



Executive Summary for **Davie Elementary School**

Description

Upon entering Davie Elementary, you will feel a warm and inviting climate which permeates the entire school environment. In earlier days, the Davie School was held in a packing house along the canal until 1910. After that a wooden, two-room schoolhouse was constructed on a one-acre piece of property. By 1916, the Davie settlement had outgrown the small wooden structure, and the need for a larger school was quickly addressed. The Davie School, designed in 1917 by August Geiger, one of South Florida's most prominent early architects, opened its doors in 1918 to roughly 90 students and is now Broward County's oldest existing school building. Davie Elementary School was established to serve as the first permanent school in the Everglades. From the day it opened, the Davie School served as the area's source of education as well as a center for community gatherings. In 1977, the new Davie Elementary School was built and is located in the town of Davie, a family-oriented community with solid parental involvement. Many of our parents and teachers attended Davie Elementary when they were children and have chosen to remain in the community to ensure that their children can experience and contribute to the academic and social success that the Davie Elementary family offers. A few of our teachers who have been here over 20 years are now teaching their previous students' children. Faculty and staff maintain a dedication to the students and the mission of this school. Many of these employees take their personal time to mentor and spend time with our students, even outside of school hours.

Our employees consist of 1 Principal, 1 Assistant Principal, 4 clerical office personnel, 8 educational support personnel, 6 food service personnel, 3 facility servicepersons, 1 school resource officer, 2 campus monitors, 1 technology specialist, 1 literacy coach, 1 guidance counselor, 1 ESE Specialist, 2 speech-language pathologists, 1 math coach, and 1 school nurse. Students have access to district staff, including: 1 family counselor, 1 psychologist, 1 social worker and 1 community liaison. We also have 1 Head Start teacher, 1 Specialized ESE Pre-School teacher, 1 intensive ESE Pre-school teacher, 3 kindergarten teachers, 4 first grade teachers, 4 second grade teachers, 5 third grade teachers, 4 fourth grade teachers, 4 fifth grade teachers, 1 ESE Specialist, 2 ESE Support Facilitators, 2 academic support teachers, and 5 special area teachers. Davie Elementary school has assistance from McFatter Technical High School and Nova Southeastern University. We have a very high ESOL population, and our entire staff works hard each day to help our children reach their highest potential.

With a growing community, Davie Elementary currently has 640 enrolled students. Our school is a diverse community of learners, who are nurtured and guided by innovative teachers in a positive learning environment. Of these students, 58% are Hispanic, 18% are Caucasian, 17% are African American, 4% are Asian and 3% are Multi-Ethnic. Our student to teacher ratio is 20:1 in grades K-3, and 23:1 in grades 4 and 5. Our highly qualified teachers ensure that the standards are being implemented and assessed to achieve learning gains in all areas. We have a transient population with many students leaving the United States to go to their original countries of birth from January to June each year.

Together, we make sure that all our students are receiving high quality education by working with a growth mindset, in which we are all moving forward to achieve our mission.

Purpose

The Mission of Davie Elementary School is to provide a strong, safe academic setting in which excellence is the standard for all students, through a combined partnership of home, school and the community.

We accomplish these goals by focusing on teacher/student relationships, demanding high performance, holding to high expectations through implementation and monitoring, and by providing opportunities for self-exploration and self-development. We also have a strong community support through our P.T.O. who provides excellent participation by volunteering, fundraising, and staff support.

The faculty and staff of Davie Elementary believes in the worth and dignity of each individual student.

We believe that each student should receive individualized/differentiated instruction. We believe that all students should take ownership of their learning.

We provide an environment where students are exposed to multi-meaningful experiences in various modes of learning, using available technology and teaching strategies. We believe in an on-going partnership among the school, home and community to help each student acquire a positive self-concept, respect for oneself and others, and the knowledge that each is responsible for his or her own academic and social success.

It is our belief that:

- Quality education results from a partnership that is shared among the home, school and community.
- A safe, orderly and caring environment is necessary for learning.
- Each child needs to learn to be responsible for his/her own actions.
- We should provide each student with an education consistent with his individual differences, needs and interests.
- The teaching environment should provide appropriate activities to meet the child's diverse needs.
- It is important to provide a quality education which focuses on teaching children how to learn while encouraging curiosity, creativity, and a love for knowledge.
- The quality of each child's education is greatly determined by the commitment and involvement of the family.
- Each child deserves respect for his/her uniqueness of heritage, ethnicity and beliefs.
- We should prepare students for the future by exposing them to a technology rich learning experience.

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Notable Achievements

At Davie Elementary, we pride ourselves on the wonderful opportunities provided to our students as well as the community.

Davie Elementary strives to stay abreast of the current technological trends. We are committed to employing research based educational strategies and techniques to promote higher order and critical thinking skills. Our school provides all instructional teachers with a laptop, one-to-one laptop for student use, and 3 clerical computers. In addition, all instructional classrooms have a Recordex.

Davie Elementary is committed to preserving our school, community, and the future of our planet. We take great pride in the many awards, grants and sustainability initiatives that are ongoing with our students, teachers and community. Some of our notable projects include:

Notable Achievements

- School Garden – students, parents & partners created
- Increase Water and energy efficiency
- Reducing Waste

- In order to make our campus more sustainable, we were awarded the following grants this year:
 - Donor Choose Grant
 - BEF Grant

The Davie community is a great part of Davie Elementary School and lends itself to many of our activities and events. Our local Partners in Education help us in a myriad of ways; from donating food for luncheons, to family night, to assisting with behaviors. Our Partners include Davie Kiwanis, Davie/Cooper City Rotary Club, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, International Soroptimist of Davie, McFatter High, Nova University Department of Athletics, and Nova Southeastern University's America Counts. In several situations, Nova Southeastern University's America Counts and America Reads have donated time and effort to students with behavioral concerns. Each outcome was a positive influence on the student's school and home life. The staff at Davie Elementary believe that "it takes a village", and we surely take advantage of that!

Areas of Improvement

Davie Elementary has been working hard to make learning gains in the past several years and earn our grade of "A" back for our school and community. We continue daily to increase our test scores and student achievement through the consistent progress monitoring of curriculum, student and teacher data, and staff professional learning. Our team of support specialists provide rigorous training to teachers in breaking down the Florida BEST Standards in order to increase student achievement and instructional practice.

As we consider areas of improvement for the next three years, we continue to work on improving student performance. Although our Students with Disabilities are continuing to meet expectations, data proves that we must continue to close the achievement gap in targeted areas. After much analysis, we discovered that some of our ESE students are not meeting requirements in the areas of reading and math. Support staff, administration, leadership and teachers attended professional learning and training in order to improve instructional strategies into the total classroom. While this is a long-term process, Davie Elementary staff and teachers are positive about the future outcomes.

These challenges will increase in the upcoming years, but Davie Elementary is prepared to accept these challenges to help our students discover, think, grow and learn to work independently to become productive members of society and our community.