



**Executive Summary for**  
**Silver Shores STEAM Academy K-8**

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?**

Incorporated on May 26, 1955, Miramar, Florida became the southernmost city in Broward County, Florida. Miramar is a suburb of the Miami metropolitan area. It is the fourth-largest city in Broward County and the 14th-largest city in Florida. The city began with a population of less than 200 people, with a land area of approximately 2.9 square miles. The current estimated population is approximately 140,854, an increase from the 2020 census population of 134,721. The city is growing at an annual rate of about 0.91%, with a land area of 31 square miles. The racial composition of Miramar includes 44.58% Black or African American, 25.71% White, 5.21% other race, 4.64% Asian, and smaller percentages for Native American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander and multiracial populations. Miramar is 14 miles in length from east to west and 2.5 miles in width, making it the third largest city in Broward County in terms of land size and fifth largest in terms of population.

Miramar's motto is Beauty and Progress and has also been awarded the National Recognition of "Tree City, USA" for its accomplishments in landscaping and beautification of the city. From the time of its founding, Miramar has been and continues to be a family-oriented community. Eleven elementary schools, three middle schools, two high schools, various charter schools, a special needs school, and eight institutions of higher education are located throughout Miramar.

Silver Shores STEAM Academy K-8 (formerly known as Silver Shores Elementary School) was founded in 2002 and opened its doors in August 2003. It is located on the corner of Pembroke Road and Dykes Road in the city of Miramar, FL, in southwest Broward County. Since the school's opening, West Miramar has experienced a huge population boom, resulting in the opening of more traditional public elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school. In addition, there has also been a large increase in the number of charter schools that have opened, resulting in the loss of students.

Silver Shores STEAM Academy K-8 is a full-choice school where students must apply to attend. In addition, there are four (4) K-5 Intellectually Disabled self-contained classes, one (1) 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Special Varying Exceptionalities (SVE) class; one (1) Specialized Pre-Kindergarten Class, and two (2) Intensive Pre-Kindergarten classes. The enrollment on the Historic Benchmark Day (August 22, 2025) for 2025-2026 was 364 students. There are over 45 countries represented, and 17 primary languages spoken. Primary exceptionalities at Silver Shores include, but are not limited to Specific Learning Disability, Gifted, Autism, Developmentally Delayed, Intellectual Disability, Speech Impaired, Language Impaired, and other health Impairments.

Silver Shores STEAM Academy K-8 's Faculty and Staff is comprised of one principal, one assistant principal, one office manager, one school counselor, one instructional coach, one ESE specialist, one school nurse, one technology specialist, one media specialist, one school resource officer (Miramar Police Department), one security specialist, three campus monitors, four facilities persons, four food service persons, one clerical person, 15 certified classroom assistants, 2.5 Speech and Language Pathologists, one Occupational Therapist, one Physical Therapist, one School Psychologist, one Social Worker, and 30 classroom teachers. In addition, we also have one aftercare supervisor and seven after-care counselors.

Silver Shores STEAM Academy K-8's community is actively involved in school culture. From the first day of school to the last, we continually encourage our parents to get involved – PTO, SAC, mentoring, chaperoning, or volunteering on school committees to enhance the overall school culture (i.e. 5<sup>th</sup> grade dance committee, book fair volunteers, room parents, school store volunteers, PTO executive board members, etc.). Additionally, our parents are always invited to attend birthday celebrations, participate in all school events, and assume leadership roles that benefit the greater good of the school.

## **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.**

Silver Shores STEAM Academy K-8's vision is: "The Greatest Corner in the Universe, where curiosity leads and innovation follows" The Mission Statement is: Silver Shores STEAM Academy K-8 is committed to providing a safe, collaborative, positively charged, fully inclusive school, supported by the Florida BEST Standards, to successfully prepare our students to be college or career ready. Our fundamental purpose is to cultivate high achieving, critically thinking 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. As a collective family, we work towards reaching this goal by upholding the belief that respect for everyone is paramount to teaching and learning. Moreover, we understand that education is a shared responsibility, and to nurture such learners, we embrace and foster partnerships with all stakeholders, including family members, community members, students, and all faculty and staff.

