



Executive Summary for School Name: Sunset Lakes 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?

Sunset Lakes Elementary was built in 2002 in the city of Miramar, located in southwestern Broward County. This area of the county experienced tremendous growth because of Hurricane Andrew. Rapid development spurred a continual need for classroom space through the early 2010s as homes and businesses populated in surrounding areas. Most homes in our area are single family structures. A limited number of shared wall construction comprises a small portion of the developments surrounding the school. Our school is home to 592 students. Sunset Lakes current population identifies as 57% white, .15% Native, 9% Asian, 27% Black, 46% Hispanic, 4% Multi. Currently, there are 29 classroom teachers which includes 3 ESE support facilitators, 3 special area teachers, 2 speech/language specialists, 1 ESE Specialist, 1 Literacy Coach, 1 Autism Coach, 1 School Counselor, 1 Microtech, and 15 Paraprofessionals and 1 behavior tech. working to help our students learn. Teacher and administrator turnover is low. The school has had 3 principals and 6 assistant principals over the years. Many teachers and staff members have been at the school since the inaugural year. The 2015-2016 school year brought a new program to Sunset Lakes. We are home to an Autism Cluster with students ranging from high functioning to low functioning. Each child has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) which is implemented daily within their school instruction. Their IEPs require accommodations and modifications to daily school instruction. The teacher and two paraprofessionals provide these children with specific interventions and strategies to help them reach their highest potential and goals. Sunset Lakes Elementary hosts three pre-k programs. There is one specialized pre-k class. The students range in ages 3-5 with developmental delays. The goal of the Specialized Pre-k class is to provide early intervention for

delays in communication, curriculum, independent functioning and socialization. Each day our teachers and staff strive to meet the challenges presented by our English Language Learners. In 2018-2019 an integrated-VPK class was also added. This class has a full-time teacher and paraprofessional. 15% of our population is classified as ELL. The school has a full time ELL paraprofessional to ensure program compliance and provide support for the classroom teachers.

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.

Mission: Provide every student with a safe, nurturing, and inclusive learning environment where they can reach their highest potential.

Vision: Instill a love for learning and prepare all students for the future.

The staff at Sunset Lakes is committed to providing every student with a safe and nurturing environment. Our teachers utilize technology and research-based curriculum programs to encourage students to reach their highest potential. Parents play an integral role through volunteering, supporting our teachers, and participating on our School Advisory Committee (SAC) and Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA).

Beliefs:

- Student learning is our primary focus.
- Learning Occurs best in a safe, secure environment.
- Students learn best when they are actively engaged in meaningful, challenging work.
- Students learn best when the staff maintains high expectations for learning.
- All students can learn. Different students learn at different paces and have different learning styles.
- Positive relationships are the essence of good teaching.
- Parents are an integral part of our success.
- All school personnel play a vital role in student success.
- All stakeholders share the responsibility to advance the school's vision.
- Technology is essential to a 21st century learning environment.

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.

The school literacy coach plays a pivotal role in supporting targeted small group instruction. Teachers collaborate within grade levels to ensure that students are provided with both intervention and acceleration opportunities. To facilitate smooth transitions between grade levels, the principal leads vertical planning discussions. These discussions will continue to be a key component of our strategy to address the diverse needs of our students.

To support our English Language Learners (ELL), Sunset Lakes organizes family nights where parents and students are invited to learn about resources available to enhance student learning. During these events, teachers volunteer their time to conduct workshops for both students and parents, with language assistance readily available. Additionally, we offer after-school ELL camps, providing reading support in small group settings to better meet the needs of this population. These camps group similar students together to foster both supported and challenging learning experiences.

Sunset Lakes Elementary proudly holds a charter membership in the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS). Fifth-grade students have the opportunity to apply for membership, undergoing a rigorous screening process that includes meeting grade point average requirements, submitting letters of recommendation, and writing an essay. Accepted students participate in an induction ceremony and contribute to our school's community service initiatives.

Recognizing the importance of technological proficiency in the 21st century, Sunset Lakes is committed to equipping every student in grades K-5 with a personal computer. Since 2017, we have been proud to be a Cambridge School, one of only two elementary schools in Broward County to hold this distinction. Teachers receive extensive training to align Cambridge Standards with Florida Standards to enhance student learning. All classrooms are equipped with Promethean boards, projectors, and document cameras, ensuring engaging and interactive instructional activities. To optimize instructional time, teachers have developed a schedule to maximize the use of these technologies.

Our media specialist teaches essential 21st-century skills, including word processing, creating charts and graphs, utilizing multimedia software for presentations, and conducting research while ensuring the use of reliable sources. The faculty and staff at Sunset Lakes are committed to continuous improvement, actively seeking opportunities to introduce additional programs, such

as no-cost after-school tutoring for upward-bound students, to further support our school community.

Additional Information

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

Additional Information

Sunset Lakes Elementary remains committed to providing exceptional educational opportunities for our students and their families, striving to create a positive and enriching school experience. Students eagerly anticipate our annual Hispanic Heritage and Black History Month Assembly performances, which are key cultural events within our school community.

The school's Guidance Counselor oversees the Patriot of the Month Program, which recognizes student achievement and character. Additionally, the Soaring Eagle Academy (SEA), our on-site before and aftercare program, is operated by Sunset Lakes Elementary staff. This program not only offers high-quality care, but also generates funding that supports our school's technology initiatives. SEA provides students with enriching experiences, including various clubs and extended learning opportunities.

In addition to the before and aftercare offerings, teachers at Sunset Lakes plan and facilitate additional math and science activities to further enhance student learning. Students can also engage in extracurricular clubs such as Patriot Pals, Student Senate, Future Educators of America (FEA), and several music clubs. Parents appreciate the convenience and quality of care provided for their children, knowing their children are benefiting from both academic and personal growth opportunities.

The administration at Sunset Lakes Elementary actively supports faculty in leading charitable initiatives. The school hosts an annual Turkey Trot and participates in the Walk for Autism in January. These events benefit the Dan Marino Center and also provide financial support to our school's autism program, underscoring our commitment to giving back to the community.

The City of Miramar plays an integral role in supporting our belief that students thrive in a safe environment by providing a dedicated Resource Officer on campus. This officer fosters positive interactions with students and teaches the S.O.A.R. program—Students Obtaining Achievement and Responsibility—to all fifth-grade students. In addition to S.O.A.R., our fifth graders are offered the opportunity to participate in the Police Athletic League sports program, which includes kickball and flag football. These activities, organized by the Miramar Police Department, foster teamwork, physical fitness, and community engagement among students from Miramar schools.

