



Executive Summary for Gator Run 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?

Gator Run Elementary is located in Weston, Florida. Currently there are over 1,063 students enrolled. There are two large buildings and 16 portables located on campus. Currently the portables are empty and all rooms in the 2 large buildings are currently occupied to accommodate our student population. A unique challenge that occurs yearly at Gator Run, is the large number of students who arrive after the start of the school year, especially after Winter Break. Many of these students are also active ESOL students. Currently there are close to 300 active ESOL students. Due to the large student population, the size of the staff is uniquely large. Grade level teams average about 12 teachers, allowing the personalization of professional development to be challenging. Gaining consensus among grade level teams, as well as the whole staff, can also be a challenge. As of 7/29/25, Gator Run Elementary had 1,063 students enrolled in grades PreK-5. 22% of students identified as White (NonHispanic), while 63% of students identified as Hispanic, 3% of students identified as Black, 6% identified as Asian, and 3% identified as Multiracial.

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.

Gator Run Elementary's purpose statement reads as follows: "We will inspire our students with a creative, innovative, and challenging environment, while promoting confidence through collaboration, inquiry, and exploration." We believe this perfectly illustrates our vision and expectations for our students. We are excited to offer a full Digital learning program for all our students, Kindergarten through fifth grade, allowing maximized student learning and engagement using the 1:1 technology model. Our school places emphases on inquiry and exploration aimed at mastery of the Florida standards, our school places an emphasis on inquiry and exploration through the incorporation of various programs. Makerspace is an individualized, passion-based learning experience that we have initiated in grades K-5. These students are given the time to explore personal interests and share their discoveries with others. This cutting-edge movement that is designed to allow students to explore their own passions, thoroughly examine subjects that deeply interest them, and give them the opportunity to reap the rewards of learning for learning's own sake. By design Makerspace breaks the mold of rubrics, answer sheets, and grading scales and instead focuses on creative exploration, in-depth examination and perseverance. Through this unique program, students are developing the tools needed to become lifelong learners. All classrooms participate in open-ended problem solving activities, which has reinvigorated these half days and brought an increased attention to and excitement for science to both students and teachers. STEM is student directed and collaborative program allowing students to problem solve while working on these projects together. In addition, we have a large Extended Learning Opportunities Program, staffed by our own educators, that offers everything from Sports to Chorus, to name but a few. All of these examples perfectly embody our purpose statement.

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.

Gator Run Elementary's notable achievements involve many of the program offerings and school programs mentioned above, including our Makerspace specials and our move to flexible seating and classroom redesign. These programs, and others, have received print and television coverage, as well as having served as a guide for many other educators and schools who have visited and modeled their programs after ours. In addition, our school has become an example for the successful use of social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) to involve parents in their children's classrooms, create Professional Development opportunities for our educators, and bring our school community together and connected in new and exciting ways. We have a MakerSpace Lounge , where students are encouraged to imagine, create and build using various materials. With the overwhelming success and positive response to our

previous new ideas and methods, we are looking to extend and expand our focus on critical thinking and innovative exploration with additional programs. For the 2025-2026 school year, we continue our amazing Dual Language program in Kindergarten, First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth grade. There are a total of 40 students broken into 2 groups of 20. These students are taught half the day in English and half the day in Spanish in K-2. Students in 3-5 are taught one day in Spanish and one day in English. The lessons are ongoing and are never repeated. Learning takes place mostly through centers. Reading groups are taught twice a week in English and twice a week in Spanish. These students are brought together for play and free choice time and are considered "one big family". This program has been truly amazing and has allowed these students to be immersed in learning in both English and Spanish. Gator Run has been an A-rated school since the Florida grading system was designed. Areas for improvement includes improvement on the professional development of the school as well as more focused Professional development. Hiring a more diverse faculty would also benefit the overall school cultural and moral.

Additional Information

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

At Gator Run Elementary, we believe in a philosophy of inclusion and representation.

We host many annual events that bring the community together, including an Annual Multicultural Festival. At this event, about 25 countries represented the diverse makeup of Gator Run Elementary, where attendees are able to visit display booths where they can learn about each country's heritage.

We also have a large gallery with pictures in the main hallway that represent all of the countries where our students originated from. Each picture has the school's mascot, the country's flag and a tag line that says "we all smile in the same language". This has been a great addition to the school environment as it embraces all the countries and culture that comprise Gator Run Elementary's student population.