



Executive Summary for New Renaissance Middle School

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?

Nestled in the heart of Miramar, FL, New Renaissance Middle School (NRMS) stands as a beacon of educational opportunity and community spirit for grades six through eight. As one of the two public middle schools in Miramar, it proudly serves a diverse student body of 967 students, with a vibrant mix of ethnic backgrounds. Boasting 16 white students (1.7%), 660 African American students (68.3%), 28 (2.9%) Asian students, 15 (1.6%) multi-racial students and 244 Hispanic students (25.2%), with many of these students hailing from Caribbean, Asian, South American, and African countries.

NRMS is not just a place of learning; it is a nurturing ground for both students and educators. Here, 48 dedicated classroom teachers enrich the minds of young scholars, all evaluated as Effective or Highly Effective in their respective fields. The school's faculty mirrors the diversity of its student body, with 67% Black, 19% Hispanic, 18% White, and 2% Asian educators.

The school also boasts a robust support network, including a literacy coach, ESSA coach, Math coach, media specialist, three guidance counselors, a social worker, a family counselor, an ESE program specialist, a technology specialist, three ESE support facilitators, and six paraprofessionals and unique aids.

NRMS wears many hats—it is a Middle Years International Baccalaureate (IB) school, a Verizon Innovation Learning School, and a Turn-around Arts school. This multifaceted approach equips students with a well-rounded education, preparing them for the world beyond their immediate surroundings.

Yet, the journey at NRMS is not without its hurdles. The school is situated in a primarily African American residential community in South Florida, which has a steadily increasing housing market which presents financial challenges for the larger community. The percentage of students living in poverty has surged from 46% in 2002 to as high as 86% in recent years.

This year the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) grant has sunset and once again students will have to apply for Free and Reduced Lunch eligibility. This transition may create a hurdle for those who have not prepared for the additional cost associated with lunch fees but breakfast will remain free.

These socio-economic challenges, while daunting, have not dampened the school's spirit. Instead, they have fueled a relentless determination to overcome. The students, many from Caribbean backgrounds, bring a wealth of cultural diversity that enriches the school environment. However, the transition to the U.S. educational system presents unique challenges, particularly as many students have limited exposure to cultural and social experiences outside their community.

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.

The vision of New Renaissance Middle School is to produce members of society that demonstrate good character, exude excellence, and exemplify respect for all. New Renaissance Middle School is committed to providing ALL students with a rigorous curriculum that aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring students that see the world through a more global and intercultural perspective that supports understanding and respect. We believe when we develop relationships with students, they will succeed. Classroom teachers and guidance counselors monitor the progress of our students closely using data to drive instructional decisions. Students who struggle both academically and behaviorally are addressed by the Collaborative Problem-Solving Team, CPST, to ensure that appropriate interventions are provided based on the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). The state of Florida has adopted this model of strategies and accommodations to assist students. All students receive Tier I strategies to encourage academic and behavioral success. When Tier I strategies are not sufficient, students are placed in Response to Intervention (RtI) and provided with more intense and targeted interventions. These interventions are provided both in the classroom setting and through individual and small group instruction and counseling. The goal of MTSS is to ensure the success of all students.

The inclusion of an International Baccalaureate (IB) middle years program (MYP) serves to develop students into inquirers, knowledgeable, and caring young adults who can create a more peaceful world. The MYP achieves this by encouraging students to make connections between their studies and the real world, fostering critical thinking and promoting intercultural understanding through all content areas. This problem-based approach to learning has the desired effect of creating more holistic development, interdisciplinary learners, use of inquiry and development of critical thinkers, creates global citizens acutely involved in community engagement. Teachers engage in professional development opportunities that support these pedagogical shifts.

Students have the opportunity to engage in high school credit courses and industry certification courses that offer them a head start in their high school career. The high school credit courses offered at New Renaissance Middle School are Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, Spanish I or II, Advanced IT, and

Latinos in Action. These courses offer rigor to our scholars who are dedicated and want to earn high school credits during middle school.

In addition to the IB program, New Renaissance has a dynamic Turn Around Arts program that focuses on fostering creativity, enhancing academic performance, and developing crucial life skills such as self-expression, confidence, and communication skills. These students benefit from dynamic teachers who understand that inclusion of the arts is a mandatory component of student development and academic achievement.

Areas of STEM are not lost in our burgeoning unified arts department where students learn the skills to ensure they are ready for a 21st century global society, having the option of learning another language such as Spanish, learning to build their own website through use of computer coding, or engaging in learning various skills through the Verizon Innovative Learning grants technology lab boasting 5G internet to support a wide range of technological gadgets, including VR goggles, merge cubes, STEM design challenge, robots and more. Our NRMS debate team competes at a high level in district competitions and learns the skills of persuasive writing, researching, collaboration and teamwork, point of view, and active listening.