Although critical thinking is an important aspect of the education of the "whole child," life skills and wellness is crucial, especially at the elementary level. At Silver Shores, we firmly believe in Character Education, and every month, we celebrate students that are nominated in each classroom for every character trait: cooperation, responsibility, citizenship, kindness, respect, honesty, self-control, and tolerance. Each school year we implement "How Are You Feeling" or "How Are You Doing," which can be heard as students enter the class. Students rate their immediate feelings on the "Mood Meter," an interactive wall chart that describes feelings in one-word phrases, falling into one of four color-coded categories: happy (yellow), sad (blue), at ease (Green), or angry (red). Each category has 16 words to describe the emotion. All school stakeholders participate in a daily rating in the morning to elicit their current mood. In addition, one minute of a mindfulness activity is embedded into morning announcements daily.

Silver Shores STEAM Academy K-8 is a firm believer in the anti-bullying / choose peace program. Furthermore, Silver Shores has organized two major district and community-wide events to promote anti-bullying and choose peace as an everyday way of life. Silver Shores STEAM Academy K-8 was awarded a Peace Pole from The Peace Pole Project at The World Peace Sanctuary, which we planted in front of the school. The entire school, community, and district leadership were invited to unveil the garden during Choose Peace Week. In addition, with over 45 countries represented at Silver Shores, we ordered all 45 of the countries' flags and placed them around the peace pole in a circle to create a perimeter. Then, everyone who attended the event was given a white river stone and wrote a message of peace and placed the stone within the perimeter. Students that come to school with a strong social-emotional understanding are ready to tackle the critical thinking skills that are required to be successful with the academic side of education. To commemorate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MSD High School massacre in 2023, Silver Shores STEAM Academy K-8, with the assistance and participation of school board members, local police officers and fire fighters, and city commissioners, created a giant heart with the number 17 inside of it on our large playing field. This was captured by three local news stations via helicopter and aired for the duration of the day.

Through the implementation of the Florida BEST Standards and infusion of the Science of Reading, coupled with complex cognitive tasks and differentiated instruction, our students experience a myriad of teaching strategies that best accompany their style of learning. High expectations are present in every classroom as students engage in STEAM-based activities, text-based writing, project-based learning, and real-world application. standards-based teaching is at the heart of every classroom, and common formative assessments are given for each standard to ensure students fully understand what they need to know and be able to do with the standard. ELA curriculum is driven by Benchmark Advance, the math curriculum is Savvas Math, and Discovery Learning is our newly adopted science curriculum. Science is assessed through Progress Learning, an online platform that houses the beginning, middle, and end of year assessments, in addition to all the standards-based science formative assessments that measure student mastery of the standard(s) being taught. Progress Learning also has a student-driven academic pathway to supplement science learning.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students are on an A/B block schedule, with 8 classes offered in a two-day period. Our A Day (Sapphire) are periods 1-4; and our B Day (Titanium) are periods 5-8. Students are placed into their core curricular classes (ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies) based on FAST PM 3 scores from their 5<sup>th</sup> grade year. Students are placed in either advanced or accelerated classes, with accelerated being the highest achieving track. Students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated classes take GEM 6 (Great Explorations in Math, which is 8<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-Algebra), and GEARS I for science (which builds towards pre-AICE Biology in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade). Students that scored a level 1 in reading or math will take Intensive Reading and Foundational Math to close the education gap. Student electives include band, digital design, PE, Environmental Stewardship, World Travel / Introduction to Careers, and Introduction to Coding and Robotics.

Teachers also administer *i-Ready* ELA and Math Diagnostic Assessments to progress monitor and gauge continual student learning and achievement. *i-Ready* has a personalized student pathway in ELA and Math that are level set upon completing the Diagnostic assessments. *i-Ready's* "MyPath" is a personalized learning pathway within the i-Ready program, designed to provide students with individualized instruction in reading and math. After completing the i-Ready Diagnostic assessment, students are assigned a unique learning path in MyPath, tailored to their specific needs and learning gaps. This personalized approach helps students progress toward grade-level proficiency at their own pace. By seamlessly connecting deep student insights with engaging, evidence-based instruction, i-Ready ensures each learner receives support where and when it's needed most. The program provides differentiated digital mathematics and reading instruction with thoughtful adaptivity, driving efficient gains across critical skill areas.

Students that are performing below grade level or going through the MTSS / RtI process are provided remediation throughout the day. Remediation interventions include but are not limited to small group

pullout/instruction in reading and math; computer-based instruction; and iReady progress monitoring. To provide quality, interactive, and focused interventions, we implement the Reading Horizons program through Benchmark Advance. We have a reading interventionist that focuses specifically on students that require tier 3 interventions and a small group setting, so teaching can be student-specific and differentiated to meet the individual needs of all students.

