



Executive Summary for William Dandy 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?

William Dandy Middle School is located in the city of Ft. Lauderdale and currently has approximately 700 students with varying backgrounds, needs and abilities. Our student population is comprised of 186, 6th grade students, 251, 7th grade students and 250, 8th grader students. We are a Title 1 school with a 98% minority rate and a FRL rate of 95%, serving a high needs community. Our school's racial make-up is Black (93%), Hispanic (5%), and White (2%). Though William Dandy is less racially diverse, we are ethnically very diverse as we have students from at least 10 different countries (Dominica, Haiti, Dominican Republic, British Virgin Islands, Bahamas, Jamaica, Lesser Antilles, Puerto Rico, Brazil, and USA.) Comprised of approximately 74 faculty and staff members, of which, 55 are instructional. William Dandy boasts a 100% highly qualified team of teachers with approximately 60% of our teachers possessing advanced degrees. In addition, our faculty is comprised of 3 nationally board certified teachers with the majority of staff possessing over 10 years of teaching experience. Approximately 25% of faculty members have been teaching at William Dandy for over 11 years. Members of the WDMS faculty have been recognized with many awards, and most recently, 3 faculty members were recognized by the Commissioner of Education's office, Pam Stewart, for their exemplary role in increasing student achievement. Our staff consists of approximately 83% Black or African Americans and 17% White or Hispanic; approximately 75% of staff are females and 25% are males. As with our student population our staff is also very ethnically diverse.

Uniquely located on the northern boundary of Fort Lauderdale, William Dandy also serves students from the surrounding cities which include Oakland Park, Lauderhill and Lauderdale Lakes. As a neighborhood school, the majority of William Dandy's students live within the surrounding communities. We are therefore able to work closely with the community to provide support services for our students and families. However, as an all-county Magnet Program, students travel from across Broward County to experience our amazing Pre-Medical and Pre-Law Magnet Programs. Students outside our boundaries are also provided transportation to attend. William Dandy is the only middle school Pre-Medical Magnet program in Broward County, and we are one of two Pre-Law Magnet Programs for Middle School students. Our Magnet Programs offer students a unique blend of experiential learning to compliment a course of study in the medical field and law.

Recognized as a 2016 and 2022 National Magnet School of Excellence for our PreMedical Magnet Program, our Magnet Programs as well as our success as a Nationally recognized Urban School of Distinction, due to our academic performance, makes William Dandy one of the BEST. Students in our Magnet Programs are exposed to professionals and an educational program that allows for exposure to rigorous and relevant content. We also feature career days that allow students to experience practicing professionals. Of these, one such event featured a team of Lawyers from the Chicago Bar Association who visited and conducted workshops on William Dandy's campus with students in our Law program. All students further participate in our school-wide career day, which featured a diverse cross-section of professionals.

William Dandy currently offers 11 high school level courses as well as a myriad of co-curricular organizations that emphasize the importance of academic excellence, such as Debate, Future Educators of America (FEA), National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), Student Government Association (SGA) and Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). In addition to increasing our high school level courses, we have implemented programs to provide students opportunities for Career, Technical, Adult and Community Education (CTACE), and students have earned Industry Credentialing in Microsoft Word, Office and PowerPoint. We have also implemented the Digital Tools program where students are on a path to earning certification in Multimedia Essentials, Database Essentials, Web Design Essentials and Gaming. In previous years our students have also participated in the Coding initiative and have participated in SECME and Robotics competitions to name a few.

William Dandy has earned a C grade based on the State of Florida standardized assessments for 2024-2025 school year. Each year our students earn many awards and accolades in sporting events such as, basketball, flag football, volleyball, soccer, and track and field. In fact, William Dandy has won the 2015-2016, 2019 and 2020 county titles for Girls and Boys Flag Football as well as Boys Basketball. In 2023, the Cross Country team broke middle school district records with the fastest meet times. Students also have an opportunity to participate in cheerleading, step, flag, dance and band as part of their development.

With an emphasis on building exemplary relationships with the community we serve; William Dandy has established partnerships with several organizations and local businesses that support and work with our school to provide resources such as mentors and incentives for both students and staff members as part of our school-wide Positive Behavior Plan. Through our new partnerships with Community Connection Health Services, The Crockett Foundation and Attorney R. Pettus.

Additional partnerships include Broward County Chapter of the Urban League, who also serve our students in an after-school program, and in collaboration with the Community Foundation of Broward County have developed the School is Cool program with the goal of improving the academic, social and emotional well-being of our students. In addition, we work closely with the City's Parks and Recreation department to ensure the lessons taught in school are continued when students participate in city sponsored programs. Over the past 7 years, William Dandy has experienced a 43% decrease in critical incidents as a result of our approach to working with students by targeting their social and emotional well-being and by embracing a collaborative, community-based approach to address student behavior. This has been instrumental in "rebranding" William Dandy as a school that works to develop the whole child, always maintaining our focus of high expectations for teaching and learning.

Unfortunately, due to changing enrollment patterns and an increase in the establishment of other programs in our surrounding communities, William Dandy Middle School has seen a decline in enrollment over the past 4 years. We will continue to address the challenges brought on by competition from private and charter schools by improving our marketing strategies to educate and inform the public of ALL that William Dandy has to offer. As we continue to improve on our approach to engaging our parents due to barriers associated with such things as culture and language, we will continue to host and promote activities such as "Donuts with Dads" and the Dads Challenge sponsored by Title I, which allows us yet another means of engaging our parents. In addition, our implementing a 5000 Role Models chapter has opened our young men up to

new experiences as well as brought prominent male mentors. Through these activities, we have seen a consistent growth in parental and community involvement.

