



Executive Summary for Whispering Pines 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?

Staff demographics: 26% male, 74% female. 3% Asian, 19% African American, 71% White, 6% two or more races. Student demographics: 65% male, 35% female, 45.6% White, 48.7 % African American, 27.9% Hispanic, 5% two or more races, 0% American Indian or Alaska Native, 0% Asian American, 0% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander. Whispering Pines School is a public school located in Miramar, Florida tasked with serving students kindergarten-22 years of age with significant emotional/behavioral disabilities. Whispering Pines serves approximately 220 students between our main and off campuses. Our students come from a diverse demographic, as we serve the entire south area of the county. Transportation of our students is therefore a unique challenge that our school faces. Many of our students travel an hour or more on the school bus to and from school each day. Additionally, many of our students transition in and out of our school throughout the year. Ongoing communication with other schools is a unique need, and is critical to ensure that all students' needs are met as related to course placement, services needed, etc. Our school is dedicated to helping at-risk students achieve academic and social gains through targeted instruction and therapeutic/behavioral supports. Whispering Pines School's special education teachers, mental health therapists, behavior specialists, nurses, consulting psychiatrist and job coaches tirelessly knock down barriers with assistance of community partners and mentors to show these very special students that their everyday challenges can be overcome so that they may reach their highest potential.

Principal: Dr. Jones Assistant Principal: Erica Alexander (High School & Citrus) Assistant Principal: Emanuel Hunter (Elementary/Middle & Smith Community) ESE Specialist: Melissa Bennette (Off Campus students) ESE Specialist: Valorie Hogan (On Campus students) Behavior Specialist: Charles Bradley Behavior Specialist: Kevin Campbell Reading Coach: Karina Hoogesteyn Guidance Counselor: Chandra Lee-Wilson.

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 Whispering Pines School is to foster an optimal teaching and learning environment that establishes high expectations and empowers every student to realize their individual potential through the collective efforts of all relevant stakeholders. Our commitment is to address the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of a diverse student body, thereby promoting positive self-concept and preparing students to become productive members of today's complex society. We uphold principles of respect and dignity for all, value individual differences, and emphasize collaboration toward shared academic, behavioral, and therapeutic objectives—ensuring a supportive and emotionally safe setting responsive to the needs of staff, students, and families. Smaller student-to-staff ratios nurture strong relationships and help maximize individual growth. Ensuring a healthy and physically secure environment is essential. Additionally, we are dedicated to providing ongoing opportunities for learning and development for staff, students, and families alike.

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.

Whispering Pines School is recognized for its community partnerships, mentoring, and volunteer programs. Our Community-Based Instructional and PASS Programs equip students with career-ready skills and job training until age 22. Over the next three years, we aim to boost standardized test pass rates through focused remediation, improve graduation and attendance rates among at-risk students, expand subject acceleration and CTACE certification options, and enhance parent involvement. We also seek to raise the number of seniors completing FAFSA or enrolling in trade school or college courses. Current offerings include Broward College and Sheridan Tech Dual Enrollment, AP Computer Science Principles (for Juniors and Seniors), Leadership Skills Development Honors, Debate 1 Honors, and new culinary studies for middle and high school students.

Additional Information

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

Community Partners:

Kids Can –Thanksgiving Baskets for students in need Harvest

Drive – Monthly food bags/Thanksgiving baskets for students in need

Publix – Weekly food donation

Kiwanis Club – Food, school supplies, hygiene, and student need donations

Horizon Methodist Church – Monthly food pantry

Girl Scouts – Food drives

Memorial Manor –Donations and Careers for our Pass Program

Miramar PD & FD – Donations

Home Depot – Donations

Washington National – Grants

Capital Marine Group – Donations