



## **Description of the School**

Broward Virtual School (BVS) has offered students quality online learning opportunities since 2001. BVS is the longest serving virtual instruction program in Florida's 67 public school districts, offering both a part-time and full-time enrollment option to students in grades K-12. Our mission is to provide students with flexible access to uniquely individualized instruction through e-learning technology. Virtual (online) learning provides students with conveniences of time and location so students may learn at their own pace. BVS "classrooms" are everywhere (locally and internationally). Our vision is for every student to pursue career and post-secondary educational opportunities with proficiency in e-learning strategies. Our instructional model is entirely based on personalization and individualized instruction.

In school year 2012, BVS served approximately 600 students and included 30 faculty and support staff members. In 2013, SBBC significantly invested in Broward Virtual School's educational model to provide students with multiple opportunities to satisfy Florida's online learning graduation requirement. As a result of the investment, BVS scaled up its instructional capacity by 300 percent and successfully awarded high school credits to over 60,000 individual students between school years 2014 and 2018. Today, our staff is comprised of over 90 teachers and support staff members and continues to be the largest K-12 school in the district (by enrollment). BVS has expanded world language options to include American Sign Language and Japanese. Our Full Time Program enrollment program stands at 450 to 500 students in grades K-12.

One of the challenges Broward Virtual teachers face is adapting state and District requirements to fit into the digital learning environment. This challenge has been met by teachers participating in district professional development and collaborating in professional learning communities (PLCs). Using the CARE Cycle and BEST Blueprint for Success, BVS utilizes a leadership framework that provides structure for our large faculty and student population. School administrators facilitate the leadership team meetings on a monthly basis. Leadership team members represent different subject areas and facets of the school and facilitate Professional Learning Communities. The School Advisory Council (SAC) operates as the governing body of the school improvement process. SAC is comprised of students, parents, school staff, community members and business partners. Feedback from SAC stakeholders is used to foster a continuous improvement model for ongoing success and to enhance our students' learning experience.



## **SCHOOL'S PURPOSE**

Broward Virtual School is committed to delivering a personalized learning model through innovative teaching and evolving educational technologies. Our mission is to prepare students to be competitive and successful in college and the career force. The BVS learning experience provides students with an individualized, rigorous and engaging instructional model through a technology driven, interactive format. Teachers and school counselors live locally in South Florida and are sensitive to the diverse needs of Broward County students. Our teachers consistently demonstrate the highest successful student completion rates in Florida. BVS is proud to be the top performing Florida Virtual School franchise partner in Florida.

BVS partners with nationally renowned Florida Virtual School for middle and high school curriculum. Through our partnership, BVS teachers have access to quality professional development from FLVS facilitators. BVS teachers learn innovative digital educational tools and effective online teaching pedagogy. Other examples of unique professional development include engaging students in live collaborative lessons and discussion-based assessments designed to elicit individualized and authentic student feedback.

BVS partners with K12 Inc. for its full-time elementary school program. In addition, BVS offers Japanese language and cultural studies to more than 1,000 students via interactive video conference technology. Teachers and students from multiple elementary schools participate in the "Tomodachi" program for weekly enrichment activities. To enhance the distance learning model, the BVS Japanese teacher visits participating classrooms around the district throughout the school year. Hands-on immersion activities such as origami, calligraphy, and sushi making are offered during the face-to-face visits.



## **NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT AND AREAS OF PURPOSE**

Broward Virtual School has been recognized locally and nationally for its accomplishments. Some accolades include being recognized by US News and World Report as a Bronze Medal Winner for the Nation's Best High Schools for school years 2014-2017 and a "Top 50 South Florida High School" in 2019. The Florida Department of Education has recognized BVS as a "School of Excellence" for 2018 and 2019 for exemplary student achievement.

Student achievement rates on the Florida Standards Assessment consistently exceed state and district averages. Most notably, over the course of a four-year period, English Language Arts proficiency rates have improved from 69% to 92%. This substantial improvement is attributed to efforts put forth by our school improvement team (core subject area teachers) to enhance the online learning model with hands-on, face-to-face instructional seminars delivered on campus.

Perhaps the most unique aspects of BVS is our focus on extra-curricular activities. Full-time students have opportunities to participate in a myriad of organizations such as Robotics Club, Key Club, National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, Audubon Society, Photography Club, Chess Club, Math Club and Literature Club. Our clubs are sponsored by enthusiastic faculty members. Our extra-curricular activities are designed to provide students with opportunities to collaborate with their peers to attain a well-rounded educational experience.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

There are so many facets to Broward Virtual School. BVS has evolved into a valuable utility player in our school district. Our main challenge is to provide capacity to nearly 20,000 Broward County high school students to accommodate their online learning needs. To meet the demand systematically, virtual learning labs (or blended learning labs) were implemented in all Broward County high schools in August 2013. Students are scheduled into computer labs during the school day for one period where they receive blended instruction. Students also have access to their courses and teachers after school hours and on weekends. This requires ongoing collaboration between BVS leadership and traditional high schools. BVS teachers visit their students on a weekly basis to provide live lessons and collaborate with the school's lab facilitator. In our fourth year of implementation, the result is a successful co-teaching blended learning model.