As a faculty and staff, we embrace the village mentality to providing students the BEST education possible and will continue to work towards providing ALL students a quality education geared towards preparing them for existence in a global community by developing children from the inside out.

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.

It is the mission of William Dandy Middle School to prepare children to be successful in a global and increasingly competitive environment by offering rigorous and relevant curriculum for ALL. Our vision is to provide a high quality education with an emphasis on the whole child. Our students learn the "Dandy Pledge" that promotes our emphasis on improving positive behaviors. "As a William Dandy Wildcat, it is within my reach to create a good life for myself. Out of respect for myself, I behave in a manner that demonstrates my character through high personal and academic standards. I follow the rules to keep my school clean and safe, so through Determination and the right Attitude, I pledge to be Non-Violent, Disciplined and with renewed commitment, to embrace my Youthfulness, because simply put, that is the DANDY Way.

Our school's mission and vision provides insight into our belief at William Dandy that we have a responsibility to prepare children for a life of success. With the understanding that all students can learn, William Dandy takes the holistic approach to educating students. We strongly believe we must ensure the social and emotional health of students if we are to maximize their academic potential. It is for this reason that William Dandy embraces school-wide expectations of "Responsibility, Respect and Tolerance." These tenets are infused throughout and taught through character lessons and visuals that speak to the high expectations that have been established for students as it relates to behavior. We take pride in our school home. This year, we have seen a transformation as it relates to the landscape of the campus thanks to the NoethSouth Institute. We believe that it is important for students to exist in a physical environment they can be proud of. Through the addition of murals that speaks to the heart of high behavioral and academics expectations, and through new electives, Line Dancing, E-Sports, and Band the transformation undergone this past year has been instrumental in our students being able to "own," with pride, their campus and experience. Students have been exposed to programs and speakers that target unacceptable behaviors and are provided strategies to aid in their improvement. In addition, students through their Social Studies classes are taught a character lesson at least once per quarter as part of our continuous improvement model. In partnership with the Community Foundation of Broward County and the Urban League designed as an additional means of support for struggling students. Through these initiatives, William Dandy's transformation has become evident to its stakeholders.

As we seek to improve our academic programming, we seek to expose students to highly rigorous courses aimed at preparing them for College and Career readiness. Through the implementation of school-wide reading programs and school-wide literacy plan we continue to defy the odds in student achievement. Our students have consistently performed well despite changes and increased rigor in testing. In addition, we offer two district wide "Pre-Medical" and "Pre-Law" Magnet programs. William Dandy Middle School's Pre-Medical Magnet program is the best in the county and state, with a growing enrollment of students who enthusiastically embrace the study of the medical profession. Through our technology-enhanced curriculum, research/labs and varied experiences with medical professionals, William Dandy's Pre-Medical Magnet students are being provided an educational experience unique only to William Dandy students. Through application of study to school-wide education, charitable events by students, guest speakers, partnerships with medical facilities and medical schools, mentoring by medical professionals, as well as competitions where students regularly take home state ranked awards for the Health Occupations Student

of America (HOSA) competitions, the Pre-Medical Magnet program offers a comprehensive approach to student education. Our ever-changing program is dedicated to meeting the needs of the Pre-Medical students and future needs of our society. William Dandy Middle School's Pre-Law Magnet program provides students the opportunity to embrace a course of study in law and public affairs. Students in our Law program receive daily coaching in their very own courtroom. Class is an immersion in the proceedings of a real trial. The student experience involves research, review of cases from the headlines, mock trials, guest speakers, mentoring, and law seminars. Broward County Courts gives our students a front seat in actual courtrooms, while judges take students under their wings during live proceedings to instruct about points of law. Our school seeks to enrich the learning environment for every student through the expansion of the law magnet content to all areas of curricular and extra-curricular activities. A professional learning community of teachers works with the Pre-Law Magnet teacher to ensure this goal. Through our Social Justice elective, non-magnet students participate in activities and field trips, such as those to the courthouse, encouraging non-magnet students to learn about the law.

Our high school credit courses that include: French I and II, and II, Algebra, Algebra II, Geometry, Law Studies, Health Science,

Biology, Peer Counseling and Introduction to Digital Design are amongst the most valuable and varied educational programs our students experience.

We also offer intensive course work for struggling students and employ intervention programs for Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and

English Language Learners (ELL) students. In addition to their specialized course of student, our ESE students participate in district-wide Special Olympics and our ELL students have earned numerous awards in World Language competitions. With an emphasis on the whole child, we utilize school-wide mentoring and our positive behavior plan to meet the needs of the whole child. We believe that students who are socially and emotionally healthy exhibit a greater propensity for learning.

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.

William Dandy also has a long tradition of winning sports teams. The following sports made it to the playoffs in 2024 2025: Boys Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Boys and Girls Track (Central Region Champs, #3 in the county for MSAA-Boys), Basketball Girls.

In 2024-2025, our Boys Track Team won Regionals and the Girls came in 3rd for Regionals was the Broward. Other longstanding achievements are as follows: County Champion in 2011, and the Girls Track Team was the Broward County Champion in 2011, 2012 , 2013, 2018, 2020 and 2022. William Dandy is also the Boys and Girls Flag Football Champion for the 2015-2016 school year and division champs in 2023-2024.

William Dandy has been recognized as a PBIS Model School Bronze level for since 2018. The latest designation for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school was just awarded. In 2023, the school was recognized at the City of Fort Lauderdale Commission meeting for our efforts in decreasing incidents and increasing positive experiences on campus.

As we continue to grow and build, our challenges for the next three years, include improving our academic performance as we strive to earn an A rating by the State of Florida. We further intend to continue the work to increasing our enrollment by developing a strong marketing plan and improving the overall culture and climate of the school by focusing on a strong Positive Behavior Plan, one that is embraced by all stakeholders.

Additional Information

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