### **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.**

For the last five years, Silver Shores focused on improving school-wide initiatives to promote student achievement by maximizing all Stakeholders' potential. Professional Learning Communities (PLC's), Response to Intervention (RtI), Internal and External Relationships, and Scaling up Best Practices were the four primary areas of focus for improvement. Silver Shores authentically committed to improving PLC's, RtI, and professional development by scaling up best practices.

Silver Shores' PLC's became more laser focused over the last three years. Three essential questions that are posed at the onset of each school year's PLC cycle are: (1) What do we want students to know? (2) How will we know when each student has learned it? (3) How will we respond when a student has trouble in learning? At the center of each grade level PLC lays a plethora of data that is used to begin each PLC conversation. Student data-driven discussions, sharing of best practices and teaching strategies to maximize student proficiency, and the implementation of learned professional development drive each PLC. Teachers engage in reflective practice which result in gained confidence in professional judgment and autonomy over their teaching, increased knowledge base in their grade level and classroom practices, and increased use of data-driven decision making to positively impact student achievement at higher levels.

Response to Intervention at Silver Shores has been revamped to be more comprehensive and evaluative at the leadership team and classroom level. The leadership team, consisting of the principal, assistant principal, school counselor, ESE specialist, literacy coach, ESE Support Facilitators, school psychologist, and school social worker work very closely with the teachers that are implementing interventions at the classroom level for both tier 2 and 3. Teachers provide work samples, data charts, anecdotes, and any academic/behavioral information that may be pertinent to the student's progress. Teachers, with the support and guidance of the case managers (each leadership team member oversees a grade level), implement increasingly intensive academic interventions to match each student's needs. Progress is continually monitored and altered if needed. Ultimately, the end goal is to remediate the student, so they climb back up the academic ladder to grade level instruction.

Silver Shores has achieved an overabundance of notable achievements. With the support of all Silver Shores' stakeholders, our accomplishments have ranged from a comprehensive STEM program to overall academic achievement. With the recent increased focus on STEM nationwide, Silver Shores quickly hopped on board to make sure our students had a wide variety of STEM activities available to them. We began in the 2012-13 school year with our Rocket Club, where students worked to build and launch their own rockets. We continued with the addition of an organic vegetable garden supervised by one of teachers, where students helped to plant, cultivate, harvest and consume their own produce. In addition, a portion of our outside area was expanded to include an organic butterfly garden. In 2013 our entire school participated in the very first Hour of Code, introducing computational thinking and computer science skills to students. One of the nearby major TV networks sent their education correspondent to capture the Coding event and interview the principal and media specialist. The segment was aired on the 6:00pm news. The Hour of Code was such a success that in addition to participating in the Hour of Code each year, we implemented coding into our K-5 curriculum during the Media Special, providing an opportunity for every student to learn Code. This strong focus on STEM laid the foundation in 2025 for the transformation of Silver Shores Elementary School to Silver Shores STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Aviation, and Mathematics) Academy K-8.

In addition to the implementation of computer science, our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade math teams compete yearly in the BCCTM Competition each year. In 2014 we became a D5 school, which provided each of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students with their own Lenovo laptop (1:1 student/computer ratio platform) and enabled a more blended learning environment within our classrooms. Since 2014, every student that attends Silver Shores from kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, including our special program, has their own laptop, putting Silver Shores STEAM Academy K-8 at a 1:1 ratio student to laptop.

We also began a Recycling Club and Eco Club that has helped to educate our entire school population on ways to reduce, re-use and recycle. Within our innovation zone, Silver Shores opened its doors for students from Everglades High School to come in for a STEM night where students and parents alike participated in a variety of science activities. For the 2018-2019 school year, we implemented a VEX Robotics club for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. For the 2025-2026 school year, we have added a 6<sup>th</sup> grade competitive team.

Silver Shores also provides its students with a variety of activities and programs to enhance their academic achievements. We celebrate student success each quarter with our Principal "A" and "A/B" Honor Roll. In addition, we have attendance parties for the classrooms with the best monthly attendance, as well as monthly positive behavior parties, where teachers recommend a few students who demonstrate positive behavior traits for the month. These students come outside for an hour, receive popsicles, and get extra recess time. We have found that student strive to be a part of these three celebrations.

