



Executive Summary for Driftwood 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?

Driftwood Middle School is a Health and Wellness Magnet School located in southeast Broward County in the city of Hollywood, Florida. The median age in the 33024 zip code is 37 years old with an average household size of 2.67. The median household income is \$54, 251. According to the 2019 census, 68% identified as White, 18% as Black, and 39% as Hispanic. 56% of the houses are occupied by owners, 34% by renters. Of all households in the area, 35% have children under the age of 18 years old and 7% are fathers only. 20% are mothers only. Non-family households are 30% of the population.

As of July 2025, Driftwood student count is 885. More than half of the population identifies as Hispanic. Driftwood is designated as a Title 1 school based on the number of families that qualify for free/reduced school lunch. In the past three years DMS has experienced a decrease in student population due to negative population growth and the construction of neighborhood charter schools. Increasing parent engagement will continue to be a priority, as well as implementing positive behavior interventions to decrease school disciplinary infractions.

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.

Driftwood Middle School is a Magnet Academy of Health and Wellness. Our mission is to empower students by integrating problem solving techniques and improving interpersonal skills. The Driftwood School Community is comprised of students, staff, parents, and business partners who work together to promote positive choices and behavior while cultivating life-long learners. The comprehensive magnet curriculum is

designed to promote exercise, good nutrition, and healthy lifestyles to ensure student achievement and help students realize their academic potential in a safe environment. Philosophy of Driftwood Middle School Driftwood Middle School strives to provide a program that will allow each child to develop to his/her fullest potential. The middle school child is valued for what he/she is: A pre-adolescent emerging from childhood in diverse stages, commonly awkward and insecure, often influenced by peer pressure, sometimes facile and adept, frequently concerned with self-assessment, occasionally amazed by newly-developing powers, constantly in need of appropriate opportunities for exploration and ventures, usually in need of opportunities for trial and error in situations where error is acceptable and values are developing, and at times surprisingly capable of adult behavior and responses. Only under the direction of teachers with ambition, sensitivity, integrity, empathy, compassion, and the ability to relate to children, can a program, which will meet the school's objectives, be ensured. Teachers recognize the nature of the transcendent child in a democratic child in a democratic society who has knowledge of subject matter and self that they can present innovative and flexible programs. Driftwood Middle School is recognized as an integral part of the community and strives to offer a variety of programs that will meet the needs of the many sectors of the community. It is important that there is articulation among all elements of the educational programs and services that take place within this community center. Sensitivities, self-awareness, acceptance, and emotions are not limited to the preadolescent. An atmosphere of positive reinforcement, respect, and understanding is needed among the school staff and community members in order to create a comfortable and enjoyable environment that will result in an efficient and effective program.

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.

2024 Magnet School of Distinction
2024 Miami Heat "How Low Can You Go" Winners
2024 No Place for Hate School
2023 Magnet School of Distinction
2022 Magnet School of Distinction
2022 Awarded the Verizon Innovative Learning Grant
2021 Miami Heat "How Low Can You Go" Winners
2016 American Heart Association Fit Friendly Award
2015 Tools for Schools Energy Reduction Award-\$1500.00

2015 Sustainable Florida Partnership Award
2015 Sustainable Florida Leadership Award 2015 Sustainable Florida Community Project Award
2015 SHAPE Florida Physical Education Teacher of the Year(L Gancitano)
2015 Recycling Rocks District Video Challenge \$500.00
2015 Recognized by White House for a Champion of Change (L Gancitano)
2015 National Heart Healthy Award from the American Heart Association
2015 Integrated Curriculum P3 District Award
2015 Healthier Generations Award
2015 Emerald Award 2015 American Heart Association Fit Friendly Award
2014 Tools for Schools Energy Award-\$1500.00
2014 Recycle Rocks District Video Contest 2014 P3 Sustainability School Award
2014 P3 Environmental Teacher of the Year (C Dietz) 2014 Green Difference Award-Outstanding School
Led Project-Energy 2014 Florida Green Schools Teacher of the Year(L Gancitano)
2014 Florida Green Schools Sustainability Award
2014 Fitness Gram Grant 2013 US DOE Green Ribbon Award in Washington D.C
2013 Tools for Schools Award-Awarded a \$1500.00 check for being the Top Middle School in Broward to
reduce CO2 emissions 2013 Siemen's We Can Change the World Finalist(Green Team)
2013 P3 District Environmental School Award
2013 Broward County Award winning Public Broadcasting Announcement Video Contest " Recycle ,Reduce,
and Reuse PBA video 2012 Project Perch –Live Web Camcorder of our Burrowing owls
2012 Acknowledged School of Excellence for the National Green Ribbon Award
2012-2013 Florida Green School Award for Middle Schools
2012 1st school to do artificial burrow for Owls (Audubon and National Fly Way Coalition)

Additional Information

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

Driftwood Middle School is currently a B rated school. It had been a C schools for 2 years and previously a B rated school for three years before and an A rated school for thirteen years before since the inception of the grading scale (1999). Driftwood has been recognized on the local, state, and national level for our wellness initiatives.