



## Executive Summary for Sandpiper 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?

Sandpiper Elementary School is a traditional Title I school located on North Hiatus Road in Sunrise, Florida in a residential neighborhood and is part of the Piper Innovation Zone. Sandpiper Elementary was established in 1989 to serve students in Pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, including Special Programs, which serve students with Autism. Our Pre-kindergarten program has two classes of Voluntary Pre-school and Kindergarten, three classes of PreK Intensive and one class of PreK Specialized. Sandpiper's mascots are Sandy and Andy, and the school colors are blue and white.

The school community has been impacted recently by the addition of public charter schools built in the surrounding area. This has created more of a challenge as Sandpiper's student enrollment has been steadily decreasing over the years and currently maintains a student population of 611 students. Our student population consists of 90% of minority students and 67% of students who receive free and reduced meals. The school's demographics by race areas are 15% white, 42% Black/African American, 40% Hispanic, and 3% Asian. In addition, our English Language Learners are 16.5% of the total student population. Sandpiper Elementary has 3 kindergarten classes, 4 first grade classes, 4 second grade classes, 4 third grade classes, 4 fourth grade classes, 3 fifth grade classes, and 6 ASD classes. Our Specials Program serves 55 students. In grades K through 5 there is one Gifted/High Achiever class per grade level. Our teacher to student ratio is 24:1 in grades K-3, and 28:1 in grades 4-5. Our highly qualified teachers implement strategies aligned to Florida Standards.

Our faculty and staff members include 1 Principal, 1 Assistant Principal, 34 Classroom Teachers, 4 Clerical Staff, 24 Educational Support Personnel, 1 Media Specialist, 1 Music Teacher, 1 Physical Education Teacher, 4 Cafeteria Staff, 1 Cafeteria Manager, 4 Facilities Servicepersons, 1 School Resource Officer, 2 Campus Monitors, 1 Reading Coach, 1 Math Coach, 1 Autism Lead Teacher, 1 Exceptional Student Education Specialist, 1 Guidance Counselor, 3 Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP), 2 Support Facilitators, 1 Micro-Tech Specialist, 1 Classroom Monitor, 1 Behavior Tech., and 1 Nurse. The school has weekly support from district staff which include 1 Social Worker, 1 School Psychologist, 1 Family Counselor, and 1 Occupational Therapist. Three of our instructional staff members hold National Board Certification and 21 staff members have an Advanced Degree. Our Exceptional Student Education (ESE) teachers are dual certified in ESE and Elementary Education. Our 3 SLPs are licensed by the State of Florida and hold a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Historically, teacher turn-over has been low at this school, resulting in a stable environment for the student population. Sandpiper Elementary has strived to improve strategies to meet all students' needs and it is evident in receiving the school grade of a "A" according to the State of Florida School Grading System this current year 2025-2026. At Sandpiper Elementary we work collaboratively to increase student achievement and

ensure a safe and secure learning environment for all students.

## **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.

Sandpiper Elementary provides the highest quality education for all students. The vision of Sandpiper Elementary is educating today's students to succeed in tomorrow's world. The mission of Sandpiper Elementary is committed to ensuring a quality education, within a safe and secure learning environment. Sandpiper Elementary School works cooperatively with the community to provide academic and social experiences designed to develop individuals capable of being responsible, productive, and successful members of society.

Our four main goals are based upon Broward County Public School's goals:

- Early Literacy Proficiency
- Algebra Proficiency
- Science Proficiency
- College & Career Readiness

## **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 Sandpiper Elementary, we pride ourselves on the academic and social opportunities provided to our students and families in the community.

Sandpiper Elementary attempts to keep current with technology practices and trends. We strive to incorporate research-based strategies to integrate more complex tasks into students' daily activities. Through a General Obligation bond in 2015, our school was afforded 45 teacher and administrator laptops, 3 clerical computers, 5 Media Center desktops, 633 student laptops, and 26 ThinkPads. Each student in grades K -5 has a laptop as part of the Digital programs. In Pre-K, students have a ratio of 1 technology device for every 3 students. In addition, 19 classes have Promethean Boards or Smart Boards, and 50 classes are digital classrooms. All classrooms and buildings are equipped with Wi-Fi capabilities, making technology integration accessible school-wide on campus. Sandpiper instructional staff participates in Professional Learning Communities monthly, in which teachers learn digital tools, 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills, and practical uses of Lenovo laptops based on staff needs assessments. Strategies are monitored for the fidelity of implementation and increase in student success.

Sandpiper Elementary is committed to parent involvement as a recipient of the Golden School Award for 35 years. Our accomplishments include the Little Red Schoolhouse Award and Partner of the Year award based on community involvement. Parents are encouraged to participate in school events, family nights, Parent Teacher Association events, School Advisory Council, and School Advisory Forum. Parents are invited to attend virtual quarterly honor roll assemblies and monthly "Kids of Character" recognitions. In addition to quarterly report cards, parents of each student are invited to two parent conferences per school year to learn more about their student's progress in school. Sandpiper Elementary maintains an open-door policy in a welcoming school. We continue to promote opportunities for increased parent involvement as we strive for academic excellence.

