



**2017**  
Conference

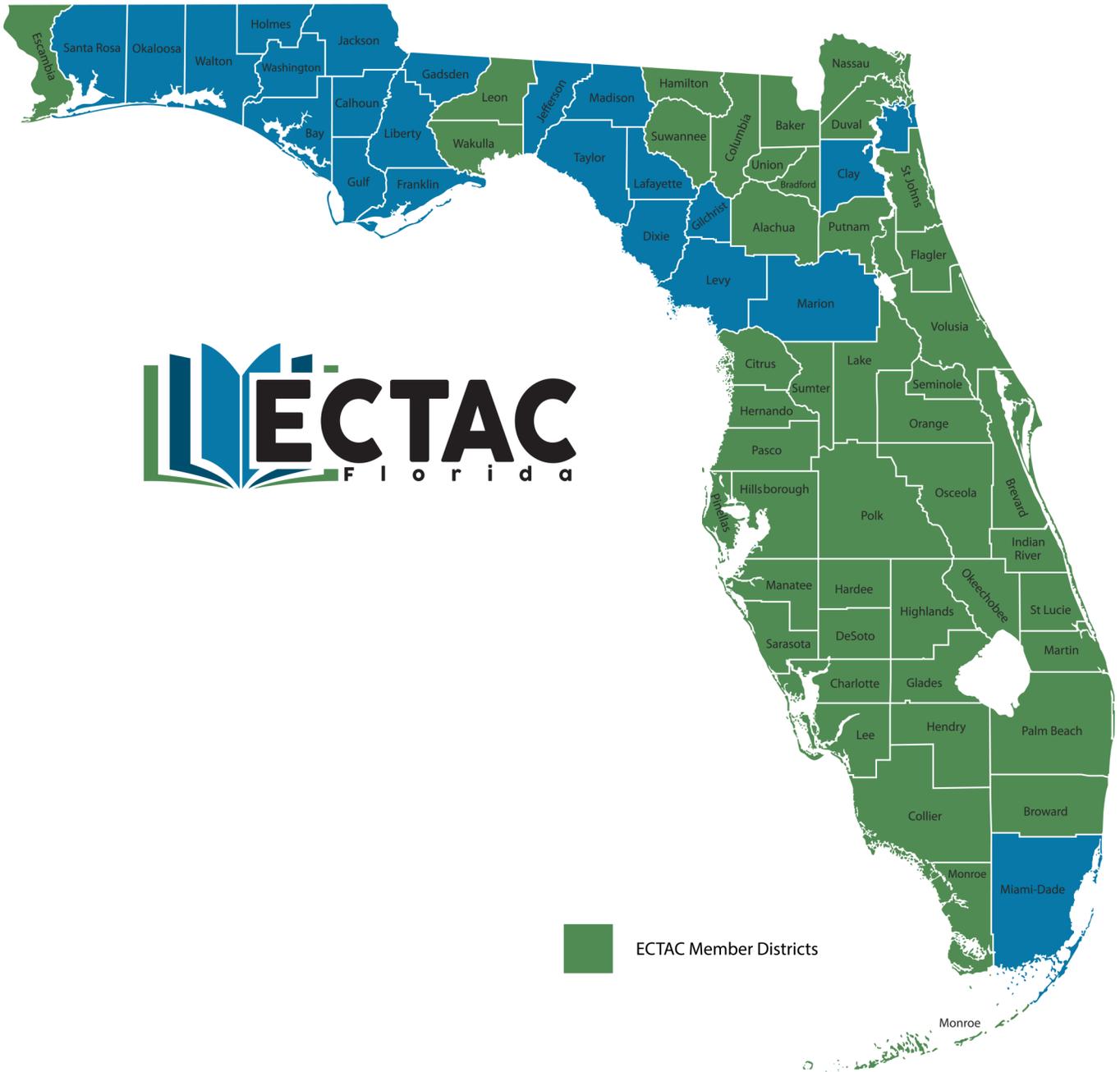
# Exceeding Expectations

**PROMOTING LASTING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

**Tuesday, October 3 - Wednesday, October 4**

**Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate**  
1500 Masters Blvd.  
ChampionsGate, FL 33896





Exceeding Expectations (E<sup>2</sup>) is a project of the East Coast Technical Assistance Center (ECTAC), a network of 46 school districts in Florida. ECTAC provides technical assistance to school districts regarding ESEA Title I and other selective ESEA Programs. The fiscal agent for ECTAC is Seminole County Public Schools.

For more information on ECTAC, visit our website at [www.ectacfl.net](http://www.ectacfl.net)

or contact:

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Celine Smith, Administrative Assistant

## Tuesday, October 3, 2017

7:00 am	Registration Open	Osceola Promenade
7:00 am - 8:00 am	Continental Breakfast	Osceola Ballroom A, B & C
8:00 am - 9:30 am	General Session	Osceola Ballroom A, B & C
	<p><b>Welcome</b> Marjorie Murray Director, ECTAC</p> <p><b>Keynote Address</b> Dr. Dana Godek Administrative Director, Compliance and Special Projects School District of Palm Beach County</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Told through personal narrative, this is the story of a journey through multiple ESSA-authorized programs and how the decisions educators make impact students, for better, or worse.</p>	

9:30 am - 9:50 am	Break	<b>Please Visit our Wonderful Sponsors!</b>	Osceola Ballroom A, B & C
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### 9:50 am - 10:50 am Concurrent Breakout Sessions - Block 1

<b>Dante B. Fascell Elementary School (Miami - Dade)</b>	Dante B. Fascell Elementary administration and teachers are committed to a holistic approach in teaching students. We will present a variety of activities that are constantly provided to reinforce and extended the curriculum. Learn how we create an active involvement with community partners that are key to our success.	Celebration B
<b>Hialeah Gardens Middle School (Miami - Dade)</b>	In this session, learn how leaders at Hialeah Gardens Middle School have consistently developed creative systems which ensure high quality rigorous curricula in every classroom through data analysis, professional development, grade level and interdisciplinary Common Planning, the development of seven academies and participation in the electives programs.	Harmony A
<b>Hilltop Elementary School (Hardee)</b>	In this session, participants will learn how educators at Hilltop Elementary School have developed a Response to Intervention program that ensures high quality, rigorous data driven standards based instruction in every classroom. This is accomplished while simultaneously building a school culture that is positive, and respectful, independent, with dedicated learners through high expectations and with the goal of leadership in mind.	Harmony B
<b>Howard D. McMillan Middle School (Miami - Dade)</b>	"Thinking Outside Of The Box" to transform traditional electives into innovative, "State Of The Art Choices".	St. Cloud B
<b>Joella C. Good Elementary School (Miami - Dade)</b>	A presentation of how the staff at Joella C. Good Elementary combines the high expectations of academic achievement with the values necessary to live harmoniously in an ever-changing world.	Kissimmee B
<b>Crosspointe Elementary School (Palm Beach)</b>	Leadership's Role in Student Success	Celebration A
<b>Cranberry Elementary School (Sarasota)</b>	Come hear our school plan for connecting all the pieces to make a successful science program that shines its light on all the other subjects at our school.	St. Cloud A
<b>Odyssey Charter School (Brevard)</b>	Learn how "healthy" leads to high achieving with Odyssey Charter School. Our vision of a green and healthy environment has resulted in the school being named a National Green Ribbon School, Florida Green School, Gold Award of Distinction from the Healthy US School Challenge Award, and a high performing charter school by the Commissioner of Education.	Partin A

10:50 am - 11:20 am	Break	<b>Visit a Sponsor for a Door Prize Drawing Ticket!</b>	Osceola Ballroom A, B & C
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### 11:20 am - 12:20 pm Concurrent Breakout Sessions - Block 2

<b>Yulee Elementary School (Nassau)</b>	Collaboration is something everyone says they do, but few do well. Come see how at Yulee Elementary School collaboration is a way of life for everyone who walks through our door!	Harmony B
<b>Jay Elementary School (Santa Rosa)</b>	" <b>Full STEAM Ahead!</b> " In this session, participants will hear how teachers and administrators work together to create a STEAM culture. High effect strategies for supporting innovation to include resources and technology tools will be provided for all attendees.	Celebration B

11:20 am - 12:20 pm Concurrent Breakout Sessions - Block 2 (Continued)		
<b>Bonita Springs Elementary School (Lee)</b>	The expectation gap, is a self-fulfilling prophecy where students are expected to perform differently because of race and socioeconomic status. This translates to less rigor and predestined underperformance. Come find out how Bonita Springs Elementary does not accept the expectation gap and is embracing relationships to close the achievement gap.	Kissimmee B
<b>Forest Glen Middle School (Broward)</b>	What is the "Belichick Way?" Join us as we look at our data, school's culture, expectations, and programs that have created an organization positioned for continual success.	St. Cloud B
<b>Crystal River Primary School (Citrus)</b>	We will share how this <i>five year process</i> of creating a sense of community changed student behavior, impacted our school's reputation, developed positive parent and community relationships, established high expectations for students and staff, focused instruction on standards and high-yield strategies for engaging students with poverty in mind and provided <b>fun for all</b> . We look forward to sharing with you!	Celebration A
<b>Wynnebrook Elementary School (Palm Beach)</b>	Wynnebrook Elementary School in suburban West Palm Beach, Florida has been an "A" graded school for 15 years consecutively while having a poverty rate of 93%. Learn how the unique systems surrounding a single school culture make this school an outlier among the rest.	St. Cloud A
<b>Golden Grove Elementary School (Palm Beach)</b>	Relationships, Culture and Data ROCK! Learn how the ROCKin Gators leveraged their school culture, systems and data to improve student achievement.	Partin A
<b>Renaissance Learning Platinum Level Sponsor Presentation</b>	Join Renaissance to discuss how differentiation is only the first step on the path to personalization. Learn more about what's being done today, what the future holds and how you can begin working towards a personalized classroom.	Harmony A

