



Executive Summary for Mirror Lake Elementary

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?

Mirror Lake Elementary is located at 1200 Northwest 72nd Avenue Plantation, FL 33313. At Mirror Lake, teachers, staff, parents, community, and students have worked together to achieve many great accomplishments. For example, MLE was selected to present at the Magnet School of America Conference. MLE was awarded the Magnet School of Distinction! MLE was awarded the ACES Grant (Achieving Career Equity for all Students) and is a Magnet School. The Magnet consists of three programs: Aerospace & Engineering, Innovative Arts, and Entrepreneurship & ECommerce. Drama club, Vex Robotics, SECME (Science, Engineering, Communication, & Enrichment), National Elementary Honor Society, Cheerleading, and Debate are some of the activities that were established in the past three years. MLE is an urban school with a diverse population. This year the enrollment is 577 students. The demographic composition of the students consists of 33 % White, 24% Hispanic, 68% Black / African American, and 2% Asian. The instructional staff consists of two administrators, one curriculum support teacher, one guidance counselor, one exceptional educational specialist, three VE teachers, one part-time social worker, one part-time school psychologist, 3.5 speech therapist, one Micro- tech., one data entry specialist, one media clerk, one art teacher, one Spanish teacher, one PE teacher, one Aerospace & Engineering teacher, four Educational Support Personnel, and thirty-five classroom teachers (Pre-K through 5). At MLE, 50% of the population is ESE with various exceptionalities. MLE has an Autism Specialized Program that consists of 8 classrooms. It provides a continuum of services based on the needs of the individual child. Also, there are 4 Intensive Pre-K classrooms, and 2 specialized Pre-K classrooms. At MLE, we assist preschool children in transition from early childhood programs to local elementary school programs. Our vision at Mirror Lake Elementary is to educate today's students to succeed in tomorrow's world.

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.

Our school's mission statement:

Mirror Lake Elementary provides a learning environment with purpose and opportunity, in order to advance academic, social and emotional growth for all students with the commitment for our staff, parents, students, and our community.

Our school's vision statement:

Educating today's students for tomorrow's world by preparing them for college and career readiness by making learning engaging, accessible, and meaningful.

The mission of Mirror Lake Elementary is to make a significant difference in the lives of young children by providing learning experiences and opportunities designed for the development of the total child. All children are screened at the beginning of each school year by the classroom teacher to determine the most effective intervention or enrichment that can be provided with the goal of allowing each child to reach his or her full academic potential. Frequent monitoring of academic gains, as well as monthly data chats both between the administration and teachers, and teachers with their students, allow for effective adjustments in instruction and goal setting for the students. In addition, Mirror Lake offers various clubs that the students can join, including Student Council, Safety Patrol, Art Club, Cooking club, and Robotic Club. All clubs are under the leadership of the school's instructional staff. MLE was awarded the ACES Grant (Achieving Career Equity for all Students) and is a Magnet School. The Magnet consists of three programs: Aerospace & Engineering, Innovative Arts, and Entrepreneurship & E-Commerce. Students get the opportunity to see different careers and have new experiences. Mirror Lake gives students the opportunity to meet professionals in a variety of careers through school presentations and meet & greets. For example, a NASA Engineer presented to the student population about space exploration and careers in Aerospace. Students will experience these careers through fields trips as well. We offer free, before-school, and after-school, Reading, Math and Science Camps to give our struggling students the opportunity to acquire grade level skills. We also have a Vex IQ team who compete at the district level. A group of fifth graders participate in a debate team and attend competitions. Grade levels collaborate on student expectations and look at student achievement gaps of those entering each grade with the goal of decreasing academic achievement gaps. The administration continually communicates with all stakeholders through parent link, school web site, school-wide emails, student agendas, newsletters and flyers. We have an abundance of active parents and community volunteers who support the school financially through fundraisers and assist with student achievement. Students use the computer for i-Ready Reading and Math programs at school and at home. All students in grades K-5 have their own Lenovo computers. To sustain student achievement and academic growth, collaborative team planning is regularly scheduled, as well as data chats, gifted screening, and weekly meetings by the Principal, Assistant Principal, Curriculum Coach, ESE Specialist, School Counselor, and School Psychologist to discuss children needing. There are many school-wide events that highlight the diverse backgrounds and talent of our students. We have a student operated television studio for disseminating our morning news, with students operating the cameras and delivering the news and weather daily.

Mirror Lake, with the efforts of all our classrooms and parental involvement, conduct an annual Diversity Day. This showcases the great diversity of the community and of our students' heritages. Every month teachers choose student(s) of the month who exemplify the focused character trait of that month. These children are honored as the Kids of Character and invited to a ceremony where they are awarded a certificate and given specific gifts for the honor they earned. To promote the home-school connection, registered parent volunteers are encouraged to participate in school related events. There are school/family events planned throughout the school year. We gather as a family with our parents for dinner at various places throughout the school year such as Lime restaurant in Plantation, Chipotle, Matchbox, and others where the restaurants also donate a portion of the evenings proceeds back to the school. We also organize a family fun day to raise additional funds for different projects around the school and purchase different material to bridge the achievement gaps. Mirror Lake provides parent information nights. We have a school resource officer on campus who not only patrols the school campus to ensure a safe environment for all.

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.

In order to give back to the community, and teach the children the joy of giving, there are many regularly scheduled charitable fundraisers during the year that students and parents participate in. One of the projects is the Harvest Drive, organized by our School Counselor in the Fall, whereby students bring in food items, and supplies, with the purpose of compiling Thanksgiving baskets for needy families in our community and we collaborate with Plantation High School, our neighboring high school to do that. We also organize a family day where our families come to a park and enjoy various activities to raise funds to support our students. Another big event that Mirror Lake staff, as well as students and their parents participate in, is Relay for Life. Proceeds from this event go to cancer research. There are several events to raise money. MLE was awarded the ACES Grant (Achieving Career Equity for all Students) and is a Magnet School. The Magnet consists of three programs: Aerospace & Engineering, Innovative Arts, and Entrepreneurship & E-Commerce. Students get the opportunity to see different careers and have new experiences. Mirror Lake gives students the opportunity to meet professionals in a variety of careers through school presentations and meet & greets. For example, a NASA Engineer presented to the student population about space exploration and careers in Aerospace. Students will experience these careers through fields trips as well. Mirror Lake will be reaching out to more businesses and community professionals to partner with in the future.

In the next few years, Mirror Lake strives to increase the Reading and Math Proficiency for grades 3 to 5. We plan to achieve these gaps through additional academic camps, a focus on small group instruction, and using data to drive the everyday instruction.

Additional Information

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

As our world evolves, it is our duty as educators to teach our students not only academics but to also teach them to be successful and to enter the world fully prepared for what's ahead of them. To do so we are teaching our students the critical thinking and leadership skills they need to reach their highest potential. We truly believe that moving our school doesn't come from the top, but rather it comes from all of us within the school, especially the students.