



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School

2020-2021

Description of the School

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?

Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) High School is a fully accredited public high school located in the suburban community of Parkland, Florida within the School Board of Broward County. MSD opened its doors in 1991 to serve the city of Parkland and parts of the city of Coral Springs. In the spring of 2015, MSD celebrated 25 years of service to these communities which have a tradition that reflects support for the academics, extra-curricular activities, and community service projects.

MSD has a current enrollment of 3,244 students in grades 9-12. The following is the breakdown of our student population: total boys (50.1%), total girls (49.9%), white (75.7%), black/African American (11.6%), Hispanic (25.9%), multi-racial (3.9%), Asian (7.5%), and native American/Indian (1.1%).

MSD has an instructional staff consisting of 148 teachers. Teacher demographics is as follows: white (70.0%), Hispanic (13.5%), black (12.9%), and other (3.5%). Over the past three years, there have been a considerable amount of teachers who have retired. The new hires are a mix of experienced teachers who have relocated from other schools in the district and others who are new to the profession or have transferred from outside of Broward Schools. The New Educator Support Program at MSD has seen some new additions to the faculty, mainly in the areas of English, Math and Social Studies. The new educators are being trained on all facets of education and pedagogy with a book study around "Teach Like a Champion".

The communities of Parkland and Coral Springs consist mainly of high middle-class gated communities, some lower middle-class single family homes, as well as townhomes and lower rental apartments. Over the past three years, our school has also welcomed numerous (100+) students that have been re-assigned from neighborhood schools. In addition, the city of Parkland has completed construction of several single-family home developments and townhomes that have increased the number of students enrolled at our school. Hence, our school has been experiencing a steady increase in student enrollment over the past three years.

School's 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.

Vision Statement: The vision of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School is to promote global awareness in a collaborative learning community of rigor and relevance, emphasizing academic excellence through critical thinking and character development in a technologically-enriched environment.

Mission Statement: MSD is committed to providing rich educational opportunities in a student-centered learning environment to a diverse population of learners.

The development of the current Mission and Vision Statements included the broad participation of all relevant school stakeholders including school leadership, teachers, staff, parents and students as well as community members.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School embodies its purpose through its program offerings. MSD offers 24 Advanced Placement (AP) college-level and 51 Honors-level courses. MSD is also home to a National Academy of Finance honors program that graduates students with Career and Adult Professional Education (CAPE) industry certification in the fields of business and finance. MSD has been rated as an "A" school by the Florida Department of Education for the past five years.

At MSD High School, we are committed to educating the whole individual. Therefore, our school offers courses and extra-curricular activities in the areas of Fine Arts, Culinary, Engineering, Computer Programming and Athletics. Our school's Marching Band, Color Guard and Drama programs are among the best in the district and state, having won numerous 1st place awards over the past four years. Our school's Culinary, Engineering and Computer Programming programs are expanding each year providing alternate career paths for many of our students. Additionally, our school offers a JROTC program that builds character while promoting discipline and pride in our youth.

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.

Over the past three years, MSD has earned a school grade of “A” from the Florida Department of Education. Our school is rated in the top 2% of high schools in the nation, in the top 3% of high schools in Florida, and one of the top 3 high schools in the district by US News & World Reports. Through our Advanced Placement program offerings, MSD students have the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school; the AP pass/success rate is 81% with 60% of our graduating class participating in acceleration data (Percent of students eligible to earn college credit through AP, IB, AICE, dual enrollment or earning an industry certification). Students at MSD outperform students in the district by over 14.8% in ELA, demonstrating a Reading proficiency level of 74%, a math proficiency level of 66%, and a college readiness index of 60%. Moreover, MSD students have a graduation rate of 98% where graduates at the top of their class consistently make the National Merit Semi-Finalist and Finalist list.

The Leadership Team and the Instructional Staff at MSD are committed to providing a plethora of educational opportunities and to emphasizing high expectations and academic excellence for all students. It is for this reason that MSD High School maintains a focus on continuously improving literacy skills (Reading and Writing) as well as student achievement scores on the End-of-Course (EOC) exams in the areas of Biology, Algebra I, Geometry and American History. Our school supports its efforts for continuous improvement by offering Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) in the afore mentioned subject areas through Saturday EOC and SAT/ACT camps, peer tutoring and literacy pull-outs. In the next three years, our school will strive to maintain the support of our sponsors for these programs in order to continue moving forward.

In keeping with our commitment to academic excellence and continuous improvement, our school launches new programs each year that span the curriculum. Our school has added Holocaust Studies, AP Capstone, Hospitality and Tourism, Culinary Arts, AP European History, and Yoga over the last three years. The presently offered CTACE program has seen a steady increase in enrollment over the past year and others have been attending Broward College as dual-enrollment students in a variety of subject areas. The journalism programs at Stoneman Douglas has received national recognition; the Eagle Eye newspaper, the Aerie yearbook, and the tv production program. The three programs consistently win awards, with the Eagle Eye mentioned by the Pulitzer Prize committee in 2018.

Additional Information

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

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School has a very close relationship with its community. This is evident in the number of volunteers at our school and the support that our PTSSO and booster clubs have for our students and teachers, and academic and athletic programs. Continued evidence of our school pride and vision include the wealth of opportunity for our students to enhance their academic, physical, social and emotional potential. In addition to the academic data that speaks volumes for students' successes and challenges, the extra curricula options available for students afford a wide variety for the diversity of students' interests within our school community. School sponsored sports such as baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross-country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball, water polo and wrestling provide physical outlets and growth for students. Clubs such as Save-What's-Left, Astronomy, Key Club, Best Buddies, Anime, Chess, Asian, International Thespian Society, First Priority, Step Team, Gay-Straight Alliance, SADD, Rowdy Eagles, Model UN, MSD Stands Up to Cancer, Jewish Student Connection, Health and Fitness and HOSA provide awareness, support and opportunities for community service for our students. In addition, our Honor Societies and Competition Teams span the curricular areas of English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages. MSD High School also hosts Relay for Life and a Special Olympics each year that brings pride and joy to our school and community while at the same time promoting character values such as respect, tolerance and acceptance among the diverse group of students that our school serves.

The MSD community is very proud of its service projects and high academic achievements. Each year our students participate in the Silver Knights competition and take the PSAT/NMSQT in 10th and 11th grades. We are very proud to share that our school has the honor of having National Merit Semi-Finalists and Finalists, as well as Silver Knight Honorable Mentions and Winners, for many years over the 25+ years of service to our community; each year over the past three years our school has been honored with these meritorious award winners.

The freshman class for the 2019-20 school year has 24% of students scoring below proficiency in ELA, compared to 20% from the previous year (the now junior class). This downward data trend speaks to the importance of providing additional academic supports for struggling students. As a school, we will focus additional effort on supporting struggling student subgroups to provide equity for all students. During the 2019-20 school year, the COVID-19 pandemic took hold and every school in the district transitioned to virtual learning in March of 2019 until mid-October 2020. More than 60% of students have elected to continue virtual learning as the pandemic is still in effect for the 2020-21 school year.

Three years ago, our school suffered a tremendous tragedy. Since then, our students, staff, and community have been rebuilding the school culture and academics. The schoolwide data for the 2018-19 school year took a dip, however, the 2019-20 school year promised a year of new growth and developments as we shifted the schoolwide focus towards academic success and resiliency. Without any standardized assessments (EOCs and FSAs) at the end of 2019-20, we have not been able to explore the data to see if our efforts were successful. Though we did experience growth in AP scores from 73% to 81%.