



## Executive Summary for Seminole 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?

Seminole Middle School is located in the City of Plantation. Plantation is a large suburb west of Ft. Lauderdale. Seminole Middle School currently has 1075 students. Traditionally, our school demographics are 30% White, 30% Black and 30% Hispanic. Currently, our demographics are 49% White, 40% Black, and 34% Hispanic. Our current enrollment is 974 students. The staff at Seminole Middle School mirrors the demographics of our school. The staff consists of a diverse population of teachers and support professionals. 57% of teachers have advanced degrees and are considered highly qualified. The city of Plantation has a median age of 39.7 and a median household income of \$66,740. Over 50% of our students are considered to be economically disadvantaged and qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch. Therefore, our student population ranges in students who are affluent and those who need extra financial support. Plantation has six public elementary schools, two public middle schools, and two public high schools; however, it is also home to 32 private schools. Therefore, there is a challenge in recruiting students to attend the public school and not choose private or charter schools. A unique aspect of Seminole Middle School is that we are the home of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Special Program for Broward County Schools. We have students who have some degree of hearing loss. Our students are mainstreamed into the general population. We also offer a unique program for advancement, the DECAL program. This program allows students to take multiple high school credit courses and focuses on enrichment and rigor. We also offer a few Cambridge courses. We began our Cambridge program during the 2024-2025 school year.

### 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 Seminole Middle School is as follows: Seminole Middle School strives to empower all students to achieve at their highest potential and to become productive members in their community. We embody this purpose through the various academic programs offered at Seminole Middle School. First, we have the D.E.C.A.L (Division of Enhanced Communication and Law) Program. Students in 6th-8th grade who earned a level 4 or 5 on the FSA Reading and Math apply to be in the program when they enter 6th grade. 6th grade lays the framework for the program with advanced core classes. Students are expected to excel and work at a higher level than their peers not in the D.E.C.A.L program. Classes are project based and very challenging. Moving onto 7th grade students are enrolled in their core classes, as well as up to 3 high school level courses, Algebra, Speech and Debate, and either Spanish or American Sign Language. In addition, the core classes are also preparing the students for not just 8th grade but also success in high school and beyond. Finally, 8th grade students enrolled in D.E.C.A.L have the opportunity to take up to 5 high school credits: Biology, Algebra or Geometry, Spanish or American Sign Language, Law, and either Psychology & Sociology, Creative Writing or Debate 2. These classes are offered in addition to the core classes 8th graders must take. The rigor and standards in these courses is extremely high so that students have an easy transfer into their prospective high schools.

In addition to D.E.C.A.L, Seminole Middle School also offers a plethora of enrichment elective courses. These courses are based on academic standards and guides and are created in order to teach students real world skills. They also guide the students towards subject areas that may peak their interest and promote community involvement. The courses offered include a variety of interest based literature classes, Rockets, Riddles & Robots, Peer Counseling, Yearbook, and Music Creation and Theory. Beyond these enrichment classes, students also have the ability to take art, music, band, culinary, drama and physical education. Students within these courses have numerous opportunities to experience the subject in and out of the classroom.

Finally, we offer intensive reading and math classes for students who are struggling to achieve proficiency. These students have the ability to receive direct, focused instruction in the areas they have yet to master. Teachers use monthly assessments to guide their instruction. This combination of enrichment, rigor, and remediation helps prepare all students within our school community to be productive members of their school community, as well as, prepared and ready for their high school education.

## 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.

Seminole Middle School has a number of notable achievements. The achievements range from test scores to outstanding academic and social programs. One of our strongest areas is that Seminole offers a program for all types of learners. Programs range from the D.E.C.A.L program to intensive course instruction. Through our course offerings we strive to meet the needs of all students. For example, students who excel have the opportunity to earn up to ten high school credits while still enrolled in middle school. Students who need more direct instruction in order to improve either reading or math skills are enrolled in double courses in order to build the foundation they need to be successful in high school. Furthermore, the course offerings excel beyond the core classes.

Seminole Middle School offers elective courses to meet the needs of all types of learners. Students are learning college and career skills while building roller coasters, studying the laws of physics and learning how to become real world entrepreneurs. Outside the classroom, our sports and student activities also excel. Our sports teams regularly make it to the county semi-finals and finals. We also had students break state records in track and field. Our wrestling team earns high honors every school year.

The National Junior Honor Society is consistently deemed a Gold Chapter of Excellence, winning awards for their various community service projects, school service projects, and school leadership. For the past 10 years the NJHS has also been the top fundraising school for the American Cancer Society Relay For Life. The NJHS Brain Brawl team has won the county championship six times over the past seven years. The Student Government Association continues to raise awareness for Honor Flight and supporting our local military. Our performing arts programs are also extremely successful. The Seminole Middle School Marching Band performs for local events and marches in parades. The Junior Thespians compete at District and State Competitions. In 2019 they earned the best one act play in the state of Florida. They also have had students represent our district as Best of Show in Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the State Festival. Students in Speech and Debate medal at each of the monthly competitions and have competed in state and national competitions. Finally, students consistently represent our school in Science Fair and Literary Fair. The school's yearbook has been recognized a number of times as a Book of Excellence and received high ratings from the Florida Scholastic Press Association.

Over the years, the school has improved test scores by implementing the various enrichment courses and building student activities. We have created tutoring programs, mentoring programs and a Virtual FSA Camp. We have looked at our student data and implemented programs and processes so that we can best serve our students and increase proficiency and achievement. Our school uses the RtI process, along with team meetings to regularly use and discuss student data to ensure we are providing the best instruction possible for each student. Finally, teachers are using innovating and cutting edge technology in order to build students 21st century skills and provide them with challenging and interesting educational opportunities.

## **Additional Information**

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

Seminole Middle School has started various mentoring programs in order to help students learn how to appropriately deal with everyday struggles. Students work with school counselors to learn how to navigate and understand: high school magnet programs, creating a distraction free zone at home, learning styles, classroom behavior, and moving past excuses Throughout the year we offer Parent Nights. During these events, students present work, teachers highlight student work. Teachers share best practices with parents and how parents can best help their children be successful at home. These events have an average parent attendance of 150- 200 parents. These family nights have truly helped build a sense of community between school and home. They are also a great avenue for students to take pride in their work and share their work with the parents and friends.