



Executive Summary for Village Elementary 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?

Village Elementary currently enrolls six hundred five (605) students in pre-kindergarten through grade five. Our school has some diversity, but it is limited. Black students represent the most significant proportion of the school's enrollment, with 85% of the population, Hispanics represent 10%, Asians represent 1%, Multiracial scholars represent 2%, and Caucasians represent 2% of the school's enrollment. According to our most recent Title I indicators, Village Elementary has a 97% Minority Rate and 98% Free and Reduced Lunch rate. We also have two Head Start classes, two Pre-Kindergarten ESE classes, and five ASD Special Program classes.

Village Elementary is an urban city school centrally located in the mid-western corridor of Broward County. Directionally the school is just east of University Drive, south of Oakland Park Boulevard, and north of Sunrise Boulevard. The school is nestled within a large single-family homeowners' community in Sunrise called the Gold Coast Homeowner's Association. Recently, (in the last ten years), the district has experienced growth and development of several multi-family apartment complexes, which has significantly changed the dynamics of the population from an older, more established community to one more transient. This characteristic substantially impacts Village's student enrollment, as parents seek more practical living spaces.

An Annual Customer Survey is administered in the spring of each school year. The data is provided to both the school and the district and is used to obtain parental input and provide measures to improve the school across time. According to the most recent survey, the number of respondents was minimal. Faculty and staff members will seek alternative means to ensure a qualified number of viable respondents, including on-spot surveys provided to parents at parent conferences, parent pick-up, and during various schoolwide initiatives.

As a result of the recent economic crisis, which has impacted multitudes of American homeowners, our community has experienced an influx of renters within our Village community. Displacement and other financial woes have forged increased numbers of Caribbean natives to relocate and reside in the multi-family units surrounding our campus. Each year we attempt to fortify both instructional and non-instructional staff to support our growing enrollment of non-English speaking students. Information derived from the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau references 37% of residents who speak languages other than English at home (2010 U.S. Census Bureau Report: City Demographics Data Sunrise Florida).

Several characteristics set Village Elementary apart from other schools in the district. Some of these characteristics include location, infrastructure, and technology. Each element is accompanied by challenges to our school's growth and improvement.

As it relates to location, Village is a "hidden gem." Our focus has been to protect our enrollment from mismanaged charter schools. In the last five years, our enrollment has been severely impacted by the opening and closing of nearby charter schools. The growth of mismanaged charter schools in the Sunrise area, including Magnolia Charter, Paramount Charter, Ben Gamla Charter, and Renaissance Charter, has caused a damaging impact on student achievement, teacher loss, and class size. Each year the schools consume FTE dollars. As a result, students suffer severe learning losses when they return to the Village after weeks of "catch and release" activities imposed by charters. Fortunately, former students are trickling in and re-enrolling at Village. We are making a concerted effort to educate our families about the practices of enrolling students in newly established charter schools.

In the last five years, minimal capital improvement projects have been implemented to expand Village's design to accommodate the growth patterns reflected in the community (mainly due to multi-family housing, fewer homeowners, and more renters). The Village lacks sufficient accommodations to protect students and families from environmental elements, including roof overhangs and proper drainage.

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 Takes a Village to Raise A Child" is the motto for Village Elementary. Administrators, faculty, staff, students, and all stakeholders believe this statement to be accurate as we employ its virtues daily. Faculty and staff members enlist a multitude of supports and resources within our community to support the endeavor of educating our children. Village Elementary is a good school that provides the highest quality education and opportunities for all students to achieve their highest academic level, as evidenced by learning gains. Each year, we rely on the contribution of several community-based organizations and the city to support various educational initiatives which foster lifelong learning. Our mission is to maximize student achievement by allowing all students to compete globally by providing exemplary and innovative education in science, technology, art, and mathematics. Our school is committed to achieving and maintaining a clear and shared focus on student learning, centered upon high academics and social expectations, where all students feel safe, supported, and respected.

At Village, it was essential to enlist the support of our stakeholders to aid in developing our vision and mission statements, as our community is so close-knit, and their contributions are integral to our school's positive and productive successes. Therefore, we invited families and community-based organizations to attend our regularly scheduled School Advisory Council (SAC) and School Advisory Forum (SAF) meetings to communicate the salient objectives inherent in our current mission statement. Each year, we review the tenets of the previous year's objectives and its goals to ensure Village remains on target in meeting the standards of educational reform and the changing dynamics of our community and the clients we serve. Village consistently engages its stakeholders with parents and community members in developing and fulfilling its mission statement by honing relationships with each entity. The school accomplishes this task by communicating the ongoing educational, recreational, and social initiatives/engagements scheduled at Village. These contacts are accomplished via hand-delivered newsletters, flyers, our school's website, Parent-Link, and word-of-mouth. Through these mediums, we can promptly ensure that the vast majority of our stakeholders, parents, and community are apprised.

