in the windier spot have not grown as tall or are as green as the ones in the more sheltered spot. Next week we will be picking our first crop: radishes... and won't the kids be surprised when they see that some are spheres and some are cylinder shapes. Presently, our tomato plants have yellow flowers and green tomatoes. Our green bean plants have pink flowers. Our yard long beans have white flowers. I can't wait to see the look of surprise when the students pick the carrots... they are rainbow colored carrots! Have you heard of Nature Deficit Disorder? We don't want our students to develop that. We want to instill a love of nature and the miracle of life in them.

## **Recycling**

For students at Heron Heights Elementary being green is starting to become a way of life. Every day students and staff at HHE work very hard to reduce, reuse and recycle. The students at HHE reuse recycled materials in their artwork; bring reusable water containers to school and every Friday afternoon they recycle! Each week two students from every class bring their weeks recycling in a blue bin full of paper and plastic to the cafeteria where they are met by Mr. Hector Acevedo, head custodian and Anne Reutershan, Speech-Language Pathologist. Students and staff check for any contamination and then students place the recycling into larger recycling bins. School staff then place the paper and plastic into the HHE recycling dumpster, so it can be recycled and never see a landfill.