Sandpiper embodies its high expectations and purpose through many extracurricular clubs and activities. Enrichment clubs are an essential part of the school's spirit and culture. Intermediate students partake in Chess club, city sponsored tournaments, and the chess art calendar contest. Sandpiper's students have even played chess against students via city tournaments. Fifth-grade students learn about situations involving bullying, drug prevention, digital citizenship, and peer pressure from the School Resource Officer (SRO) in G.R.A.D.E (Gang Resistance and Drug Education). Safety Patrols assist in creating a safe and secure school environment. They guide students to the correct locations, and they are especially helpful with younger students on campus. The patrols are learning and playing a role in citizenship by assisting other students and peers on campus. The Student Council students are civic-minded and promote awareness for citizenship. Students collaborate on ideas and bring forth their ideas to the principal. Students started school-wide initiatives based on the needs of their constituents. In addition, Student Council raised funds for Cancer Awareness. They promote the increase of energy and water efficiency. The Student Council reminds students to recycle and reduce waste in school. At Sandpiper Elementary, we believe the arts are an important part in molding the whole child. Students participate in the Art Club, Cheerleading, Debate, Dance and STEM Robotics. Students combined their artistic abilities and performed a Multicultural Show in May. At special events, Cheerleaders perform to increase the energy and motivate students in the school spirit. The male students of the Men of Tomorrow club are assigned to a mentor. They build relationships to positively impact the students' life based on their individual needs. Students provide service hours as a school-wide project. All students participate in the Buddy Up program to facilitate a welcoming learning environment.

The Sunrise city community is a supportive part of Sandpiper Elementary School and provides meaningful activities and events. Our local Business and Community Partners in Education donate food for breakfasts and lunches, student rewards for high performance, garden materials, and assistance in integrating writing with real-world applications. Our Partners include the City of Sunrise, Commercial Point Café, Target, I9 Sports, Scutto's Pizza, Sawgrass Lanes, McDonald's, and Mathnasium. The City of Sunrise provided students the opportunity to attend local businesses and create a welcoming brochure for all new residents. Each experience had an impact on educating the whole child. The collaboration between the school and community members fosters an advantageous educational life experience.

#### Areas of improvement:

In the next three years our areas of improvement focus are to increase student achievement in English Language Arts, Math, and Science with the integration of technology to close the achievement gaps in English Language Learners, students with disabilities, and students in the lowest quartile. In the primary grades we implemented the SIPPS, Benchmark Advanced Interventions, iReady Magnetic Readers (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>), and Reading Horizons intervention program based on the F.A.S.T. and iReady diagnostic in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. We fully expand the new Benchmark Advance implementation to kindergarten through fifth grade to improve reading comprehension and application. To bridge the gap from learning to read and reading to learn. A literacy resource room is maintained as a resource for small group instruction.

With the new Florida BEST Standards, teachers were trained in critical content areas and how to increase rigor in their classrooms. We are gathering resources to promote more non-fiction texts and provide students with more complex tasks with real-world applications. This year we implemented the use of critical content and vocabulary strategies in reading with the intent to increase academic vocabulary in all content areas over the next three years. The purpose of the new strategies is to transfer the ownership of the learning from the teacher to the student. The teacher will become the guide on the side, a facilitator of learning. Students will use accountable talk and have a purpose for their learning.

In math, we will continue to focus on math fluency of facts using iReady's Fluency Flight. The goal is to improve math automaticity in the intermediate grades by focusing on the fluency of math facts in the primary grades.

In Science, each grade level will participate in hands-on science experiments and the use of science journals on a weekly basis. Students plan on attending field trips including the Museum of Science and Discovery, a Space Truck visit, and a trip for iFly to learn about motion and air resistance. Students in all grade levels are also participating in Super Sonic Science, a district distance learning program that allows for live feedback and questioning during an active participation lab. Additionally, all grade levels now have access to Progress Learning, a game-based science software which provides videos and questions for current year standards as well as remediation standards based on performance on students' beginning of the year science placement test.

With the current focus on literacy and technology, faculty members will continue Professional Learning Communities and focus on the integration of technology in learning and 21st century skills. Teachers will continue to make the transition of using devices for creation and not solely as consumers. They will effectively use Canvas to individualize instruction and maintain a flipped classroom. As we move towards 21st century skills, our students will become critical thinkers in the future and continue to move toward college and career readiness.

### **Additional Information**

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

Sandpiper Elementary School participates in inclusive field days. Our school has athletes who work together on physical activities. As the events evolve over the years, all students are encouraged to participate and feel a sense of accomplishment.

At Sandpiper Elementary, we are proud to have a master teacher on campus who is the recipient of the IDEA Expo grants and a presenter at the expo. She shares her best practices with her peers. Our teachers utilize Donors Choose to expand resources for their innovative projects and have had many projects successfully funded.