<b>12:20 pm - 1:30 pm Buffet Lunch</b>	<b>Osceola Ballroom A, B &amp; C</b>
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1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Concurrent Breakout Sessions - Block 3		
<b>Sallie Jones Elementary School (Charlotte)</b>	At SJE, three Wildly Important Goals are embedded in all decision making and have created an environment where all staff and students feel inspired to work hard and persevere through obstacles. Learn about how we developed these Goals and the impact they have had on school culture and academic achievement.	Celebration B
<b>Rockway Middle School (Miami - Dade)</b>	According to Dr. Kent D. Peterson, a professor in the Department of Educational Administration at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a school with a positive culture has "a set of values that supports ...a positive, caring atmosphere." Rockway Middle School, an urban middle school in the Heart of Miami Dade County, attributes much of its success to the culture that exists at the school. In this workshop you'll hear about the staff commitment, parental involvement, school activities, and strong learning culture that have contributed to the school's success. You'll walk away with several concrete strategies you can implement to enhance your school's culture.	Harmony A
<b>Pinemount Elementary School (Columbia)</b>	Come join Donna and Rachel and learn the secrets for Pinemount's success. Hidden treasures are buried in all schools. Join us and learn how to create a culture where everyone Expects the Best, Expect Success.	Harmony B
<b>Flagami Elementary School (Miami - Dade)</b>	"At the Home of the Foxes ALL our Superheroes intervene to help our students succeed. Schoolwide intervention takes place at the same time, every day and in every classroom. This best practice gained quick schoolwide support and provided the opportunity to address the needs and strength of ALL our Lil Foxes"	St. Cloud B
<b>Oakshire Elementary School (Orange)</b>	During lesson modeling activities, teachers at Oakshire Elementary observe a team member teach an upcoming lesson and engage in a follow-up discussion. The discussion centers around the extent to which the lesson aligns to the established Florida Standards and the strategies the teacher utilized to monitor student progress toward the learning goal. The rigor of the lesson is analyzed to ensure it meets the level required by the Standards. At the end of the activity, all teachers on the team walk away with a well-crafted lesson that can be executed in their classrooms.	Kissimmee B
<b>Vineland Elementary School (Charlotte)</b>	At Vineland Elementary School collaboration is the key to success. In this session you will learn how we engage our school community by fostering student leadership, teacher led professional development, and parent teacher partnerships.	Celebration A

<b>Concurrent Breakout Sessions - Block 3 Continued Next Page</b>
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<b>1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Concurrent Breakout Sessions - Block 3 (Continued)</b>		
<b>Discovery Elementary School (Broward)</b>	Making Discovery Elementary "A" Great Place to Be! Discovery Elementary is a wonderful learning community that is inclusive for all students, parents, and staff, where expectations are high and everyone, students, staff and families are expected to achieve and to reach for excellence. The community takes tremendous pride in its school making Discovery Elementary "A" Great Place to Be!	St. Cloud A
<b>Oriole Beach Elementary School (Santa Rosa)</b>	Come find out why "O-B-E is the place to be!"	Partin A
<b>2:30 pm - 3:00 pm Break with Refreshments</b>		<b>Osceola Ballroom A, B &amp; C</b>
<b>3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Concurrent Breakout Sessions - Block 4</b>		
<b>Cranberry Elementary School (Sarasota)</b>	Come hear our school plan for connecting all the pieces to make a successful science program that shines its light on all the other subjects at our school.	St. Cloud A
<b>Dante B. Fascell Elementary School (Miami - Dade)</b>	Dante B. Fascell Elementary administration and teachers are committed to a holistic approach in teaching students. We will present a variety of activities that are constantly provided to reinforce and extended the curriculum. Learn how we create an active involvement with community partners that are key to our success.	Partin A
<b>Howard D. McMillan Middle School (Miami - Dade)</b>	"Thinking Outside Of The Box" to transform traditional electives into innovative, "State Of The Art Choices".	Harmony B
<b>Boca Raton Elementary School (Palm Beach)</b>	Yes you Khan and Yes you Should! <b>#techCulture</b> A single school culture adoption of a technology with the deeper understanding of not just how it functions on campus, but why it functions on campus.	Kissimmee B
<b>Sneads Elementary School (Jackson)</b>	Families are like branches on a tree, we grow in different directions yet, our roots remain as one; Join us to learn how we plant a seed of desire to succeed in every student at Sneads Elementary School.	Celebration A
<b>Lyons Creek Middle School (Broward)</b>	Join us as we take you on a <b>Fantastic Voyage to Increasing Student Achievement</b> . You will learn how the second largest middle school (2,000 students) in Broward County, FL is exceeding expectations through a commitment to excellence, teacher collaboration, progress monitoring and a laser focus on doing what is in the best interest of students!!!	St. Cloud B
<b>Ethel K. Beckham Elementary School (Miami - Dade)</b>	"Nurturing Every Child's Potential through Data Debriefing Protocols"	Celebration B
<b>PCG Education Platinum Level Sponsor Presentation</b>	The Dangers of Low Expectations -Many districts are feeling the pinch of the ever-present achievement gap for disadvantaged students. This session will explore root causes and approaches for systemic improvement to outline a framework for culturally responsive classrooms and transform instruction to effectively engage all students.	Harmony A



*6:30 pm - 9:30 pm  
Awards Banquet  
Osceola Ballroom A, B, & C*

## Wednesday, October 4, 2017

**7:15 am - 8:00 am Continental Breakfast Osceola Ballroom A, B & C**

### 8:00 am - 9:00 am Concurrent Breakout Sessions - Block 5

<b>Golden Grove Elementary School (Palm Beach)</b>	Relationships, Culture and Data ROCK! Learn how the ROCKin Gators leveraged their school culture, systems and data to improve student achievement.	Harmony B
<b>Forest Glen Middle School (Broward)</b>	What is the “Belichick Way?” Join us as we look at our data, school’s culture, expectations, and programs that have created an organization positioned for continual success.	Harmony A
<b>Sallie Jones Elementary School (Charlotte)</b>	At SJE, three Wildly Important Goals are embedded in all decision making and have created an environment where all staff and students feel inspired to work hard and persevere through obstacles. Learn about how we developed these Goals and the impact they have had on school culture and academic achievement.	Partin A
<b>Rockway Middle School (Miami - Dade)</b>	According to Dr. Kent D. Peterson, a professor in the Department of Educational Administration at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a school with a positive culture has “a set of values that supports ...a positive, caring atmosphere.” Rockway Middle School, an urban middle school in the Heart of Miami Dade County, attributes much of its success to the culture that exists at the school. In this workshop you’ll hear about the staff commitment, parental involvement, school activities, and strong learning culture that have contributed to the school’s success. You’ll walk away with several concrete strategies you can implement to enhance your school’s culture.	Kissimmee B
<b>Ethel K. Beckham Elementary School (Miami - Dade)</b>	“Nurturing Every Child’s Potential through Data Debriefing Protocols”	Celebrity B
<b>Crosspointe Elementary School (Palm Beach)</b>	Leadership’s Role in Student Success	Celebrity A
<b>Boca Raton Elementary School (Palm Beach)</b>	Yes you Khan and Yes you Should! <b>#techCulture</b> A single school culture adoption of a technology with the deeper understanding of not just how it functions on campus, but why it functions on campus.	St. Cloud A
<b>Vineland Elementary School (Charlotte)</b>	At Vineland Elementary School collaboration is the key to success. In this session you will learn how we engage our school community by fostering student leadership, teacher led professional development, and parent teacher partnerships.	Partin B

**9:00 am - 9:30 am Break Please Visit our Wonderful Sponsors Osceola Ballroom A, B & C**

### 9:30 am - 10:30 am Concurrent Breakout Sessions - Block 6

<b>Joella C. Good Elementary School (Miami - Dade)</b>	A presentation of how the staff at Joella C. Good Elementary combines the high expectations of academic achievement with the values necessary to live harmoniously in an ever-changing world.	Kissimmee B
<b>Lyons Creek Middle School (Broward)</b>	Join us as we take you on a <b>Fantastic Voyage to Increasing Student Achievement</b> . You will learn how the second largest middle school (2,000 students) in Broward County, FL is exceeding expectations through a commitment to excellence, teacher collaboration, progress monitoring and a laser focus on doing what is in the best interest of students!!!	Harmony A
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9:30 am - 10:30 am Concurrent Breakout Sessions - Block 6 (Continued)		
Sneads Elementary School (Jackson)	Families are like branches on a tree, we grow in different directions yet, our roots remain as one; Join us to learn how we plant a seed of desire to succeed in every student at Sneads Elementary School.	Partin A
Jay Elementary School (Santa Rosa)	<b>"Full STEAM Ahead!"</b> In this session, participants will hear how teachers and administrators work together to create a STEAM culture. High effect strategies for supporting innovation to include resources and technology tools will be provided for all attendees.	Celebration A
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**10:30 am - 11:00 am Break Last Chance for Door Prize Drawing Tickets! Osceola Ballroom A, B & C**

