



Executive Summary for McNicol Middle Magnet and STEM 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?

McNicol Middle School consists of approximately 500 students. The school's demographics include 72% African American, 26% Hispanic, 5% White, 3% Multiracial, and 1% Asian. The school is located in the heart of Hollywood, Florida. Our community has three feeder schools: Lake Forest Elementary, Watkins Elementary, and Colbert Elementary. We are a Title I school in a predominantly urban area. We have 36 teachers and a total of 70 staff members. McNicol is the proud recipient of being recognized as a Magnet School of America of Excellence. A culture of high expectations drives us, as our vision is to create high school-ready and college-bound students. In a world as diverse as the one we live in, it is essential that our diverse student population has the opportunity to learn and grow not only academically but also in their understanding of the diverse community they are part of. This is also reflected in our staff, who work diligently every day to support our students' growth. Our faculty demographics reflect the beauty of diversity and embody the ideals of a community school.

As a neighborhood school, we benefit from the support and engagement of a diverse range of local organizations and businesses. Their involvement and contributions have helped provide student incentives, outside resources, and information to parents and community members, as well as support the development of a network system that the school can continue to grow with to enhance the great community we are so proud to be a part of.

We strive to engage parents in information sessions, trainings, and extended learning opportunities outside of school hours, providing valuable opportunities to innovate and strengthen our community connections. By finding creative solutions, we can enhance participation and make these sessions even more beneficial for everyone involved! As a Magnet and STEM school, we strive to ensure that all students have comparable access to supplemental learning opportunities during school hours. To address the apparent learning gaps for our students, we also offer extended learning opportunities that allow students to participate in additional learning activities.

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.

Whether a part of our magnet program or our mainstreamed classes, students at McNicol Middle School are preparing to become high school-ready and college-bound! With a staff committed to excellence, a rigorous curriculum, and an inviting culture created for genuine 21st-century students. Our mission speaks to us "providing a quality education that will meet the needs of all students in a safe learning environment," and such commitment supports our vision of "striving for excellence in preparing the high school-ready, college-bound student."

Student learning is always the priority as we engage our students in rigorous academic activities. As a Magnet institution, we take pride in our ability to offer specialized opportunities to those who demonstrate a thriving curiosity in fields of interest supported by our program. This advanced academic program is for students who plan to continue their engineering, science, mathematics, architecture, or technology education.

McNicol Middle School Magnet Programs, which include STEM, Science and Pre-Engineering, and International Affairs & Business courses, are designed to complement a rigorous academic program. Students in these programs engage in hands-on, project-based learning that incorporates creativity, teamwork, and activities within 21st-century classrooms. Students in this program will take advanced science classes in grades 6, 7, and 8. Along with the science curriculum, students will be in advanced math, language arts, social studies, and reading. The science electives have been designed to enhance the learning experience by offering a hands-on, project-based curriculum, including: Advanced IT, Exploratory Aerospace Technology, Exploratory Robotics Technology & Career Planning, Exploratory Engineering Technology & Career Planning.

REQUIREMENTS

For acceptance in the Pre-Engineering program, 5th-grade students must score a level 3 or higher on both their Reading and Mathematics F.A.S.T. Progress Monitoring assessments.

To remain in the program, students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5, students need to maintain a minimum of a "C" in their magnet-themed classes, and students are expected to maintain positive behavior as outlined in the student code of conduct.

Students can earn two high school credits for World Languages. Courses incorporate high school textbooks and ancillary materials such as CD tutors, online textbooks, and workbooks. Teachers have access to classroom computers and utilize the latest technologies, including Promethean (smartboard), e-reader tablets, iPads, and computer labs.

The Magnet program students take advanced Math, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies classes. Students may also be enrolled in Computer Technology, where they learn computer skills, give presentations, conduct research, and practice word processing (including typing skills and iMovie). A series of computer/IT classes, spanning grades

6-8, will guide students through the curriculum, equipping them with 21st-century skills. Students will also participate in the Broward School District World Languages Competition through art, media, games, and plays.

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.

McNicol Middle STEM and Magnet School is an institution that has earned a "C" status, as determined by the Florida Department of Education. We will continue to advance our school's Vision and Mission, as well as our District's Strategic Plan, while implementing, reflecting on, and modifying (as necessary) our action steps to further student achievement.

Through our exciting partnership with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, McNicol Middle is proud to offer Pre-Engineering courses that expose students to cutting-edge STEM opportunities. One highlight of this program is our Drones course, where students explore the technology, applications, and skills needed in this rapidly growing field. In addition, we offer a wide array of electives designed to spark curiosity and prepare students for the future, including Robotics, Dance, Culinary Careers, Financial Literacy, and Law Studies. These unique offerings reflect our commitment to providing students with engaging, real-world learning experiences that prepare them for high school, college, and beyond.

McNicol Middle has improved to being recognized as a Magnet School of Excellence, after being a Magnet School of Distinction for the last three years prior, and has been awarded multiple grants from community-focused organizations, such as Franklin Covey Education, State Farm and the Broward Education Foundation.

We are working to increase the number of students taking High School credit courses such as Geometry, Algebra, and Spanish by infusing additional learning opportunities and support at the sixth-grade level. A further area of focus for improvement over the next three years is our desire to increase the growth and proficiency of students in reading and mathematics. Moreover, the Response to Intervention (RtI) process at McNicol will continue to be an area of focus, with the goal of streamlining the process to serve better the needs of our students who are not yet proficient in math and reading. The school uses common formative assessments (CFAs) via web-based programming to track and monitor student data. Teachers, administrators, and coaches meet bi-weekly to conduct data chats and modify instruction based on results. We will continue this process; however, by analyzing stakeholder feedback and data, we will modify our approach to increase the timeliness of data chats and working Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). This modification will enable students to self-assess their learning needs and become more active participants in their own growth.

Additional Information

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

McNicol Middle School is proud to announce that we are now a **Leader in Me School**. This powerful, research-based framework equips students with essential life skills such as responsibility, goal-setting, teamwork, and effective communication. By incorporating the **7 Habits of Highly Effective People** into daily practice, our students are empowered to take ownership of their learning, develop strong character, and grow as confident leaders both inside and outside the classroom. We have most recently been recognized as a Silver State Positive BIS Model School

In addition, McNicol is committed to supporting the whole child through our **Wellness Center**, which houses **two full-time counselors and one social worker**. This dedicated team focuses on the social and emotional well-being of our students by providing counseling, conflict resolution, and proactive support services. Together, the Leader in Me framework and our Wellness Center ensure that McNicol students are not only academically prepared, but also socially and emotionally equipped to thrive.

Unity for Teens is our current extended-day learning program. Twelve additional instructional hours are added each week. It is strongly academically based but also includes an enrichment component that addresses life skills and the social needs of our students through various enrichment activities. McNicol is organizing additional extended learning opportunities that will take place after school. These programs will target students who are near proficiency, those who have demonstrated proficiency but did not achieve the required level on the FAST, and finally, groups of students who qualify for enrichment through added rigor based on their consistently high performance levels.