Silver Shores will continue to improve our RtI process, PLC's, and professional development by fully unwrapping the Florida Standards; using learning goals and performance scales to determine student proficiency and mastery with the standards; ensure a seamless RtI process, whereby students experience a multi-tiered educational experience and high-quality instruction; and ensuring collective teacher efficacy through meaningful PLC's and appropriate professional development. In addition, with the ever-changing climate of education, as it pertains to State-Wide educational mandates and District initiatives, we will continue to focus on how we internalize these changes, so they cause the least amount of stress and anxiety on teachers, staff, students, and the community at large.

### **Additional Information**

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

Silver Shores Elementary School's Florida Standards Assessment data skyrocketed at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 school year. The overall total of reporting categories increased 149 points from 394 to 496, which was a 29% overall increase. As a result, Silver Shores' grade went from a C to an A.

In addition to academics, Silver Shores Elementary School promotes the Arts in a variety of ways. Our students have had opportunities to express themselves in both the visual and performing arts. Our art teacher began showcasing student work at an annual school-wide art gallery night. Parents and community members are invited to browse student artwork and can purchase framed versions of the pieces to help raise money for further arts education. Additionally, each year our music teacher puts on multiple musical theatre and chorus productions at the school, as well as off-campus appearances at our Barnes & Noble Book Fair nights. Productions have included *The Jungle Book* and *The Lion King*, among others. With the addition of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, we now offer a beginning band elective as well as a digital design elective. In band, students with little or no instrumental experience develop foundational instrumental technique, foundational music literacy, and aesthetic musical awareness through rehearsal, performance, and study of high-quality band literature. Instrumentalists work on the fundamentals of music notation, sound production, instrument care and maintenance, and personal and group rehearsal strategies. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. In the Digital Design elective, students explore the fundamental concepts, terminology, techniques, and applications of digital imaging to create original work. Students produce digital still and/or animated images through the single or combined use of computers, digital cameras, digital video cameras, scanners, photo editing software, drawing and painting software, graphic tablets, printers, new media, and emerging technologies. Through the critique process, students evaluate and respond to their own work and that of their peers to

measure artistic growth. This course incorporates hands-on activities, the use of technology, and consumption of art materials.

For the last eleven years, our students have participated in the school-wide Black history Wax Museum Extravaganza. The Wax Museum Extravaganza is an open-house style event where the students of the school have chosen a famous African American that has made a positive contribution to either National or International Culture. Students come dressed like their person of choice and give a 20-30 second monologue in first-person (e.g. My name is Michael Jordan and I was the greatest basketball player ever...). The monologue focuses on their importance in society and/or the world. In addition, the students create a tri-fold board display, which includes the famous person's name at the top center; a one-page written paper about the life of the chosen person; another page with bulleted items regarding the person's contribution(s) to the world; a bibliography of sources used; and any extra space can be used for photos of the individual or photos of their contributions. The last item the board must have is a large red dot at the top right corner of the tri-fold board – this is the activation button of the wax figure (the student). Guests of the museum have free reign as they walk through the museum and activate the students by pressing the red button (who will perform a 30 second monologue of their person's attributes).

Silver Shores Elementary also provides extra-curricular opportunities for students. There is a recycling and ecology club, safety patrol club, morning tv news club, VEX Robotics club, Save Promise Club, First Priority club, as well as extended learning opportunities for students to receive specific tutoring and after-school instruction in areas of concern. With the addition of the middle school, we will offer Student Government, National Junior Honor Society as well as National Elementary Honor Society for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Florida Future Educators of America, Music Makers, and yearbook,

Silver Shores has a very positive, inviting, warm climate. Every stakeholder brings something special to the Silver Shores table, and every stakeholder is valued and respected. Silver Shores takes every opportunity to include our students' families and community members in our events. Our two annual Scholastic Book Fairs, run by our PTO, not only help promote literacy and raise money for our school, but also enable our community members to promote their businesses during after-school hours. Similarly, our annual Barnes & Noble Book Fair brings our school family together off campus and gives our students the chance to present their own works on the Barnes & Noble stage. Each fall, our Curriculum Night and Fall Festival offers insights to student curriculum and district resources to our parents, allows community members exposure and enables students to display pumpkin projects relating to book characters. Sometimes, it's simply about socializing at our McDonald's McTeacher nights, where teachers work behind the counter to serve our families, or several times a year at the dances we hold in our Cafeteria where students, parents and our staff

mingle and dance the night away together. During the months where the weather is tolerable, we have Movie Night Under the Stars, where we bring out a 200' blow up screen, set up in the playing fields, offer concessions, and invite our families to enjoy a night out at the movies.

Silver Shores Elementary School **IS** the Greatest Corner in the Universe, where curiosity leads, and innovation follows!