



Executive Summary

Hialeah Gardens Middle School

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

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Introduction

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

 The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

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?

Hialeah Gardens Middle School construction was completed in 2008. The home of the "Jaguars" was first established when it opened its doors for the 2008 - 2009 academic year. The school is in a predominantly Hispanic community and is located at 11690 Northwest 92nd Avenue, Hialeah Gardens, Florida. The majority of current student population is first or second generation immigrants and represents many Caribbean, Central, and South American countries. The school is built on 10 acres of land and houses 7 buildings. The school opened with a population of 918 students (502 sixth grade students and 416 seventh grader students). The eighth grade was added in the 2009 - 2010 school year.

The student population is representative of its community and consists of 1,094 standard curriculum students, 115 Special Education students, and 252 English Language Learners (ELL) students. Hialeah Gardens Middle School serves a multi-ethnic school population. Ninety-eight percent (98%) of students are Hispanic, 1% are White and less than 1% are Black, American Indian, Asian, or multi-racial. Hialeah Gardens Middle School is a Title I school. Eighty six percent (86%) of the student body is eligible to receive free or reduced lunch. A variety of programs are offered to meet the needs of all of our students, including gifted/advanced classes and special education courses.

Presently, Hialeah Gardens Middle School is an "A" school with a total enrollment of 1,767 students. There are 545 sixth grade students, 593 seventh grade students, and 623 eighth grade students. Students attending this school are from six feeder elementary schools. The six feeder elementary schools are Hialeah Gardens Elementary School, West Hialeah Gardens Elementary, Meadowlane Elementary School, Ben Sheppard Elementary School, Ernest R. Graham Elementary School, and John G. Dupuis Elementary School.

There are many challenges that have occurred within the last three years which have contributed to a variety of creative learning opportunities. Some of these are: conversion of an adjacent elementary to a K-8 center, conversion of an adjacent middle school to a magnet school, and recently, a conversion of one of our elementary feeder schools to a magnet school.

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:

Education flourishes at Hialeah Gardens Middle School by fostering a learning environment where diversity is valued, quality of life is enhanced, individual aspirations are fulfilled and knowledge is strengthened.

MISSION:

The staff of Hialeah Gardens Middle School is committed to aiding in the intellectual and social development of its students by ensuring that they become conscientious citizens of society. Students will be educated in a secure, encouraging atmosphere with a variety of educational tools, empowering each student to develop the attitude, behavior, ability and knowledge needed to become responsible individuals. We will achieve this through an interactive, integrated, multicultural curriculum in a nurturing environment comprised of students, parents, staff and community members.

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.

Hialeah Gardens Middle School is fortunate to provide individualized attention to its students. Some of the many initiatives and notable achievements include:

- The school has an "A" rating from the Florida Department of Education.
- Out of fifty eight (58) middle schools we consistently are ranked in one of two top positions on student attendance.
- We are proud to say that we are an "International Cambridge School". The International Cambridge Program develops students skills and understanding in the core content areas that lead to exploration of the arts and humanities. Emphasis is placed on student initiatives, creativity, and analytical thinking.
- We house the "I PREP" program. The I PREP Program assist students in the development of computer skills and the preparation for Twentieth Century learning.
- The school has state of the art technology (smart boards) in every classroom, twenty two (22) computer labs, state of the art TV Production Studio, State of art Fitness Lab, including a diversity of software programs which are available to the students (FCAT Explorer, Reading Plus, Accelerated Reader, STAR Program, Teen Biz, Compass Learning, Gizmos, Reflex, Ticket to Read, Riverdeep, Success Maker, Excel (ELL) Program, Imagin (ELL)Program, Focus Florida, and a mobile lab (laptops) in science.)
- A rich curriculum which includes: advanced/ gifted/honors high school courses (geometry, biology, and algebra), intensive courses, resource/tutorials, enrichment opportunities, curriculum fairs and "ongoing" articulation opportunities for our future students.
- Six academies (Academy of Arts and Entertainment, Academy of Law Studies, Academy of Biomedical, Academy of Agriscience, Academy of Engineering and the Academy of Information Technology) which are in alignment with our senior high school academies.
- Presently, we have Industry Certification for Information Technology (IT).
- Sports opportunities include: Basketball, bowling, chess, golf, kayaking, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball and wrestling.
- There is no limit to the amount of extracurricular club opportunities students can become involved in including: Band, Cheerleading, Chess, Drama, Drug-Free Youth in Town (DYFIT), Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Future Educators of America (FEA), HOSA, Key Club, Mathematics, National Jr. Honor Society (NJHS), Reading, Recycling, SECME, Spanish, French, Student Council and the Yearbook.
- Our Parent and Community involvement is second to none with an active Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), a Bilingual Parent Outreach Program (BPOP), Parent Resource Center, Community Involvement Specialist (CIS), and Dade Partners.
- We are the "Do The Right Thing Award" recipients for the last five years and winning the Top Award on several occasions.

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Areas for improvement include:

- Increase computer labs school wide in order to increase utilization during testing cycles and maximize technological state requirements.
- Increase Industry certification student participation
- Increase End of Course (EOC) participation (Algebra, Biology, Geometry)
- Refine Professional Learning Community (PLC) and Common Planning Sessions
- Maximize professional development for teachers in order to enhance curricular understanding and understanding
- Increase parental involvement through Educational Fairs, Data Chats, Student awareness sessions
- Increase student College Career Readiness through counselors communication sessions with students

Additional Information

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

There are many unique challenges and features which have occurred in the last three years which have contributed to many creative learning opportunities. They are as follows:

- Conversion of an adjacent elementary feeder school to a K-8 School
- Conversion of an adjacent school to a Magnet School
- Opening of a major chain store with restaurants in a plaza adjacent to the school
- Opening of a 250 rental unit adjacent to the school and slated to open in November 2013 at full capacity
- School System Boundary Changes
- Increased demands on testing and timelines utilizing computers have affected the infrastructure of the school
- The establishment of four Charter Schools in surrounding area within our boundary
- FCAT 2.0 new trends across the curriculum and changes toward Common Core

These challenges have enabled us to look deeper into the many assets that our school has to offer; as well as, encouraged us to market and expand our horizons as an educational institution. We are proud to say that we are a true "middle school experience" and we prepare our students for successful transition into a high school setting.

Beyond the "Almosta Farm" that greets each visitor to our school with its array of very special animals is the elective offerings our students can experience. Each student is afforded an opportunity to select two electives of their choice. Aside from physical education which is important for the physical well-being of our students we have six academies which have a diversity of elective offerings which complement the overall vision for our school in developing well rounded individuals.

The Academy of Information Technology elective offerings include:

- Entrepreneurship
- Computer Applications for Business
- Business Leadership
- Introduction to Information Technology

The Academy of Arts and Entertainment elective offerings include:

- Drama
- Stage Craft
- Band
- Keyboard
- Instrumental Ensemble (Jazz Band)
- Instrumental Techniques
- Chorus
- Art
- Culinary Arts
- Dance

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The Academy of Law elective offerings include:

- Journalism
- Law Studies
- Critical Thinking Chess
- Spanish for Spanish Speaker's
- French
- Chinese(Mandarin)
- Italian

The Academy of Engineering elective offerings include:

- Exploring Technology

The Academy of Biomedical elective offerings include:

- Orientation to Health Occupations

The Academy of Agriscience elective offerings include:

- Orientation, Introduction and Exploring Agriscience.

Education flourishes at Hialeah Gardens Middle School. One only needs to visit the school classrooms to see and feel the richness of the educational offerings