We believe that given the appropriate instructional preparation, tools, and environment, all students are capable of learning. Student achievement is accomplished through various academic, social, (actual life application) opportunities and character education programs. Our goal is to provide a combination of optimal teaching and learning experiences that foster a love and appreciation for literacy, mathematics,

sciences, and technology that can be applied to future endeavors and aspirations to become positive and productive global citizens.

Beginning at Kindergarten, each student receives a research-based curriculum and instructional strategies, which prepares them for the rigor of intermediate, middle, and high school. At Village, we prepare our students for lifelong learning through hands-on field excursions, extra-curricular events, and research/exploratory activities. The curriculum centers on literacy, science, math, and art while embedding technology into project-based learning curricula. Students are immersed in special projects that allow each student to progress freely, tapping into their learning styles, therefore, increasing their learning at a swifter pace. Students work cooperatively on community-based projects within teams to build leadership skills and learn civic responsibility.

Students continue to develop their knowledge and revise learning goals while engaging in a calendared curriculum via an instructional focus calendar, which aligns with the Florida Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics (BEST). The science and Social Studies curriculum remains aligned to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS). Teachers can deliver complex content area learning through the Florida Standards while embedding a technology component via standards-based software, including SuccessMaker. Students are expected to know, comprehend, apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate information, as well as present various insights and ideas.

Furthermore, students conduct original research to analyze situations, answer questions, solve problems and create standards-based projects. The motivation behind this interdisciplinary approach to learning is reflected in the extensive research establishing the need for students to be independently proficient in a content complex text, making them college and career ready.

Regarding student performance, Village has steadily progressed as a high-performing school among schools with like demographics. According to the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) School Accountability database, Village Elementary has increased in student achievement across the last three years. This statistic is a direct result of Village making a concerted effort to focus more closely on several characteristics which contribute to school improvement. Administration, teachers, support personnel, and stakeholders are invited to assist in analyzing, synthesizing, and refining our current programs to address the needs of our school's ever-evolving dynamics. The areas of focus remain as: curriculum, assessment, student attendance, professional development, and fostering relationships.

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.

We're most proud of several aspects of our school, which primarily reflect why we chose the profession. It is the optimal educational environment where we seek new and improved methods to positively impact the lives of our students by providing extra-curricular activities, which shape their experiential knowledge to include field trips, in-house presentations, clubs, and teams. Our motto states: "It Takes a Village to Raise A Child," which exemplifies the wrap-around service and dedication our staff has towards each student and family.

Our Most Notable Achievements

- Last year, we increased proficiency in both ELA (48%) and Mathematics (64%), raising our school grade from a C to a B and continuing to show growth from being removed from the State's Supervision List.
- Learning gains remain a strength with ELA Learning Gains at 57% and Math Learning Gains at 65%, well above 50%.
- All of our ESSA subgroups, except for Students with Disabilities, scored above the state index in learning gains.

- In the past five years, we have had a staff member named a finalist for the Broward County Schools Teacher of the Year.
- Our scholars continue to shine, winning at the city of Lauderhill Spelling “B”.
- The school culture remains a point of pride, creating a positive environment where students love to come and learn.
- Parent and stakeholder communication is at an all-time high, strengthening our school-home connection.

Areas to Improve

- Students with Disabilities remain our most at-risk ESSA group. While they had strong learning gains (63% in ELA LG, 63% in Math LG), their proficiency levels (29% in ELA).
- While proficiency rose in both ELA and Math, our goal is to ensure **steady upward growth** so that more scholars are meeting or exceeding grade-level standards.
- Math Lowest 25% students our at area of concern making 46% learning gains on the 24/25 FAST assessment.
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Additional Information

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

At Village Elementary School, we stand by our motto: “It Takes an Entire Village to Raise a Child.” Parents and stakeholders are invited to become involved in the educational process. Each month parents are provided with a newsletter that outlines the parent-involvement opportunities, which include, but are not limited to the following: School Advisory Council, School Advisory Forum, Curriculum Nights, Volunteerism, Partnerships, Parent Teacher Organization, Title I Parent Meetings, Parent-Teacher/ Parent-Administrator Conferences, Seasonal School-Wide celebrations and festivals, Student Performances and School Improvement initiatives. We encourage everyone to contribute towards building a bright future for our students.