11:00 am - 12:00 pm Concurrent Breakout Sessions - Block 7		
Discovery Elementary School (Broward)	Making Discovery Elementary "A" Great Place to Be! Discovery Elementary is a wonderful learning community that is inclusive for all—students, parents, and staff, where expectations are high and everyone, students, staff and families are expected to achieve and to reach for excellence. The community takes tremendous pride in its school making Discovery Elementary "A" Great Place to Be!	Kissimmee B
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Oriole Beach Elementary School (Santa Rosa)	Come find out why "O-B-E is the place to be!"	Harmony B
Oakshire Elementary School (Orange)	During lesson modeling activities, teachers at Oakshire Elementary observe a team member teach an upcoming lesson and engage in a follow-up discussion. The discussion centers around the extent to which the lesson aligns to the established Florida Standards and the strategies the teacher utilized to monitor student progress toward the learning goal. The rigor of the lesson is analyzed to ensure it meets the level required by the Standards. At the end of the activity, all teachers on the team walk away with a well-crafted lesson that can be executed in their classrooms.	Celebration B
Odyssey Charter School (Brevard)	Learn how "healthy" leads to high achieving with Odyssey Charter School. Our vision of a green and healthy environment has resulted in the school being named a National Green Ribbon School, Florida Green School, Gold Award of Distinction from the Healthy US School Challenge Award, and a high performing charter school by the Commissioner of Education.	Celebration A
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**12:00 noon Grab and Go Lunch Door Prize Winners Posted Osceola Ballroom A, B & C**



## 2016-2017 E2 Project Selection Criteria by School Level

Category	Elementary School Criteria
Proficiency	Maintain or increase total proficiency in Reading and Math from 2014-15 to 2015-16
School Grade	Maintain or increase School Grade from 2014-15 to 2015-16
Learning Gains	(Regular) Learning Gains <b>above</b> the state median in both Reading and Math and Lower Quartile Gains <b>above</b> 50% for Reading and Math 2016
School Grade	Current School Grade of A or B
Lowest 100/300	Not in the Lowest 300
Subgroups	<b>Above</b> the state median in Reading and Math proficiency in the Black and Hispanic Subgroup (if applicable)
Proficiency	<b>Above</b> the state median in ELA and Math for overall percent proficient
Proficiency	<b>Above</b> 50 in Science percent proficient

Category	Middle School Criteria
Proficiency	Maintain or increase total proficiency in Reading and Math from 2014-15 to 2015-16
School Grade	Maintain or increase School Grade from 2014-15 to 2015-16
School Grade	Current School Grade of A or B
Proficiency	<b>At or Above</b> the state median in ELA and Math for overall percent proficient
Proficiency	<b>At or Above</b> the state median in Reading and Math Proficiency in the Black and Hispanic Subgroup (if applicable)
Learning Gains	(Regular) Learning Gains <b>at or above</b> the state median in both Reading and Math, and Lower Quartile Gains <b>at or above</b> the state median for Reading and Math in 2015-16

Category	Combination School Criteria
Proficiency	Maintain or increase total proficiency in Reading and Math from 2014-15 to 2015-16
School Grade	Maintain or increase School Grade from 2014-15 to 2015-16
School Grade	Current School Grade of A or B
Proficiency	<b>At or Above</b> the state median in ELA and Math for overall percent proficient
Proficiency	<b>At or Above</b> the state median in Reading and Math Proficiency in the Black and Hispanic Subgroup (if applicable)
Learning Gains	(Regular) Learning Gains <b>at or above</b> the state median in both Reading and Math, and Lower Quartile Gains <b>at or above</b> the state median for Reading and Math in 2015-16

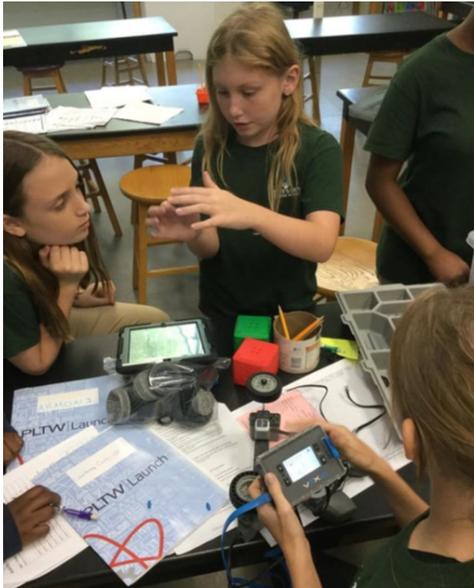
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\* Repeat Award School

Brevard County Public Schools  
**Odyssey Charter School**

Dr. Monica Knight and Wendi Nolder, Principals



Total Enrollment	1026
<b>2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages</b>	
White	46.6
Black/African American	22
Hispanic/Latino	22.5
Asian	*
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	
Two or More Races	8.3
Disabled	11.5
Economically Disadvantaged	70.3
ELL	10.7
Migrant	

In 1998, a Montessori educator with an innovative vision for a holistic school, Ms. Constance Ortiz, and a small, grassroots group of educators and community members, proposed a charter school with a unique mission in Brevard County, Florida. Odyssey Charter School was founded in 1999 based on the philosophy of "green" and healthy, holistic education. This vision developed over the years as the school grew from 112 children in a leased church building to its current 50,000 square foot, award-winning green school building. Today, Odyssey Charter School has over 1400 students in Kindergarten through 12th grade on two campuses, with over 130 staff members, more than 70 of which are teachers. Our staff members are highly professional and are committed to both student success and the mission and vision of the school. Our Elementary students (K-5) are educated in our architecturally unique "green" school, which is purposefully situated on over 9 acres of National Wildlife Federation certified woodland. It also includes a nature trail with a gopher tortoise habitat. Additionally, our classrooms are over 1000 square feet, providing plenty of space for students to work collaboratively or independently, depending on their needs. The school is part of the Odyssey network of schools managed by Green Apple School Management, located in Palm Bay, Florida.

As a result of the school's growth, we expanded our Junior/Senior High School to a second location 2.5 miles away in 2012. Our 6th-12th graders are located on a spacious, 20 acre, green school campus 2.5 miles from our flagship campus. Seventy-five (75) percent of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch and 55% of our students are classified as minority students; this includes 23% Black/African American, 26% Hispanic/Latino, and 6% two or more races.

Two key areas of strength of Odyssey Charter School are: (1) the school's mission for children focused on green/healthy holistic education (encompassing Odyssey's Essential Elements and Beliefs); and (2) focus on collaborative leadership and continuous improvement at the leadership, school and classroom levels.



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The realization of the mission can be found in the Odyssey Essential Elements that include the Professional Learning Communities, Green Print, Positive Discipline, Montessori Philosophy, Wellness/Health/Nutrition, and STEM. Odyssey Charter School has a set of Beliefs that drive and direct the school board it serves in the area of instructional practices, whole child, whole school education, equitable and challenging programs, mastery learning, and high expectations for both staff and students.

School staff shows a deep commitment to these shared values/elements and beliefs focused on teaching and learning through the development of challenging educational programs and equitable learning experiences for all students. The commitment is regularly reflected in communication among leaders and staff during collaborative Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). These communities allow for collaboration in between and across all levels of the organization to support the development of these elements. Commitment to joint and collaborative, weekly or regular meetings is a strength of the organization, starting at the top with the executive leadership team, to the mid-level school leadership team, to the teacher level grade and subject area teams, and finally to weekly teacher-based professional learning communities (PLCs). PLCs result in system-wide discussion and problem-solving related to the implementation of the Odyssey mission and our focus on academic excellence.

One of the biggest strengths of Odyssey is the school culture based on a collaborative leadership model and a sense of community among all stakeholders. Odyssey Charter leadership teams and staff members align decisions and actions toward continuous improvement to achieve the school's purpose and direction (mission/vision). Deliberate decision making during weekly leadership team meetings at the school and Green Apple levels, ensures that the school encourages, supports, and expects all students and staff/teachers are held to high standards. All stakeholders are collectively accountable for student learning and achievement. Data discussions in PLCs and staff meetings drive classroom and school-wide decisions and make way for school leaders to support and encourage innovation, collaboration, shared leadership, and rigorous professional growth.

Odyssey is led by a leadership team that works together to effectively manage the day-to-day operations and the implementation of the SIP. The school leadership team works alongside of the management company and the governing board to ensure student success through the following:

- Data-Driven and Continuous Improvement of Instruction
- Emphasis on Student Achievement
- Collaborative Leadership
- Positive School Climate
- Shared Accountability and Ownership

This collaborative effort, focus on the mission and core elements, and our schools unique focus on health and wellness, in conjunction with rigorous academics, has resulted in OCS maintaining status as a high performing charter school earning a school grade of "A" for 11 of the past 15 years (the other four years were "Bs").

Broward County Public Schools  
**Discovery Elementary School**

Julie DeGreeff, Principal



Total Enrollment	1019
<b>2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages</b>	
White	13.2
Black/African American	61.6
Hispanic/Latino	17
Asian	3.7
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	*
American Indian or Alaskan Native	*
Two or More Races	3.8
Disabled	9.4
Economically Disadvantaged	67.8
ELL	15
Migrant	

The vision of Discovery Elementary is to provide a quality education through state of the art technology. Every classroom is a digit environment equipped with promethean boards, LCD projectors, computers, tablets, and surround sound capabilities. Technology integration is the expectation for student learning in all grades. In August 2009, Discovery Elementary School opened its doors serving a diverse population of students from Lauderhill, Sunrise, and Tamarac, Florida. The school promotes an academic culture of high expectations where every child is provided the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. Discovery Elementary is an “A” rated high performing Title I school. Since its inception, Discovery has maintained high levels of academic achievement in literacy and mathematics. Teachers are dedicated and committed to the mission of educating children for tomorrow’s world. Discovery offers a variety of extracurricular activities and a host of family events designed to strengthen the home/school connection. Discovery Elementary enjoys outstanding support from the surrounding community.

The PTA and Advisory Council play an active and vital leadership role in supporting the school’s vision and mission for student success. Discovery Elementary is a wonderful learning community that is inclusive for all; students, parents, and staff. We are constantly using innovative technology to enhance our students’ learning experiences. Whether it is using academic based software or learning hands-on skills, it is no wonder that we are constantly referred to as the “Technology School!” Our curriculum infuses STEM based reasoning to boost student achievement.