NRMS has a diverse range of learners housing English Language Learners (ELL), Gifted, ESE, and three Specialized Varying Exceptionalities classes. These students contribute to the inclusive nature of our campus and are inherently a part of our large school community.

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.

During the 2024-25 school year, New Renaissance Middle School celebrated a milestone achievement by earning an illustrious "B" grade rating for the first time in fifteen years. This success is attributed to the collaborative efforts of our dedicated faculty, staff, students, and supportive community. Our scholars have shown remarkable progress, achieving impressive scores in various content areas: ELA/Reading at 47%, marking a 10-point increase; Math achievement at 49%, with an increase of nine points; Science achievement at 50%, showing an outstanding 15-point rise; and Civics achievement maintaining its 64% rating.

NRMS prides itself on offering a diverse array of challenging acceleration and high school credit classes, including Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, Advanced IT, and Spanish, among others. We proudly provide our students with the opportunity to earn up to 8 high school credits before graduating middle school. Additionally, students can choose from a variety of engaging elective courses such as Robotics, Broadcasting, Career Technical Education, Computer Technology, Computer Science and Programming,

Dance, Band, Drama, Debate, Aviation, Peer Counseling, and Leadership Development.

As an IB/MYP School, NRMS is committed to fostering global learners. Our mission is to support each student in reaching their academic and intellectual potential. Looking ahead, we have set ambitious goals for the next three years: to continue the increase in student achievement in ELA, Math, and Science; to boost the number of students taking high school credit classes and industry certifications; and to use social media as a medium to enhance the public perception of our school, thereby increasing student enrollment.

Over the past three years, NRMS has faced a significant decline in student enrollment due to the emergence of neighborhood charter schools and the transition of nearby schools to K-8 or 6-12 models. In response, our administration is implementing various strategies to market and promote NRMS. These efforts include active engagement through social media, elementary school visits, active participation in zone school activities, parent engagement, curriculum nights, and school tours.

Our students continue to excel and earn recognition in district academic competitions such as the Social Studies Fair, Science Fair, Foreign Language and Literary Fair. The New Renaissance Middle performing arts program is growing and gaining accolades in the community, with students proudly representing NRMS in the All-County Band. Our Peer Counselor program has earned the distinction of being a Peace School, and in 2022, we were awarded a Peace Pole to be placed on campus. We have also received a banner as our school earned the No Place for Hate designation in 2025. Our media center was awarded for the highest media circulation amongst Middle Schools in 2025.

In 2015, NRMS implemented a Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) program focused on improving student behavior. From 2019 to the present, we have been recognized as a Gold and model PBIS school. Students earn Cavalier Bucks by exhibiting target behaviors such as wearing their student ID, adhering to the unified dress code, being punctual for school and class, and embodying the Cavalier Core Values and Character Trait of the Month. These Cavalier Bucks can be redeemed for various incentives, including snacks, school supplies, and school spirit items from our Cavalier Store. The implementation of this model has reduced our behavioral referrals to 219 in 2024-25 school year. We have also enjoyed reduced fights, aggressive behaviors, and defiant behaviors.

Additional Information

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

New Renaissance Middle is one of the most dynamic middle schools in Broward County, offering students a vibrant and enriching educational experience. As a Performing Arts Innovative Program sponsored by Turn Around Arts, NRMS provides exceptional opportunities in dance, band, and drama. This prestigious program, supported by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, boosts both academic achievement and student engagement through arts integration.

Our students benefit from the guidance of Turnaround National Artists such as Black Violin and Carla Dirlikov, who collaborate with the school community to celebrate and enhance student success. Engaging in rigorous studies of stage performance, video production, and music appreciation, students explore their artistic talents and immerse themselves in exceptional artistic experiences and professional performances through various field trips.

NRMS also boasts a wide array of extracurricular programs, including diverse clubs and sports such

as basketball, soccer, volleyball, string club, debate, Future Educators of America, NJHS, and SGA. These activities foster a well-rounded education and nurture students' personal and social development.

Furthermore, NRMS offers a variety of high-level academic courses and high school credit classes, including Algebra I, Biology, Geometry, Advanced IT, and Spanish. Students can also choose from an impressive selection of electives such as computer technology, computer science and programming, dance, band, robotics, VILS learning lab, debate, and peer counseling. Our comprehensive curriculum is designed to ensure that every student can explore their interests and achieve their full potential.