



Executive Summary for Mary M. Bethune Elementary 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?

Mary M. Bethune Elementary is a Broward County Magnet school in Hollywood, Florida. Our school is home to 314 students. In the current 2025-26 school year, this figure includes 74 Head Start and Early Head Start students enrolled. This school year is the 10th year of the TurnAround Arts Initiative through the Obama Administration's President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. Because of this program, our school has seen significant changes in the focus and delivery of instruction. SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS Bethune Elementary School of the Arts currently has 79 Head Start students. Of this number, white students comprise 15 Head Start students and 14 K-5 students, black students comprise 54 Head Start, and 246 K-5, Hispanic students comprise 14 Head Start students and 78 K-5 students. Currently there are 32 male students in Head Start and 171 male students in K-5 students. There are 40 female students in Head Start and 189 K-5 female students. There are 5 multi-racial students in Head Start. Out of the total students approximately 171 are considered magnet students. BETHUNE COMMUNITY A decline has also been attributed to neighborhood redevelopment, which has raised neighborhood rents and forced some of our families out of Broward County. Our community is in a predominantly lower socioeconomic area where most families are working. Many times, extended relatives care for the students coming to our school. Many of our students walk to and from school or ride the bus. BETHUNE CHANGES Bethune Elementary, School of the Arts, has had principal, Latosha Williams, as its head for the last 9 years. In 2014-15, our school was selected by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities to be a part of the TurnAround Arts Initiative. Through this initiative our staff has been afforded the opportunity to increase their professional development by learning strategies in which the teachers can integrate arts instruction into the regular academic curriculum in an effort to

improve student's academics and engagement. Our performing arts teachers assist with this initiative by

pushing into the classrooms daily to help them integrate arts instruction into the daily lessons. Our instructional and support staff along with the administrative team have participated in more than 15 before and after school professional developments. Staff have also participated on Saturday professional developments on arts integration as well as instructional strategies and classroom management techniques.

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.

Our vision is to provide a creative learning experience that cultivates character and provides a rigorous curriculum in a safe, secure environment. Our mission is to provide a personalized learning experience for all students with a rigorous curriculum that builds towards college and career readiness preparing students to become global citizens. Our school provides creative learning experiences to our students in many ways. Time is allotted in the daily schedule for the performing arts teachers to provide push-in arts integration into the classrooms. Each Performing Arts Specialist has been assigned a grade level in which they push into the classroom to assist the classroom teacher in utilizing his/her specialty to deliver the content curriculum by infusing music, dance, arts, and drama in all K-5 classrooms. Our students participate in a Performing Arts schedule each day. K-2 students are on a rotation schedule in which they receive instruction from art, band, strings, drama, dance, and Spanish throughout the week. Students in grades 3-5 select a Performing Arts special that they are taught in-depth throughout the year. These same students participate in many performances in which they are able to demonstrate what they have learned. Through our FOCUS 5 and Conscious Discipline school initiatives, we are working towards improving our school culture using these character building and behavior change programs. Our school stakeholders are being provided with hands-on training which targets both the school's character building and student behavior goals. School staff members have taken several training courses this year to learn how to use these programs with our students. Our school provides a rigorous curriculum in with all student's individual needs being met. Our teachers use the Benchmark Standards as a guide for curriculum delivery. This year, Bethune Elementary also began the use of novel studies in Grades 3-5. Through these novel studies, science and social studies curriculum are infused and integrated into the reading block. Many resources are used to provide instruction to implement the Florida Standards that each student needs to master. Continuous data is obtained to track student performance and identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas of growth. Students are provided a personalized learning experience in diverse ways. Teachers provide differentiated learning experiences in each classroom. Gifted/High Achieving classes are provided to those students that qualify for this service. Low achieving students are provided additional assistance through reading and ESE pullout and push-in programs. ELO (Extended Learning Opportunities) services are provided to students in need of intervention services throughout the week.

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.

Our school has seen a large reduction in absenteeism for both students and teachers. We have seen a reduction in referred offenses by students. Teachers have been able to participate in numerous training and staff developments resulting in improved teacher practices. Morale has improved this year as a result of the above. Teachers have been trained on data tracking practices and are better able to meet and monitor individual student academic and behavior needs. AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT: Based on the FAST 2024-2025 results, our ELA Grade 3 Proficiency was 48%. In ELA for grades 3-5 our proficiency was 51%. Our ELA Learning Gains was 59%. Our ELA Lowest Quartile Learning Gains was 55%. Our MATH proficiency in grades 3-5 was 62%. Our Math Learning Gains was 63%. Our Math Lowest Quartile Learning Gains was 46%. In Science our proficiency was 48%. Our goal in the primary grades is for students to enter intermediate grades with foundational skills mastered. We want our intermediate students leaving with grade level mastery and being exposed to more enrichment, than remediation. Our mission to decrease student misbehavior has been one of our major focus this year. Student achievement increases by having a productive learning environment and teaching standard-based instruction. To improve this area at our school this year, teachers are currently being trained using the CHAMPS Program.

Additional Information

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

Many of our students come to Mary M. Bethune Elementary, being below grade level. The pandemic caused a lot of attendance concerns in the past years. We are pleased to progress in areas such as student attendance and overall academics. Our performing arts program is ready to start performances. Our 3rd through 5th grade students have experienced performances throughout the district and community such as: 3rd through 5th grade Band and Strings students performed for passengers and guests at the Hollywood International Airport December -4th and 5th grade Strings students were invited to perform at the Florida Symphony -3rd through 5th grade students on the dance team demonstrated dance talents at the Broward County yearly Gifted symposium -Kindergarten through 3rd grade students in the Visual Arts classes displayed student artwork throughout the City of Hollywood as well as our neighboring city of Dania Beach. During the 2024-25 school year our students in grades 3-5 were able to participate in a Triathlon Academic Competition which led to an eventful community night culminating with an intense, yet memorable Spelling Bee Competition. In addition, we have developed intervention programs in place to bridge our identified areas of academic gaps. The programs consist of: -UFLI, Instructional Pathways, Heggerty, Reading Pal -S.I.P.P. S (Systematic, New Worlds Reading Initiative), -I-Ready, and -Write Score.