Here at Discovery, we have quite the social calendar! We sponsor many community building events to form close bonds with our students, parents, and teachers. We also host events to broaden their critical thinking skills. Some of our notable events include our “Character Parade” and our “Multicultural Literacy Night.”

Discovery Elementary is a consistently rated an “A” school in Broward County. We are focused on identifying students’ strengths and weaknesses so they may excel in their academic endeavors. We truly are “A” great place to be!

Broward County Public Schools  
**Forest Glen Middle School**  
 Ronald Forsman, Principal



Total Enrollment	1358
<b>2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages</b>	
White	24.4
Black/African American	34.9
Hispanic/Latino	31.8
Asian	5.7
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	*
American Indian or Alaskan Native	*
Two or More Races	2.7
Disabled	13
Economically Disadvantaged	60
ELL	12.9
Migrant	

At Forest Glen, we have a vision for high expectations and provide every student the opportunity to develop through a personal learning plan for their middle school experience. Every child has the opportunity to advance and take rigorous classes that will challenge and invigorate their learning. We offer over 16 high credit classes that provide these opportunities for our students.

Therefore, hiring the right staff is critical for student success. We believe that finding the right teachers for the team will make all the difference for the school, teacher professional development, and student success. I call it the “Bill Belichick” way! Building a team framework for success that will withstand changes in players, opponents, and franchise support. The framework supporting the shared vision will put your team in the playoffs every year!

Research shows that administrative support and teacher professional growth and development will positively impact student performance and learning. We work hard to create interdisciplinary teams that will produce the greatest growth for students and staff. The team, like a family, creates a caring, nurturing, and empowering environment for students and teachers. There is a sense of belonging and closeness where people are accepted and the focus is on working together for the good of everyone. Students feel safe to try new things and go beyond their comfort zone.

Teachers feel safe to step out of their comfort zone to try new things even if they make a mistake. In the end, the team fosters academic, professional, and personal growth for students and teachers alike.

In our session, strategies for putting together the “right” team for longevity and focused operational expectancies with structured teacher and administrative monitoring at Forest Glen Middle School will be discussed. Included, will be the game plan, playbook, training plan, and film review.

Positive Proactive  
**Diverse**  
 Supportive Awesome  
 Responsive Flexible  
 Advancing Innovative  
**Dynamic**

Broward County Public Schools  
**Lyons Creek Middle School**  
 Horace A. Hamm, Principal



Total Enrollment	1897
<b>2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages</b>	
White	38
Black/African American	18.9
Hispanic/Latino	34.6
Asian	4.4
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	*
American Indian or Alaskan Native	*
Two or More Races	3.6
Disabled	14.5
Economically Disadvantaged	54.6
ELL	14.6
Migrant	

Lyons Creek Middle has earned an “A” rating for the 2016-2017 school year, the first time since 2010-2011. The entire faculty and staff of LCMS are committed to providing professional and educational excellence in a “student first” environment. There is a very high expectation for students to work diligently to improve student achievement, while preparing them socially and emotionally to succeed in tomorrow's world. As a testimony to the dedication of our staff, 12 teachers at Lyons Creek were selected as High Impact Teachers by the Florida Department of Education for the 2016 school year.

Over the past 3 years under the leadership of Principal Hamm, LCMS has implemented 12 innovative programs in an effort to offer students a variety of learning experiences. Additionally, LCMS now offers more opportunities for students to receive high school credit and earn industry certifications. These innovative programs include: Information & Communication Technology (ICT), Linking Education and Employment Outcomes (LEEO), Robotics, Financial Literacy, Debate, Biology, Street Law, Bio-Engineering, STEM, Drama, Yoga, Environmental Studies, Global Scholars and Job for Florida's Graduates (JFG). Lyons Creek is also proud of our Boys Soccer and Winter Guard teams who were crowned county champions! GO LIONS!!!



Charlotte County Public Schools  
**Sallie Jones Elementary School**  
 Jennie Hoke, Principal



Total Enrollment	623
<b>2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages</b>	
White	65.5
Black/African American	9.3
Hispanic/Latino	16.5
Asian	*
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	*
American Indian or Alaskan Native	
Two or More Races	8.2
Disabled	17.2
Economically Disadvantaged	59.2
ELL	1.9
Migrant	

Sallie Jones Elementary serves students in kindergarten through fifth grade and operates on a “year-round calendar.” We have a school board approved uniform policy, and our Leadership Program provides students with tools to be the leaders of tomorrow. We believe that cultivating a community of leadership involves developing the whole child; socially, emotionally, academically and ethically. Our Mission Statement is: Sallie Jones Tigers will be innovative leaders, striving for excellence through high expectations and a commitment to success. And that includes using the 7 Habits found in Steven Covey’s *The Leader in Me*, using Kagan Structures to build cooperative relationships, using Thinking Maps for building a common language of learning and using technology to aide in developing 21st century skills. Sallie Jones’ process-based approach to learning “begins with the end in mind.” This includes:

- Identifying and setting both personal and academic goals for each student on a continuous basis
- Using a systematic framework for student success
- Establishing high standards and expectations which emphasize rigor and relevance

We recognize and teach mastery of the Florida Standards and “put first things first” to provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn. Therefore, teachers, parents and students know what they need to do to meet the shared goals and make progress each year. Students are also developing communication and presentation skills as they lead student-led parent conferences, have public speaking opportunities and participate in other leadership rolls, such as student ambassadors, safety leaders and extra-curricular activities. Throughout the course of the year, each grade level participates in a local community or business related service project. Business partners, community partners and community leaders take an active part in our school. This “win-win” approach allows for the development of social awareness and recognition of needs in our community as well as globally.

**commitment**  
**accountable, innovative**  
**rewarding**  
**collaborative**  
**warm family**  
**amazing inspirational**

Charlotte County Public Schools  
**Vineland Elementary School**

Laura Blunier, Principal



Total Enrollment	606
2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages	
White	84.2
Black/African American	*
Hispanic/Latino	10.6
Asian	2.1
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	
Two or More Races	1.8
Disabled	20.3
Economically Disadvantaged	57.6
ELL	4.5
Migrant	

Vineland Elementary School, a FranklinCovey Leader in Me Lighthouse School, has maintained a grade of A for the last 16 years. It is the only Charlotte County school to sustain this record. This year marks the 30th anniversary that the school has been open. As we celebrate our 30 years in the education of children we have many things to be proud of. Vineland leads the way in the district with the highest FCAT Science scores for the past 9 years, which puts us in the top 10 percent of all Title I schools. Vineland also is ranked in the top 10 percent statewide in proficiency in both ELA and Math.

We attribute our strong academic standing to not only the hard work of our teachers and students but the collaborative partnerships we have developed with our parents and community. Teacher led professional development including PLC's (Professional Learning Communities) assist our teachers in utilizing best practices in all curricular areas. Some examples include PIE nights (Partners in Education) which is one of our family engagement initiatives along with Papa Patrol, 7 Habits of Highly Effective Moms, Parent Book Studies and Volunteer Orientation.

As a Leader in Me Lighthouse School, students lead the way. Students are actively involved in various leadership roles from touring new families and community stakeholders to participating in monthly leadership clubs. We also have numerous activities throughout the year to foster rigorous academics and leadership skills. Students use Leadership Notebooks to take ownership of their learning by setting academic and personal goals and developing strategies to meet them. Leadership Notebooks also include individual data tracking and celebrations of success.

At Vineland our motto is Leadership Know the Way, Show the Way.



Citrus County Public Schools  
**Crystal River Primary School**

Donnie Brown, Principal



Total Enrollment	617
2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages	
White	82.8
Black/African American	6.2
Hispanic/Latino	4.7
Asian	*
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	*
American Indian or Alaskan Native	
Two or More Races	5.7
Disabled	15.7
Economically Disadvantaged	81.4
ELL	*
Migrant	

Crystal River Primary School, set in the heart of the Nature Coast, proudly displays the National Wildlife Federation’s Green Flag Award that was our first step in turning around the perception of this low performing school. We knew it would take several years before the impact of higher standards and expectations would manifest itself in academic improvement, we decided to select an avenue whereby the school could stand out and be noticed. Finding an avenue to connect our school to the community and focusing on STEM (and STEAM) projects through the ECO School pathways began to engage our students in ways that textbooks and worksheets were not. After visiting other schools and attending conferences (like ECTAC!) around the state, we began to implement more hands-on learning activities which have opened the door to numerous community connections and involvement.

Family involvement was a challenge five years ago - parents did not feel welcome, nor was the physical reception area inviting to our visitors. Sprucing up the entrance and changing the way we welcome parents and others was a good start. We have spent a lot of energy on family and community involvement - even to the extent of taking our activities into the community - to parks, the mall and businesses around our school.

Visitors often comment that when they walk through Crystal River Primary School’s doors they “feel something different.” As they continue through the building, our hallways tell our story.

