



Executive Summary for Nova 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?

Nova Middle School (NMS) has a total of 1,347 students serving all of Broward County. The school is housed on the Nova Zone campus in Davie, Florida. Nova Blanche Foreman Elementary, Nova Eisenhower Elementary, and Nova High are also located on this campus. NMS is a Title I School. Based on current enrollment, the student population consists of: White – 328, Black – 859, Pacific Islander – 4, Indian – 6, Asian – 52, Multiracial – 55, & Hispanic - 269.

Nova Middle is one of the few schools in Broward County whose student population is not restricted to specific geographical boundaries; our students come from all four corners of the county. This can make traditional parental involvement (parents coming into the school) very challenging. The NMS faculty must constantly revamp their strategies to strengthen the home-school connection. Many NMS teachers use a variety of media to communicate with parents and students. Examples include Remind, Microsoft office, Canvas, and Pinnacle.

Nova Middle School was a Verizon Initiative Learning School (VILS) during the 19 – 20 and 21 – 22 school years. Through this grant, students were able to get one-to-one access to technology by being provided iPads from students to use both in the classroom and at home. During the 23 – 24 school year, even though we are no longer a VILS school, students are still able to utilize the iPads within the classroom setting so that they can participate in 21st century hands on learning. All teachers utilize learning strategies with a computer cart in their classroom.

Over the past years, NMS has experienced several changes in faculty due to retirements and promotions. In addition, curriculum is now based off the Florida BEST Standards and students are assessed three times per year using the BEST progress monitoring assessments. In addition, the master schedule reflects common planning for each department, allowing teachers time to meet in their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and share best practices.

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.

The mission of the Nova schools is to train pre-service and experienced educators to teach our culturally diverse student population to be literate, productive citizens, using a seamless K-12 curriculum, in collaboration with parents, the community, and partners in higher education. To fulfill this mission with fidelity, the NMS faculty and staff work in conjunction with the Nova Zone schools, NMS families, as well as the local colleges and universities to ensure that all students successfully matriculate through the zone. At the middle school level, we strive to guarantee that all 8th grade students are ready for high school (as defined in the district's strategic plan) by the time they enter 9th grade. NMS offers both high school level courses to accelerate students (Algebra, Geometry, Biology, Spanish I, Spanish II, Debate, Law Studies, Introduction to IT, Campus CEO, and Creative Writing) as well as remediation courses (Project Based Mathematics, Intensive Reading, and Literature) to maximize student achievement. NMS works closely with Nova High to continuously reassess the alignment of our programs. NMS math teachers at high school level classes (Algebra and Geometry) meet regularly with Nova High math teachers in a professional learning community to discuss best practices. In addition, Nova Middle and Nova High schedulers meet consistently to align zone programs.

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.

Over the past four years, NMS has focused on continuously improving programming to prepare students to graduate College and Career Ready. NMS now offers 11 high school level classes geared towards a variety of student interests. Looking forward, NMS will continue to reassess programming to maximize student achievement. Recent collaboration between NMS and Nova High will lead to better alignment of the STEM program for the 2025 - 2026 school year. In addition, the Nova Middle Law program is held in a state-of-the-art courtroom that was built thanks to the collaboration of the NMS faculty, NMS PTSA, and several community partners. Our law students have participated in several competitions for the District, State, County and are three years running "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" National Champions. The Language Arts department is expanding its focus on writing and will offer a two-year Creative Writing program to 7th and 8th grade students. The Math department is working on transitioning to new curriculum through the district's SAVVAS program. In addition, NMS faculty is working tirelessly to develop a more in-depth understanding of the new Florida BEST Standards through school based Professional Learning Communities (PLC), as well as district trainings. Finally, NMS conducts weekly RTI sessions to better identify and monitor students utilizing the district's new platform FOCUS.

Additional Information

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

Nova Middle School proudly serves every municipality in Broward County, Florida. Unlike traditional magnet schools, there is no academic criterion for admission into NMS; therefore, our students represent the full gamut of academic success as well as academic need. We pride ourselves on holding every student to the highest expectations and constantly raising the bar. Likewise, the NMS faculty and staff strive to continuously improve their best practices. Several teachers attend content specific national conferences every year through the TDIF grant as well as Title I funds. Moving forward, our goal is to continue to be at the forefront of educational innovation.