



Executive Summary for Heron Heights Elementary 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?

Heron Heights Elementary is situated in Parkland, a charming city in Northwest Broward County known for its zoning laws that safeguard the area's natural, "park-like" setting. In its early years, Parkland had no commercial establishments or traffic signals, a situation that began to change in the early 2000s. According to the 2010 census, Parkland's population reached 23,962.

The school opened its doors in 2007 to help relieve student overcrowding at Park Trails Elementary and Riverglades Elementary, both also located within Parkland. Built to accommodate up to 960 students, Heron Heights offers classrooms for Kindergarten through Intermediate grades, an Administration Suite, Media Center, Kitchen, Cafeteria, versatile Multi-Purpose areas, dedicated Teacher Planning spaces, restrooms for both students and staff, Art and Physical Education rooms, as well as ample parking, a bus loop, a sheltered parent drop-off zone, athletic fields, and play courts. Environmentally conscious "green" features include solar panels that power the Multi-Purpose areas and solar lighting in the parking lot.

As Parkland's population has increased, so too has enrollment at Heron Heights Elementary. For over a decade, the number of students has consistently exceeded projections. To accommodate this trend, additional classrooms were added for the 2016-2017 academic year. The school's demographics have remained largely stable over the past ten years, with White students forming the majority. However, recent years have seen growth in the Hispanic/Latino student group. For the 2025-2026 school year, the student body is comprised of 81% White, 21% Hispanic, 10% Asian, 3.6% African American, and 4.9% Multiracial students.

To address rising attendance at both Heron Heights and Park Trails Elementary, the Broward County School Board adjusted school boundaries in 2013 to balance enrollment between the two schools. Currently, all elementary-aged children living in the combined attendance areas for Heron Heights and Park Trails can apply to attend either school. Parents select their preference using a Choice Option Area Application, and siblings are assured placement

at the same school. After siblings are placed, any remaining seats are assigned, if available, prioritizing applicants based on their location within the 2025-2026 attendance zones.

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 mission of Heron Heights Elementary is to provide an innovative teaching and learning environment that will empower the school community to excel in the 21st century. The school's vision is based on tenants laid out by the School Board of Broward County. The Heron Heights Elementary School Community believes that: All students will learn when their individual needs are met; Positive stakeholder involvement enhances student achievement; Learning is a lifelong process; Everyone must be held to the highest ethical standards to achieve excellence; Every student has a right to a high-quality educational option; Everyone must contribute to and be held accountable for student achievement; Engaged families combined with highly effective teachers and school leaders are the core components of a successful school; Students must be prepared as innovative thinkers and responsible citizens to compete in a global economy; An equitable education provides all necessary resources to meet student needs; and Positive character education is essential to whole child development.

ACCEL and Gifted Classes at Heron Heights

Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) options at Heron Heights are educational options that provide academically challenging curriculum or accelerated instruction to eligible students in kindergarten through grade 5. ACCEL options include whole-grade and midyear promotion; subject-matter acceleration; virtual instruction in higher-grade level subjects. Additional ACCEL options include, but are not limited to, enriched science, technology, engineering, and mathematics coursework; enrichment programs and flexible grouping.

Heron Heights has district-approved models for gifted education, in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade. Gifted services are not limited to curriculum and learning environment. Services must be differentiated based on the individual needs of the students. Gifted students at each grade level should be concentrated within the same classroom(s) to insure they have substantial time in academic content with their intellectual peers. Gifted content instruction that is prescribed by the individual gifted student's Educational Plan (EP) is designed and delivered by a gifted endorsed teacher. HHE has over 178 students presently identified.

Leader in Me:

For the 2025-2026 school year, we are excited to become a Leader in Me school. Leader in Me is a whole-school transformation model to develop leadership and life skills in students based on Stephen Covey's "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People".

This model will further our school mission to provide an innovative teaching and learning environment that will empower the school community to excel in the 21st century.

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.

Since opening, HHE has received a letter grade of “A” as designated by the Florida School Accountability System. During the 2024-2025 school year, HHE was 85% proficient in ELA, 89% proficient in Math, and 76% proficient in Science. Third grade had an overall proficiency of 92%, the highest in the district. HHE’s learning gains in ELA/Math averaged 75% or higher and the lowest quartile had a learning gain average of 60%. The scores have increased in all reported categories from 2023 to 2025. Including a 15 point gain in Science. The goal for the next three years is to increase achievement for the lowest quartile. Our goal is to have a 5% increase in the lowest quartile for reading and math.

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 Heron Heights Elementary, we are committed to advancing our students’ scientific knowledge by prioritizing high-level science standards and a richly developed curriculum. Central to this endeavor is our state-of-the-art science lab, which serves as the hub for hands-on experiments and dynamic projects that make scientific ideas tangible. Through immersive experiences with scientific methods and inquiry-driven activities, we seek to strengthen both understanding and enthusiasm for science among our students. This experiential approach not only elevates their educational journey but also leads to marked improvements in science achievement, nurturing a new generation of inquisitive, capable, and self-assured young scientists.