That “something different” is the product of the environment that we create, an environment that focuses on high expectations and the belief that we can reach them. Everyone is treated with respect and held to the highest of expectations and it is the creation of this type of learning environment that we are most proud. While the success at Crystal River Primary is primarily measured through academic accomplishment, a strong school-wide discipline plan forms the foundation that achievement is built upon. Students are held to very high behavioral expectations and made accountable for their actions. The Bearcub Boogie, Friendship Club and Gentlemen’s club, Bearcub Bucks and quarterly events for positive behavior all contribute to a successful community. The entire staff at Crystal River Primary School is committed to creating a learning environment where all students have an opportunity for success, which is why we claim that **“We Don’t Do Average, We Do Awesome!”**



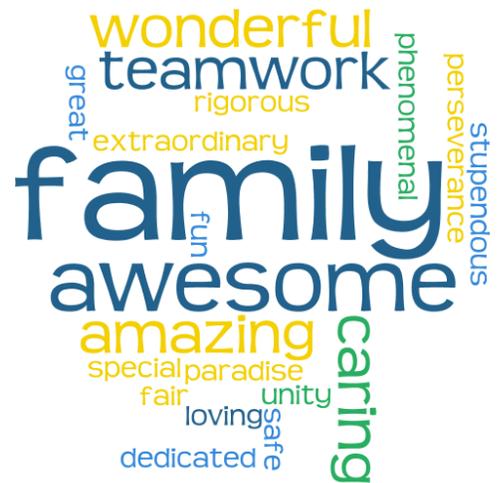
Columbia County Public Schools  
**Pinemount Elementary School**  
 Donna Darby, Principal



Total Enrollment	507
<b>2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages</b>	
White	75
Black/African American	8.3
Hispanic/Latino	9.9
Asian	*
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	
Two or More Races	5.5
Disabled	13
Economically Disadvantaged	55
ELL	4.3
Migrant	

Pinemount Elementary school opened in 2009. Education budgets and new building budgets had been cut dramatically at that time and there was a question whether our school would even have the funding needed to open. The county rallied together to advocate to build the much needed elementary school, even if it was on a “shoestring” budget. Pinemount Elementary has excelled from the very beginning and has been an “A” school every year since opening!

We are located in Lake City, Florida in a rural area of Columbia County. We have a school population of about 475 Pre-K- 5th grade students. We have an outstanding staff of highly effective teachers and paraprofessionals. The commitment our faculty and staff have is unmatched and the real reason for our continued success. We view Pinemount Elementary as Columbia County’s best kept secret! We have a family atmosphere and pride ourselves on building relationships with our students and families that last long after the students have graduated. Our school motto is “At Pinemount Elementary, we expect the best, we expect success!”



Hardee County Public Schools  
**Hilltop Elementary School**  
 Todd Durdin and Sheryl Mosley, Principals



Total Enrollment	394
<b>2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages</b>	
White	13.5
Black/African American	*
Hispanic/Latino	82.5
Asian	*
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	
Two or More Races	*
Disabled	15.5
Economically Disadvantaged	76.9
ELL	45.2
Migrant	

The students, staff and parents at Hilltop Elementary have great pride in their school. The school was originally constructed in 2006 and designated as a "School of Choice".

Our school provides an environment that encourages the students to approach their educational experience with motivation to be successful in the classroom. The student success at Hilltop Elementary can be directly related to the dedication of our staff. Our staff consists of highly qualified professionals who are passionate about providing a higher standard of education for all students. As a team, the administration, teachers and support staff strive to create a safe, orderly, child-friendly environment in which our students can flourish. We also receive additional support from our "Parent Teacher Organization" and "Business Partners".

Data driven instruction is a top priority at Hilltop Elementary. Data drives numerous aspects of our curriculum and assists in providing outlets in order to differentiate instruction in efforts to boost students to more advanced levels. Data is obtained through STAR testing, iReady, FAIR Testing, District Benchmarks and FSA results. The data obtained from utilizing these resources are then analyzed by teachers and support staff, who in turn use it to drive instruction. Students are not always lacking in the same areas. Each is unique in their learning abilities. Therefore, modifying lessons are sometimes necessary to ensure that students understand the concept being taught. Each grade level builds on what was previously learned and every effort is made to close any gap between grade levels. Teachers use a variety of resources to help in instructional planning. One of the biggest goals that Hilltop staff strives to meet daily is to make sure that core instructional programs are aligned to Florida's standards.



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Hilltop has a staff that is dedicated to ensuring the safety of our students. The facility has secure gates during school hours which allow our students to move around our campus as needed without fear. In the mornings, we have teachers and paras posted throughout the campus to assist students that may need help as we monitor hallways in an effort to keep everyone safe. Likewise, in the afternoons, teachers and paras are on duty posts to ensure students safety no matter how they are traveling home.

There is a school wide behavior system that aids in minimizing distractions to keep students engaged; which includes communicating clear behavior expectations. Students at Hilltop know that they are expected to demonstrate PRIDE, which is an acronym for being P-Positive, R- Respectful, I-Independent learners, D-Dedicated, E- having high Expectations. At the end of each nine weeks, teachers choose two students from their class, who have best demonstrated PRIDE to be recognized at a schoolwide assembly.

We have a motto at Hilltop Elementary, *“we don't count the days, we make the days count!”*

Jackson County Public Schools  
**Sneads Elementary School**  
 Melynda Howell, Principal



Total Enrollment	451
2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages	
White	73.8
Black/African American	18
Hispanic/Latino	3.5
Asian	*
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	*
American Indian or Alaskan Native	*
Two or More Races	3.8
Disabled	19.1
Economically Disadvantaged	68.7
ELL	*
Migrant	

Sneads Elementary School is located in rural Jackson County, situated in the panhandle of Florida. Sneads Elementary School serves students in grades Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and is home to the “Baby Pirates” where we believe “An Education is Life’s Best Treasure.” Because all stakeholders firmly believe in our vision, they are truly invested in the success of each student. As a Title I school, our families see our school as a vital community resource not only for students but for entire families. We pride ourselves on showing that every person who works at SES, attends SES, or visits SES is a member of an extended family. Though many of our students come from economically disadvantaged families with limited resources, they receive a top-notch education and have a variety of resources at their disposal. Our convictions of believing every child can learn and every child is important are spelled out in our School Beliefs:

We believe in the importance of each child and ability to learn.

We believe learning to read is the cornerstone for all education.

We believe family and community involvement benefits student achievement.

We believe a model of continuous improvement is essential to the growth and development of all stakeholders.

We believe that a safe and secure environment is essential for teaching and learning.

We host a variety of family involvement events throughout the school year. Family nights for our primary grades chiefly focus on offering advice on reading strategies and resources. For our intermediate grade levels, we host a variety of math, science, and writing nights to offer assistance for parents in understanding the curriculum and to help them learn strategies to help their child at home. Our faculty and staff show a concerted effort along with a compassionate disposition to help families not only feel welcome, but vital to our school success.

Our instructional staff members also hold high expectations for their own professional development and achieving individual growth in areas of need. Our grade group members work together to design lesson plans to help all students succeed and focus greatly on differentiated instruction in order to reach all learners.

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A school-based Student Support Team (SST) has been identified for the purpose of implementing a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) for all students. Universal screening data at the grade level, classroom level and subgroup level is analyzed to evaluate the effectiveness and needs of core instruction. The SST meets regularly to identify students in need of supplemental instruction and those in need of more intensive/ individualized instruction. The SST reviews multiple data sources and engages in a data-based problem solving method to design and evaluate intervention plans that are targeted to student needs. Members of the SST monitor implementation of intervention plans, as well as providing support and resources to the classroom teacher. The classroom teachers utilize small group rotations, peer tutoring, computer programs, and additional instructional time before and after school to improve our students' academic performance.

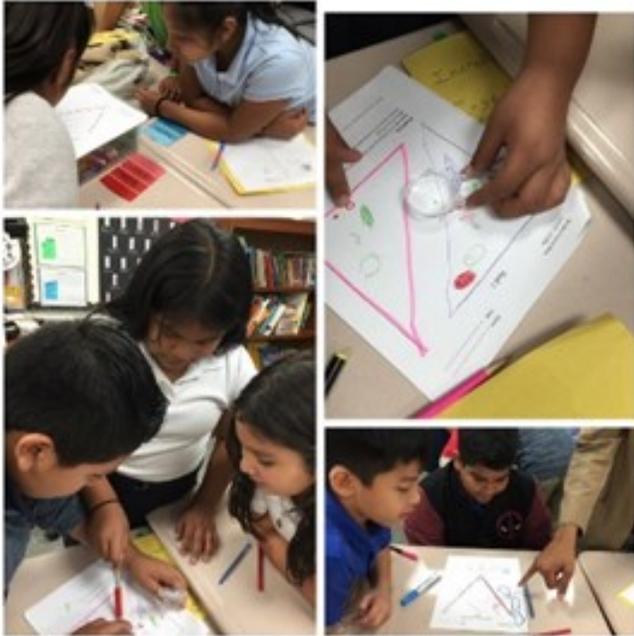
Title I provides the resources needed to implement our after-school remediation program. This remediation program is utilized three days a week and is targeted to our students in need of improvement. Teachers



work with smaller groups of students and remediate skills as identified by progress monitoring data. This program is fluid, and students are enrolled and dismissed as needed. Parents are invited to attend after-school remediation to learn the techniques teachers use to work with their students and to obtain additional material or resources for home use. In addition, parents are invited to use this time to utilize our computer labs and spend time with their children working on various programs and areas of need.

The combination of data-driven instruction and the family atmosphere at Sneads Elementary School is vital to our success. We understand our roles as educators are not only to educate the child, but to love and nurture the child's academic and emotional growth. We celebrate our students' achievements in various ways. We recognize students weekly for positive behavior and implement individual behavior plans when needed. The "pirate treasure chest" is located in the front office and students are often seen digging for treasures to inspire their continued academic and behavioral success. It is very common to have students visit the front office at all times of the day to receive praise for increasing grades and earning positive notes from their teachers. Our entire office staff participates in recognizing and praising these students and will even break out into the "happy dance" for their entertainment. While we are serious about education, we are not above being silly! Students enjoy our yearly faculty skit in which we encourage their continued achievement. We have performed parodies of *American Idol*, *The Voice*, super heroes and beauty pageants for our students' enjoyment. We have Field Days, field trips, student choir performances, Jr. Beta Club performances, holiday performances, food drives, and fund raisers for charities. Throughout their school years, we hope to inspire our students to agree that education is indeed life's best treasure, but education is not limited to academics. A student's treasured education at Sneads Elementary School is multi-faceted and designed to nurture each child's academic, social, emotional and physical growth.

