



Executive Summary for Sunrise Middle School

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.

Description

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?

Sunrise Middle School, located in Broward County, currently serves approximately 1,047 students in grades 6–8. The school community is richly diverse, reflecting a wide range of cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Student demographics include 18.5% White (194 students), 50% Black/African American (524 students), 25.2% Hispanic (264 students), 4.3% Multi-Racial (45 students), 1.8% Asian or Pacific Islander (19 students), and 0.2% American Indian or Alaskan Native (1 student).

Over the past three years, Sunrise Middle has experienced shifts in enrollment patterns as well as staffing adjustments to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of its population. The community it serves includes families from varied socioeconomic backgrounds, with many students qualifying for Title I support. This presents both opportunities for innovation and challenges in ensuring equitable access to high-quality instruction and resources.

Unique features of the school include strong magnet and advanced academic offerings, extracurricular programs, and partnerships that enrich student learning. At the same time, the school continues to navigate challenges such as addressing learning gaps, supporting English Language Learners and Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students, and fostering family engagement in a community with diverse needs.

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 purpose of Sunrise Middle School is to cultivate a culture of mindfulness that empowers every student to achieve their highest potential. This commitment is grounded in the school's mission to promote positivity, respect, integrity, determination, and excellence. The vision of Sunrise Middle School is to instill FALCON traits—Family, Achievement, Leadership, College and Career Readiness, Optimism, and Nobility—within the school community, ensuring that students are prepared academically, socially, and emotionally for future success.

The school's values and beliefs are reflected in its daily practices and expectations. Programs and instructional offerings are designed to align with the mission and vision. For example, advanced coursework and high school credit opportunities in Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, and World Languages support the value of Achievement and College and Career Readiness. Leadership development is fostered through student government, athletics, and extracurricular clubs, which reflect the values of Leadership and Optimism. The Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework, represented through the FALCON PRIDE program, reinforces respect, responsibility, and noble character while cultivating a safe and supportive environment.

Through these structures and expectations, Sunrise Middle School embodies its purpose by equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and character necessary to thrive in high school, college, careers, and as engaged members of their community.

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.

Over the past three years, Sunrise Middle School has continued to build on its nationally recognized Montessori Magnet program while expanding equitable access to rigorous instruction for all 1,047 students. The Montessori Magnet continues to thrive with project-based learning, a two-teacher instructional model, and integration of critical thinking, leadership development, and community service. Students benefit from enrichment opportunities such as field studies, student-led conferences, and advanced coursework, which foster independence, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

In addition to the Magnet, the entire school has embraced Project-Based Learning (PBL) as a framework for equitable instruction. By embedding PBL in both magnet and non-magnet classrooms, Sunrise Middle ensures that all students experience authentic, hands-on learning that develops communication, collaboration, and critical thinking. This approach has strengthened student engagement and contributed to higher proficiency levels in Civics and ELA, particularly among students who participated in Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) and targeted interventions.

The school has also made significant progress in expanding advanced academic offerings, including Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, and World Languages, providing students the opportunity to earn high school credit before leaving middle school. Student leadership and culture have been enhanced through the FALCON PRIDE program, athletics, clubs, and peer mentoring, promoting positivity, respect, integrity, determination, and excellence across the campus.

Challenges over the last three years have included addressing persistent achievement gaps for Lowest Quartile (LQ)

students, particularly in reading comprehension, as well as ensuring consistent implementation of Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions. Staffing transitions and enrollment fluctuations also created challenges in maintaining program continuity.

Areas for Improvement in the Next Three Years

Looking ahead, Sunrise Middle School is focused on three key priorities:

1. **Closing Achievement Gaps** – Strengthening literacy instruction and cross-curricular supports to raise proficiency levels for students in the Lowest Quartile and English Language Learners, with particular attention to the connection between reading skills and Civics/History achievement.
2. **Expanding College & Career Readiness** – Increasing access to high school credit courses, technology certification programs, and career exploration pathways to ensure all students leave prepared for future academic and professional success.
3. **Building Teacher Capacity & Retention** – Investing in professional learning communities, coaching cycles, and data-driven instructional practices to improve consistency of Tier 1 instruction while supporting teacher retention in high-need subject areas.
4. **Enhancing Family & Community Engagement** – Strengthening SAC, PTSA, and community partnerships to ensure families remain active stakeholders in the school’s improvement process, while creating more opportunities for student-led community service and leadership.

Through these improvement priorities, Sunrise Middle School remains committed to its mission of fostering mindfulness and its vision of instilling the FALCON traits—Family, Achievement, Leadership, College and Career Readiness, Optimism, and Nobility—through every program and expectation.

Additional Information

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

Sunrise Middle School takes pride in being more than a place of learning; it is a community that nurtures the whole child. Beyond academics, the school fosters a culture of mindfulness, leadership, and inclusivity through its FALCON PRIDE initiative, extracurricular programs, and community partnerships. Students are encouraged to embody the FALCON traits—Family, Achievement, Leadership, College and Career Readiness, Optimism, and Nobility—both inside and outside the classroom.

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In addition to rigorous academic offerings, Sunrise Middle provides a wide range of enrichment opportunities,

including athletics, performing arts, technology certifications, and service-learning projects. These experiences equip students with the skills to thrive in high school, college, careers, and civic life. The school also places a strong emphasis on family engagement, hosting parent nights, cultural celebrations, and advisory council meetings that ensure stakeholders have a voice in the decision-making process. Through these efforts, Sunrise Middle School continues to strengthen its bond with the community while preparing students to be compassionate leaders and responsible citizens.

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