



Executive Summary for New River Middle

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?

Situated in the heart of south Fort Lauderdale, New River Middle Magnet School serves just over 1,600 students in grades 6-8 within Broward County Public Schools. Students from this target school are pulled from multiple municipalities that include Ft. Lauderdale, Davie, Dania Beach, and unincorporated Broward County. School boundaries create a catchment area that encompasses six zip-codes and over 20 census tracts. New River is a school-wide Title 1 program with 83% of the student population considered economically disadvantaged based on free and reduced lunch eligibility. Student demographics at New River Middle School consist of 51% Hispanic, 26% African American, 19% White, 2% other, and 1% Asian. New River Middle School has one of the highest English for Students of Other Languages (ESOL) enrollment rates in the district with almost 10% of the student population classified as English Language Learners (ELL). Families of New River students face many challenges. School staff members are aware students come from homes where education may be limited - with less than 65% of individuals 25 and older not completing high school in New River concentrated catchment areas (Census, 2012). Also, almost 40% of families located within isolated areas of the New River catchment receive Food Stamp/SNAP benefits and access to fresh food or full-service supermarkets is difficult. Finally, over 60% of students surveyed reported they did not eat a daily breakfast and 74.7% reported they were not physically active for the recommended one hour per day with 29.2% of responding students reporting they were slightly or very overweight.

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.

New River Middle School of Marine Science will prepare all students to be successful academically and socially by demonstrating, promoting, and providing a rigorous academic program, as well as instilling positive character traits. This year's belief is that we will Team up for Success and bring our "A" game.

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.

Significant awards and achievements include being named a nationally certified Magnet School of Excellence by Magnet Schools of America (MSA) in 2020, by the national association for magnet and theme-based schools. New River Middle School was among 38 schools located in 12 states to successfully complete a rigorous nine-month evaluation process and demonstrate through evidence, reflection and strategic action that it has established the best practices entailed in the Magnet Schools Standards of Excellence. We have also had students receive various awards including 2nd place in the P3 Challenge as Student Environmental Steward for the past two years and Week of the Ocean Art Competition in various categories including poetry and marine art yearly. Additionally, our students earned 1st place and 3rd place in the intermediate division of the Plywood Regatta Boat Building Competition, one of our 8th grade students won the Kid of Character Award and a 7th grader was the District winner of the people's choice award for creating a digital banner for Science, Engineering, Communication, Mathematics, and Enrichment (SECME).

Additional Information

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

Partnerships with our community are directly related to our theme and allow us to expose students to real world applications of the Marine Science content. Other strong partnerships include Marine Industries of South Florida and the Hall of Fame Marina, which supports through fundraising events, field experiences/activities, along with mentoring. We have also partnered with Nova Southeastern University's (NSU), which demonstrates higher education opportunities. NSU's shark-tagging program allows our students to assist NSU students tag sharks and collect data as part of an ongoing research project. NSU students come to our school for various activities, lessons, and presentations, such as lionfish dissection. The US Navy, Caribbean Clean & Americas, and Resolve Marine Group support our Marine Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) elective class and club with tools, supplies, and donations along with mentoring and career exposure. Other partnerships that support our goals include: Dr. Von D. Mizell Eula State Park and Hugh Taylor Birch State Park through service-learning projects; Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation; Week of the Ocean Organization; and Wheelabrator Environmental Organization. Our parent involvement comes through various avenues including field trip and activities chaperones, Friends and Family of New River (parent involvement group), and through our clubs where our parents volunteer their time and resources to support our students and programs. Parents volunteer with our Aquarium Club and ROV Club by providing supplies, time, and skills. Parents attend events such as Beach Clean ups, Waterway Clean ups, our and and school events. Our annual Mission Possible event is a school wide collaboration that provides an opportunity for our classes to display class projects and invite the community to be involved in our school. This event is intended to heighten awareness about environmental problems, build knowledge of the impact of human activities on natural ecosystems, and change human behaviors to increase sustainability. New River students are working on Project Based Learning (PBL) activities addressing marine pollution and conservation in our community. Our driving question for the Mission Possible Event is "How can we keep our oceans healthy and protect our coastal backyard?" This project is about connecting our students and our school to their community. Through PBL we can join the core content classes with interdisciplinary connections. Each subject area and grade level will explore some aspect of the impacts of marine pollution and the need for coastal conservation in connection with their content standards. Last, our school is working to build a living shore line in the back of our school. Our living shore line project will increase estuarine habitats, provide learning opportunities for students and increase public awareness and appreciation for alternatives to hard armoring of shorelines.