Lee County Public Schools  
**Bonita Springs Elementary School**  
 Susan Caputo, Principal



Total Enrollment	489
<b>2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages</b>	
White	4.9
Black/African American	*
Hispanic/Latino	94.1
Asian	*
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	
Two or More Races	*
Disabled	13.1
Economically Disadvantaged	80.4
ELL	52.6
Migrant	

Bonita Springs Elementary, a Title I school, is located in the heart of historic Bonita Springs. The southern-most school in the School District of Lee County, BSE is housed in an almost 100-year-old historic building. The school is home to beautiful gardens.

Bonita Springs Elementary School has a thriving Arts program. Students receive art, music, and dance. Additionally, students can participate in extracurricular activities, such as Arts, Choir, STEM, soccer, yoga and more. Our fifth graders participate in a program called Dancing Classrooms, in which they learn five ballroom dances and compete against other elementary schools in the district. BSE believes that the Arts provide our students with an opportunity to express themselves outside the bounds of regular academics.

In the past three years, the school has made a turn-around to become an A school for the 2015-2016 and 2016 – 2017 school years from a D in the 2013-2014 school year. What does it take to make the grade? It takes hard work, determination, and accountability. Find out how Bonita Springs Elementary in Southwest Florida turned its school around in three years. It is a school with primarily low-socioeconomic status. Find out how Bonita Springs Elementary provides an equal opportunity for all students by building relationships, unpacking standards, analyzing data, and having high expectations.



Miami - Dade County Public Schools  
**Dante B. Fascell Elementary School**  
 Margaret D. Ferrarone, Principal



Total Enrollment	525
<b>2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages</b>	
White	2.5
Black/African American	2.5
Hispanic/Latino	92.6
Asian	1.9
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	*
American Indian or Alaskan Native	
Two or More Races	*
Disabled	14.1
Economically Disadvantaged	88.4
ELL	62.9
Migrant	

DBFE, Where Learning Is A Treasure!

Dante B. Fascell Elementary School credits its high levels of achievement and rigor to the positive and collaborative environment of instructional delivery and data collection and dissemination. This spirit of cooperation permeates into the daily operations of the school site and is seen in-action in the outcomes of our students.

DBFE's deliberate and methodical process of data interpretation has aided administration and faculty in making strategic decisions for targeted instructional delivery, intervention, remediation, and enrichment. At DBFE, students are not only scholars of traditional curriculum; our girls and boys also enjoy the benefits of hands-on learning opportunities, including approaches centered around the arts, ensuring our students are educated holistically.

It is our school-wide mission to brighten the future through the power of knowledge, using a multiple-intelligence approach. At Dante B. Fascell Elementary School, we begin and end each school day with clear goals in mind. These objectives define our school-wide purpose and shape the work we do. DBFE is driven by the collaborative efforts of students, staff, parents, and the business community to build a solid foundation that includes the underlying beliefs and values that all children can and will learn, given mutual respect and support.



Miami - Dade County Public Schools  
**Ethel B. Koger Elementary School**  
 Cecilia C. Sanchez, Principal



Total Enrollment	817
2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages	
White	1.8
Black/African American	
Hispanic/Latino	96.6
Asian	1.6
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	
Two or More Races	
Disabled	7.2
Economically Disadvantaged	70.5
ELL	44.8
Migrant	

Ethel Koger Beckham Elementary, a Title I school, is located in a low-middle income community in West Miami-Dade. The school facility was founded in 1996 with the vision that the predominant purpose of education is to provide the opportunity for each child to grow into his or her full capacity. Every child comes to our school with strengths and abilities. The staff of Ethel Koger Beckham Elementary is committed to connect these abilities with deeper and wider ways of knowing, finding the intelligence, building character within our students, seeing each child as an individual with unique hopes, dreams, skills, and needs; and therefore “Nurturing Every Child's Potential.”

Efforts to keep the school mission alive are evident in the manner in which the leadership, faculty and staff collaborate to provide opportunities for students to not only excel academically but also learn to be positive role models in their homes and communities. Forty-six percent of our faculty hold advanced degrees and six are National Board Certified teachers. The expertise and professionalism shared among the leadership and faculty are key in the continuous academic achievement.

A variety of instructional programs are offered at Ethel Koger Beckham Elementary. Our gifted students in grades first through fifth participate in a full-time gifted program. Students with Disabilities are serviced in an inclusion or resource setting based on individual needs. Students who are in need of academic intervention participate in our Journeys Tutorial Program. The computer labs are made available before and after school to provide students with the opportunity to use instructional websites. Ethel Koger Beckham Elementary also fosters high academic achievement through student involvement in school sponsored programs such as Beckham Bears Cheerleaders, EKB Soccer Team, Chorus, Art Club, Future Educators of America, Newspaper Club, Green Schools Club, Imagineers Club, Journeys Tutorial, Beckham Ambassadors and Safety Patrols. School musical and theatrical performances are coordinated by the Music, Art and Gifted departments twice a year for all students and community members to enjoy. School sponsored field trips to Washington D.C., Chicago, New York City, Philadelphia, Walt Disney World, Cape Canaveral, St. Augustine, Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park and other museums and performing arts venues make learning authentic and meaningful.



Miami - Dade County Public Schools  
**Flagami Elementary School**  
 Maria C. Mason, Principal



Total Enrollment	442
2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages	
White	*
Black/African American	*
Hispanic/Latino	99.1
Asian	*
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	
Two or More Races	
Disabled	11.1
Economically Disadvantaged	88
ELL	71.9
Migrant	

Flagami Elementary embodies an ethic of caring: not just a program, strategy or goal, but a way of relating to students, their families, and one another that conveys compassion, understanding, respect, and interest. In our school, English Learners (ELs) are the fastest growing population. Our staff is able to communicate effectively and cross-culturally in such diverse contexts and that greatly affects and impacts students and the building of relationships between teachers, parents and students. Students must feel that they belong and are accepted. Politeness, friendliness, kindness, fairness, respect and empathy are important factors in establishing a sound teacher-student relationship.

Our teachers listen to the students with empathy, putting themselves in their students' places and learning to read between cultural lines. Through this approach, their cultural knowledge and cross-cultural communication skills develop and they are able to understand and respect the diversity of our student population. In turn, this will assist them in guiding students effectively toward academic success and fulfillment. Our teachers attend a wide range of professional development opportunities throughout the summer, to add to their expertise and teaching repertoire. Classroom instruction continues to remain centered around critical thinking skills that best prepare our students to become active, and effective contributors to our society. Teachers continue to collaborate with each other, and as a learning community, we remain committed to making progressive shifts in teaching, learning and curriculum and instruction design.



The school also participates and showcases pride in the cultures of the students during multicultural celebrations that take place throughout the year such as the Pre-K Hispanic Heritage Luncheon, Hispanic Heritage Month Bulletin Board Contest, and Black History Month celebration. Lessons are incorporated throughout the school year for the aforementioned and also for Women in History, ESE Week, etc.

Miami - Dade County Public Schools  
**Hialeah Gardens Middle School**

Maritza D. Jimenez, Principal



Total Enrollment	1667
2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages	
White	0.8
Black/African American	0.7
Hispanic/Latino	97.9
Asian	*
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	
Two or More Races	*
Disabled	5.2
Economically Disadvantaged	84.2
ELL	29.7
Migrant	

At Hialeah Gardens Middle School student success and achievement are an everyday challenge and focus. Teachers meet bi-weekly through grade level and Interdisciplinary Common Planning, which includes both academies and electives programs. Weekly department meetings are held to design rigorous performance based lessons which include text complexity, higher level questioning using the Webb’s Depth of Knowledge method and best practices. Once instruction is in place teachers reconvene to analyze data, realign instruction based on student’s level of achieved mastery and plan interventions and/or differentiated instruction for non-proficient students.

Interventions include; but are not limited to before and after school tutorials, Saturday Academy, writing camps, pull-out sessions and parent conferences. Our students and school needs are addressed not only in core areas (Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies) but through our broad academies and electives programs. It is important to note that because our curriculum addresses the whole child the level of commitment and success is continuously challenging, innovative and embraces competition in our global society.

open  
creative  
fun  
diverse  
supportive  
grandioso  
committed

Miami-Dade County Public Schools  
**Howard D. McMillan Middle School**  
 Hilca Thomas, Principal



Total Enrollment	889
2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages	
White	6.2
Black/African American	2.1
Hispanic/Latino	90.2
Asian	*
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	
Two or More Races	*
Disabled	16.6
Economically Disadvantaged	79
ELL	28.6
Migrant	

Howard D. McMillan Middle School (McMillan) is located in West Kendall, Miami, Florida and is part of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. It is our belief that all students should be prepared to think critically for creative and innovative problem solving. Our goal is to increase student academic achievement in order to prepare them for college and career readiness. McMillan Middle School has been a Florida A+ School for many, many years, has received the ECTAC Exceeding Expectations Award for 2 years, and has been a Magnet Schools of America School of Excellence and Distinction for the past 5 years.

Howard D. McMillan Middle School is a Title I School offering advanced academics in Algebra I, Geometry, Physical Science, Biology and a gifted program in all core content areas. McMillan offers Cambridge Robotics Engineering and Technology Education (CREATE) and Cambridge Medical/Health Sciences Magnet Programs. Students utilize mathematics and science concepts along with computer applications to design and build functional robots using LEGO Mindstorm NXT and Robot-C for VEX. In the Medical/Health Sciences Magnet, students explore careers in the medical field, Bio-Technology and Veterinary Science. Magnet themes are infused throughout the school, allowing for fluid interactions between students in the magnet and students outside of the magnet.

