



Executive Summary for Griffin 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?

Upon entering Griffin Elementary, you will feel a warm and inviting climate which permeates the entire school environment. Griffin Elementary School was established in 1979 to serve the neighborhood and community in grades K-5. At that time, it consisted of classrooms, offices, cafeteria, and a media center. In 1991, there was an addition of 7 classrooms, ESE and Guidance offices, staff lounge, bathrooms, computer lab, and a covered patio. Griffin Elementary is located in Cooper City, a family-oriented community with great parental involvement. Many of our parents and teachers attended Griffin 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 Griffin Elementary family offers. Many of our teachers who have been here over 20 years are now teaching their previous students' children. This happens often, as faculty and staff maintain a dedication to the students and the mission of this school. Our employees consist of 1 principal, 1 assistant principal, 4 clerical staff, 12 paraprofessionals, 4 cafeteria staff, 4 custodians, 1 SRO, 1 social worker, 1 technology specialist, 1 literacy coach, 1 school counselor, 1 campus monitor, 2 behavior techs and 1 school nurse. Students have access to district staff, including: 1 ESE counselor, 1 occupational therapist, 1 psychologist, 1 physical therapist, and 1 social worker. We also have 4 kindergarten teachers, 3 first grade teachers, 4 second grade teachers, 4 third grade teachers, 3 fourth grade teachers, 4 fifth grade teachers, and 3 specials teachers. In addition, we have 21 ESE instructional staff members. They include: 1 ESE specialist, 2 speech pathologists, 2 VE support teachers, 8 ESE teachers, of which 6 are classroom teachers who service students with EBD, 2 preschool ESE classrooms. Griffin Elementary has a high percentage of ESE students which we work with diligently to ensure that every child achieves his/her highest potential, regardless of their academic or social background. It's no wonder that Griffin has maintained an A letter grade for over 20 years now. With a growing community, Griffin Elementary currently has 542 enrolled students. Our school student population is a diverse community of learners, who are nurtured and guided by innovative teachers in a happy learning environment. Of these students, 38.2% are Caucasian, 40% are Hispanic, 11.6% are African American, 9.2% are Asian, 2.6% are multi-racial. Our highly qualified teachers ensure that the standards are being implemented and assessed to achieve learning gains in all areas. Together, we make sure that all of 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

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.

Griffin Elementary is a safe and nurturing environment where all students can achieve their highest academic and social potential. We are committed to developing intellectual independence and risk-taking through inquiry-direct experience, and collaboration to promote success in an ever-changing world.

It is our belief that:

- Student learning is the chief priority for the school.
- All students can learn.
- Students learn in different ways and should be provided with a variety of instructional approaches to support their learning.
- Each student is a valued individual with unique physical, social, cultural, emotional and intellectual needs.
- Teachers, administrators, parents, and the community share the responsibility for advancing the school's mission.

Griffin Elementary School's Mission

Griffin Elementary is committed to provide an enriched learning environment that will focus on 21st Century Learning to prepare our students to be college and career ready.

Griffin Elementary School's Vision

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

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 School Advisory Committee and P.T.A., who provides excellent participation by volunteering, fund raising, and staff support. Our wonderful volunteers assist with ECO Patrol Club, Debate, Teacher of Tomorrow, Safety Patrol, WGES, SAVE Promise Club and SCEME Club.

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.

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

Griffin Elementary is committed to preserving our community, schools 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. Our campus has had burrowing owls for over 20 years. Using grant money, we installed artificial burrows at our school and in local neighborhood parks. We were the first school in Broward County to partner with Project Perch, which educates and protects burrowing owls. Other Sustainability Initiatives include:

- Recycling - Students pick up recycling twice a week from classrooms.
- School Garden – Students, parents & partners created 4 raised beds and a rain barrel to capture rain water along with a food forest that was installed the 22-23 school year.
- Increase Biodiversity – Atala Butterflies
- Increase Water Efficiency
- Increase Energy Efficiency
- Reducing Waste -
- Environmental Club – 4th and 5th grade students collect recycling, host speakers, visit the Materials Recycling Facility and the Waste to Energy Plant.

In order to make our campus more sustainable, we were awarded the following grants this year:

§ Seed grant

§ P3 Eco Challenge award

Additional Information

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

The Cooper City community is a great part of Griffin 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 math night, to assisting with behaviors. Our Partners include: Flannigan's, Publix, Target, Walmart, City of Cooper City, Rick Case, McDonald's, Burger King, AXA Financial and Karate America. Each outcome was a positive influence on the student's school and home life. The staff at Griffin Elementary believe that "it takes a village", and we surely take advantage of that!

Other accolades awarded to Griffin Elementary include the following:

- A+ School for over 20 years in a row.