



Executive Summary for Forest Hills

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?

Forest Hills Elementary has 624 students and is located on 85th Avenue is just south of Sample Road in Coral Springs, FL. This Title 1 School is made up of diverse learners. Our population consist of students with the following backgrounds: white, Hispanic, Black, Multi-Ethnic, Asian, and Native American. The community is made up of 50% single-family homes, (houses, condominiums, and townhomes) and 45% of the population residing in rental communities. A unique feature of this community is that it is surrounded by local businesses who partner with our school each year to help students achieve academic success.

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.

Forest Hills Elementary was established in 1974 in the City of Coral Springs, Florida. Forest Hills Elementary is a hidden gem located on Forest Hills Circle. It is a Title I School with previously 51.42% of the students on Free and Reduced Lunch. The population is diverse with about one third of its students in the ELL subgroup from varying countries. It has approximately 624 prekindergarten through fifth grade students. The Exceptional Special Education (ESE) programs now include one Specialized ESE Pre-Kindergarten (PK) class, two Intensive ESE PK class, and two Voluntary PK (VPK) classes, and 4 Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) multi-age classes on campus. Most of our ESE PK students who are not within boundary, reassign to our school upon entering Kindergarten. Therefore, our students' needs in Kindergarten through Fifth grade are met through a personalized approach. A portion of our population is also transient. Some of our families, for example, travel to their native country and return after several days or weeks. The community mostly consists of working-class parents, many who speak other languages such as Spanish, Creole, Portuguese, or Mandarin. The school provides translators for Spanish, Creole, Portuguese, and Mandarin. For those not having internet access, parents are encouraged to contact the front office to apply for free/reduced lunch, pay for field trips or aftercare, as well as any other internet-related school features. Our newly renovated Media Center offers computer access for digital instruction from 7 a.m. - 7:40 a.m. The Media Center is open for book check-out throughout the school day for both students and parents. The media center also has a parent resource area that contains academic games to assist parents with skills reinforcement at home. Parents are provided with needed assistance through the school's guidance counselor, social worker, and community business partners who offer a plethora of resources. The school participates in a Listener Program for select students who demonstrate a need for the support. Additionally, students are provided with specialized programs that include full-time Music, Art, and Physical Education teachers. Afterschool enrichment classes are also offered such as Chorus, Science through Gardening (i.e. Planeteers), Cheerleading, Basketball, and Mathletes and Debate. Forest Hills also provides a quality aftercare program for our students of working parents. The aftercare program includes a hot supper, homework help, opportunities for computerized academic practice, and previously tutoring by our very own teachers. Enrichment activities are also planned. Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) are provided for select students in Kindergarten through Fifth grade by our dedicated teachers when applicable funds are available. Our highly qualified staff is dedicated to academic excellence. Staff is provided with professional learning communities with regular communication from administration to ensure alignment of the school's vision. Teachers are encouraged to participate in professional development opportunities, such as reading and gifted endorsement coursework. New teachers are provided with—not only the district's mandated T.I.E.R. support program, but— mentoring through a monthly professional learning community, as well. Forest Hills Elementary is proud to offer the students and families it serves quality programs and personalized instruction. We believe that the families are an integral part of student successes. Therefore, the school provides parents with opportunities for stakeholder input

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.

Forest Hills Elementary is proud to have blended classrooms in grades K through five. Each student is furnished with a laptop for instructional purposes. Our kindergarten and first grade classrooms have one to one laptop each classroom. Our preschool classes are provided with mini-iPads and a laptop computers. Primary students are also provided with online Balanced Literacy opportunities. Benchmark Universe Leveled Readers is used for Reading and I-Ready for Mathematics in Kindergarten through Fifth grade as an instructional reinforcement. Our online programs embrace the Best Standards. Our digital resources supplement the teachers' instruction using 21st Century techniques, engaging students in relevant lessons/activities. Forest Hills Elementary is also the proud owner of its own Certified Wildlife Habitat and edible garden, previously maintained through the Planeteeers enrichment group. This vast area has served as an outdoor learning lab for all students. Students embrace the standards while focusing on relevant ways in which to reduce their carbon imprint on the Earth. The school is also an Innovative Program with Junior Quantum Leap. This is an accelerated program for gifted and high achieving students. Eligible students are also registered in Broward Virtual courses and advance academically. Forest Hills has placed in Broward County's annual mathematics competition each year and has won First Place in the District's Battle of the Books Competition. Our school's area of need includes closing the reading gap as identified by the 2024-2025 E.L.A STAR/FAST Assessment's. Data indicates the greatest area of weakness is the integration of knowledge and ideas. As a result, instruction is continually modified to focus on this area of weakness. Best practices such as our bi-weekly, grade level professional learning communities have been scaled up, as well. As a result, the school has an aggressive Response to Intervention program that meets weekly to follow student progress and make necessary modifications to intervention programs. The school has one Reading Resource instructors who are dedicated to supporting Tier 3 students with needed research-based programs such as Sound Sensible, Spire, Horizons, and Leveled Literacy Intervention. Data results—including student achievement graphs—demonstrate that student progress is being made. According to the 2024-2025 FAST. E.L.A data, 67% of our third, fourth, and fifth graders achieved a proficient level 3 or above. Our Math areas also increased. Overall achievement and gains resulted in our school's letter grade "A" on the State of Florida's school grading system for the second year in a row. During the 2024-2025 SY, STAR/FAST diagnostic scores and Growth Monitoring showed admirable learning gains. This year we continue to have a laser focus on the additional points needed to raise the E.L.A achievement gap and continue to increase our learning gains with equitable opportunities, as demonstrated in our "A."

Additional Information

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

Forest Hills Elementary is proud to be the home of talented and dedicated teachers as well as staff who keenly plan strategic activities to bridge the learning gap. We are on-going learners who reflect on our students' needs and attend valuable professional learning opportunities that enhance our teaching skills. Lastly, we embrace the diverse community of learners that we serve daily.