Student academic success emanates from a combination of innovative leadership and creative instructional strategies leading to student motivation and a love for learning. Teachers and administrators collaborate, “thinking outside of the box” to modify traditional electives creating “high interest” electives to meet the changing needs of students in a technological age. Teachers are trained in Cambridge International Standards which are aligned to the Florida State Standards and implement these standards school-wide.

awesome  
 excellent  
 welcoming  
 competitive  
 collegial  
 reassuring  
 happy

Miami - Dade County Public Schools  
**Joella Good Elementary School**  
 Lizette G. O'Halloran, Principal



Total Enrollment	943
<b>2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages</b>	
White	2.8
Black/African American	25.5
Hispanic/Latino	69.7
Asian	1.6
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	*
Two or More Races	*
Disabled	4.9
Economically Disadvantaged	82.7
ELL	26.9
Migrant	

Joella C. Good Elementary is named after an accomplished educator who served in many leadership capacities to enhance the learning of children and develop the craft and careers of educators. Her philosophy of education can still be found in our school where we continue to develop our staff through continuous professional development and consistent collaboration among colleagues. At Joella, we continuously look at data and authentic student work to gauge the academic progress of students.

Our Leadership Team consistently meets with grade level and subject area teams to provide several levels of support that will develop the teacher and impact student achievement to better the future for us all. In addition, we believe in an initiative designed by our District leadership that Values Matter. We use the namesake of our school "Good" to promote a program called "I am Good" which rewards students and staff for having a sense of respect, responsibility, and community.

**Supportive** Uplifting  
 Soaring  
**Empowering** Inspiring  
 Exceptional **Amazing**  
 Caring

Miami - Dade County Public Schools  
**Rockway Middle School**  
 Melanie Megias, Principal



Total Enrollment	1012
<b>2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages</b>	
White	2.9
Black/African American	*
Hispanic/Latino	96.2
Asian	*
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	
Two or More Races	
Disabled	13.4
Economically Disadvantaged	83.9
ELL	36.4
Migrant	

Rockway Middle School, a comprehensive middle school in southwest Miami Dade County, serves 1,145 students in grades 6-8. At Rockway, we pride ourselves on having a variety of programs to meet the needs of all students. We have equal numbers of SPED, ESOL and gifted students. In addition to a strong academic program, we offer multiple electives courses and participate in many sports and extracurricular activities. We also have two academies – law studies and robotics. In describing our school we often say that many schools have a niche (one special program they are known for), but our niche is that we have something for every child.

To implement our strong instructional programs, Rockway Middle School staff members participate in weekly Collaborative Conversations by department to share best practices and develop common instructional plans to engage students. In addition, monthly think tanks address topics of interest to the entire school such as grant writing, STEM initiatives and teacher professional development. These strategies both build community and support a common instructional focus.

Perhaps the most compelling thing about Rockway is our school culture. When asked to describe our school in one word, independently of one another, many staff and community members use the word family. We truly are a family and it shows in everything we do. More than 10 current staff members were students at Rockway Middle. Many of our students’ parents and some of their grandparents attended our school. Moreover, we strive to balance learning with fun, which provides a connection for students, staff and the community. Overall, it’s the combination of strong instruction with a positive school culture that leads to our school’s success.



Nassau County Public Schools  
**Yulee Elementary School**  
 Scott Hodges, Principal



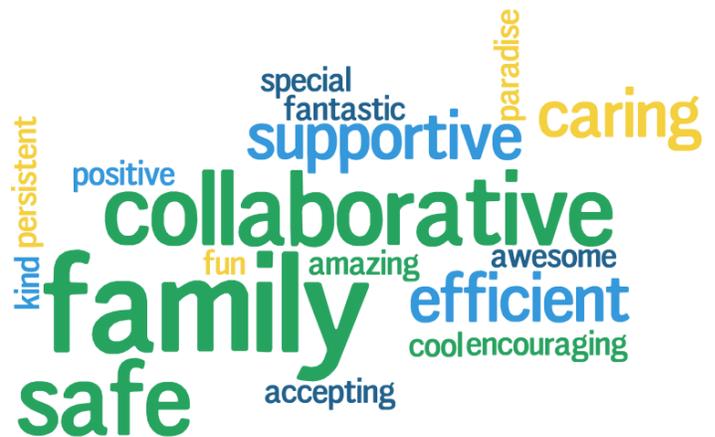
Total Enrollment	857
2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages	
White	80.7
Black/African American	7
Hispanic/Latino	5.4
Asian	1.6
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	*
American Indian or Alaskan Native	
Two or More Races	5.1
Disabled	18.6
Economically Disadvantaged	50.8
ELL	*
Migrant	

Yulee Elementary is a Title I School located in extreme North East Florida in Nassau County. Nassau County is comprised of the communities of Bryceville, Callahan, Hilliard, Yulee and Fernandina Beach.

During the 2016 - 2017 school year, Yulee Elementary School had approximately 976 students in grades 3-5. There were 19 third grade homerooms, 14 fourth grade and 15 homerooms in fifth grade. Each grade level had a variety of both team teaching and traditional classrooms. Approximately 51% of students are on free or reduced lunch.

YES houses four district level special needs classes. Two are self-contained alternate diploma units that serve students in 3rd-5th grades from the entire county and two are Emotional/Behavioral units that serve students K-5 from all communities in the county. The school serves the remainder of its ESE population using the push-in Supportive Facilitation Model.

YES utilizes a school-wide positive behavior system and all students are released one hour early each Wednesday for collaborative planning. The Yulee community continues to experience rapid growth in recent years. In fact, a new school, Wildlight Elementary, is opening in Yulee in 2017- 2018 and will take approximately 250 students from YES to help alleviate overcrowding. Approximately 80 students will be sent to a Fernandina Beach Intermediate School, and Emma Love Hardee, who had some extra classroom space next year as well. The student population for 2017- 2018 at Yulee Elementary should be around 700.



Orange County Public Schools  
**Oakshire Elementary School**  
 Raquel Flores, Principal



Total Enrollment	695
2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages	
White	5.6
Black/African American	9.4
Hispanic/Latino	81.3
Asian	2.2
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	*
American Indian or Alaskan Native	*
Two or More Races	*
Disabled	8.1
Economically Disadvantaged	100
ELL	52.2

Oakshire Elementary is a vibrant school that serves students in grades Pre-K to 5 and offers bilingual services to K-2 students. The school was founded in 1999 and is located in the southeast part of Orlando. The student population is comprised of children that come from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. The school’s mission is to lead students to success with the support and involvement of families and the community. In that respect, Oakshire provides ample opportunities for parents and community sponsors to connect with the school by hosting many educational events.

Oakshire has maintained an “A” grade status for the past 10 consecutive years. In addition, the school has been recognized as a Golden School Award and a Five Star Award site. In 2017, Oakshire was named one of America’s Best Urban Schools by the National Center for Urban School Transformation. Oakshire’s teachers work tirelessly to ensure that the students are well on their way to being career and college ready when they move on to middle school. The school’s focus is on student achievement, and it is evident in their motto: “For the children, whatever it takes”.

home  
 inviting  
 innovative  
 rigorous  
 family  
 successful  
 community

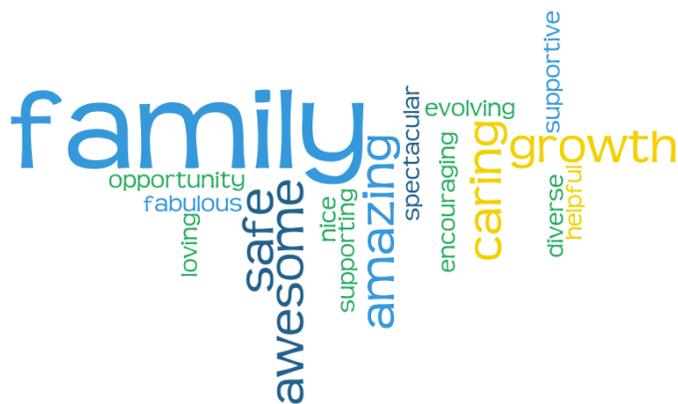
High expectations are set for every child and rigorous instruction is delivered at Oakshire ES by passionate and dedicated teachers. Teachers and administrators work as a Professional Learning Community to identify essential learning outcomes, create instructional focus calendars, develop common assessments, analyze data, and implement targeted instruction. Professional development focuses on building teacher capacity and working as members of a high performing, collaborative team with a focus on improving learning for all students. At Oakshire, a student is determined to be proficient at a mastery of 80% or above in meeting the grade level standards. Collaborative meetings allow teachers to discuss lesson design, strategies and implementation for students falling below proficiency and enrichment for those working above the expected level.

Palm Beach County Public Schools  
**Boca Raton Elementary School**  
 Renee Elfe, Principal



Total Enrollment	355
2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages	
White	28.7
Black/African American	39.4
Hispanic/Latino	26.8
Asian	*
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	*
American Indian or Alaskan Native	*
Two or More Races	*
Disabled	28.2
Economically Disadvantaged	70.1
ELL	17.5
Migrant	

Boca Raton Elementary School is a Technology School of Choice and a Title I School. We are the oldest school in Palm Beach County and will be celebrating 110 years of educating students and serving the community in 2018. Boca Elementary finished the 2016-2017 strong scoring 2nd in the district in math and language arts learning gains. We utilize district wide I-Ready Reading and Math, as well as Khan Academy in math for our adaptive technologies. We have adopted a school-wide “Tech Culture” which has spread from staff to students and parents. Our school consists of a variety of activities available for students. Last year we started a Gardening Club which grew and cultivated everything from tomatoes, eggplants, to sunflowers and various herbs. Our Robotics Club built Kano kits. These computers were then ready to use in the classroom, or be taken apart and rebuilt. They also utilized our Flight Simulator, allowing students to take-off and land from any airport in the world, using their math and science skills. Chess club helps to build our strategic thinkers. Our SECME Club built mousetrap cars and bottle rockets while competing in district wide competitions.



We are excited to start this school year with student enrollments exceeding expectations!

Palm Beach County Public Schools  
**Crosspointe Elementary School**  
 Annmarie Dilbert, Principal



Total Enrollment	687
<b>2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages</b>	
White	11.6
Black/African American	71.8
Hispanic/Latino	10.9
Asian	*
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	*
Two or More Races	4.2
Disabled	11.2
Economically Disadvantaged	89.5
ELL	33.3
Migrant	

Crosspointe Elementary School is a community public school located in Boynton Beach. We are a community of incredibly committed professionals that provide our students with the tools, resources, and instruction for them to excel in life. We provide rigorous, standards-based instruction that focuses on the needs of the individual student.

In 2016, we committed to the Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) program to provide our students with an engaging and relevant 21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum. Teachers and our STEM coach plan units of study to engage students in Project Based Learning (PBL). Our school uses a POLY-COM system that allows students and staff to interact live with scientists, other science classes from around the world, and STEM industry professionals. This experience provides the opportunity to learn about science careers, engage with other STEM schools, and teaches our students about current technology. Crosspointe will offer our STEM program to others as a school of CHOICE for the FY18 school year.



Crosspointe Elementary offers a Literacy Resource Room called the Oasis Room sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Boynton Beach. This room provides the community with access to a huge collections of books. It is open all school days and in the summer to provide access to free books and a cool space to read for our community.

Our afterschool programs provide arts and academic enrichment to all our students. Students can enroll in our Chorus, Trumpet Club, Art Club, Sports Club, Chess Club, Robotics, SECME, Student Council, and Dance. The Fine Arts Department also showcases the talents of the students at special evening events.

Crosspointe has been recognized for its parent and community involvement and academic achievement. Crosspointe Elementary has been presented the Five Star School Award for our exemplary community involvement.

Palm Beach County Public Schools  
**Golden Grove Elementary School**  
 Adam Miller, Principal



Total Enrollment	544
<b>2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages</b>	
White	53.9
Black/African American	10.5
Hispanic/Latino	29.6
Asian	2
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	*
American Indian or Alaskan Native	*
Two or More Races	2.9
Disabled	16.4
Economically Disadvantaged	57.7
ELL	2.6
Migrant	

Golden Grove Elementary’s claim to fame is the strong relationships we build with our students, parents, community members, teachers and staff. No one ever wants to leave Golden Grove; our past 5th graders come back and volunteer every morning, retired teachers always come back and help out with our new Kindergartners and we frequently receive students whose parents were students themselves at Golden Grove.

We always remember that students are children first and aim to provide a fun and enjoyable school experience for them. Some activities include school bashes (parties) once a month, Mother’s Day Teas, Father/Daughter Dances, Mother/Son Adventures, our ROCK pep rally, various parties and events around school holidays, our annual Reindeer Run (which the Principal finally won!), Walk-a-thons, Jump Rope for the Heart, Faculty vs. 5th graders Kickball Game, Summer Reading programs, Running of the Halls and frequent competitions between administrators (usually around reading and math). We end the year with a Career Day. This day highlights many of our local community workers, many of which are parents of current and former students. We have more than 25 speakers every year. We also have a career vehicle display which includes fire trucks, police cars, tractors, airboats, a Vietnam era helicopter and jeep, a Publix tractor trailer, the bloodmobile as well as other career vehicles.



Our leadership actively promotes a happy and peaceful school climate through frequent classroom visits, high visibility and accessibility to parents, a constant focus on what students are doing right and perpetual support of our students and staff. Staff members are encouraged to bring ideas forward and we believe in shared decision making. Our Principal and Assistant Principal hold Golden Reader and Math Rock Star programs daily to promote reading and math achievement in our school.

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As a Technology Choice program, Golden Grove offers students 3 full computer labs, 200 laptops and chromebooks and 100 iPads. Teachers integrate technology into the curriculum such as Kindergarten students publishing writing pieces using Microsoft Word and 2nd graders using Microsoft Powerpoint or Google Slides to present what they learn in science. Golden Grove as a whole utilizes Google Drive to stay organized and Google Forms to frequently seek input from staff on important school decisions. We also integrated data chats, SBT and Google Sheets to create a new SBT 2.0 process that allows us to discuss each and every student every 8 weeks to ensure no one falls through the cracks.

Palm Beach County Public Schools  
**Wynnebrook Elementary School**

Suzanne Berry, Principal



Total Enrollment	870
2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages	
White	7.2
Black/African American	42.1
Hispanic/Latino	47.7
Asian	*
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2
Two or More Races	
Disabled	16.4
Economically Disadvantaged	94
ELL	36.6
Migrant	

Wynnebrook Elementary School is located in suburban West Palm Beach, Florida. It is a community school with a variety of ethnicities and cultures. It has a poverty rate of 93% and a minority rate of 89%. The school’s population averages between 850-900 students annually.

Wynnebrook’s success in continually achieving gains in student achievement is a direct result of having a primary focus on a single school culture, professional development, and literacy. The school embraces a Code of Conduct of being respectful, responsible, a peacemaker, and prepared, and has consistently lived by this Code since 2001. The teachers begin on the first day of school building a community based on the Code of Conduct to foster relationships with the students so social-emotional needs are met and learning can take place.

Having a single school culture where all staff members share the same vision, commitment, and common goals is another attribute to Wynnebrook’s sustained success. Teachers meet in collaborative teams based on grade levels/subject areas and discuss data analysis of assessments, best teaching practices, map out the curriculum, and create common assessments based on the standards and the needs of their students.



Santa Rosa County Public Schools  
**Jay Elementary School**  
 Kelly Short, Principal



Total Enrollment	509
2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages	
White	94.1
Black/African American	
Hispanic/Latino	*
Asian	*
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	*
Two or More Races	3.1
Disabled	13.9
Economically Disadvantaged	52.5
ELL	*
Migrant	

Jay Elementary School is proud to be a Santa Rosa STEAM Innovate School with a mission for providing students a superior, relevant education where students discover and cultivate their gifts and talents in preparation for a bright and prosperous future. As a STEAM Innovate School, we have partnered with Discovery Education as we strive to not only transform teaching and learning, but to support economic development and the creation of a pipeline from our classrooms to gratifying and meaningful careers.

Student performance data has been the driving force behind the need for a transformation at Jay Elementary School. As a result of the standards becoming more rigorous, the number of students “at risk” was on the rise and change was imminent. Our student performance scores prior to 2013 were in the bottom quartile when compared to the other elementary schools in Santa Rosa County. Thus we began a laser like focus on professional development with an emphasis on high impact strategies and the integration of technology. Our innovative approach to professional development gives teachers choices and allows for differentiation. As a result, the ability to integrate technology with fidelity has ultimately fostered a higher level of engagement where students are actively learning and establishing a foundation for the development of a personal ethos of self-directed, independent learning characterized by collaboration, critical thinking, communication, and creativity. Student performance scores and learning gains have continued climb, and now Jay Elementary School ranks in the TOP quartile compared to other elementary schools in Santa Rosa County.



Without question, the greatest attribute of Jay Elementary School is the commitment of our teachers and staff which derives from powerful relationships with students, parents, community members, and peers. This sets the stage for EXTRAORDINARY things to happen.

Santa Rosa County Public Schools  
**Oriole Beach Elementary School**

Joshua McGrew, Principal



Total Enrollment	817
<b>2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages</b>	
White	82
Black/African American	1.5
Hispanic/Latino	8
Asian	2.7
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	*
American Indian or Alaskan Native	
Two or More Races	5.8
Disabled	12.6
Economically Disadvantaged	41.8
ELL	2.7
Migrant	

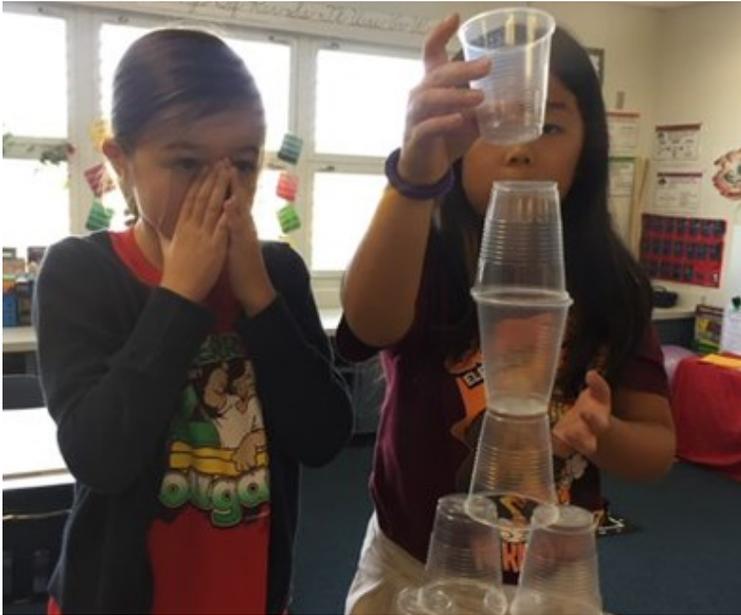
Oriole Beach Elementary (O-B-E) is a special school with an attentive administration and staff, involved parents, engaged students, and teachers who motivate each child to strive for their best by collectively and individually nurturing each and every student they encounter. The school culture is that of understanding and acceptance while the campus expectation focused on the highest possible academic performance and solid personal ethics.

Every effort is made to meet each student where they are. This includes academic understanding through a combination of individualization in the classroom and special services provided to those students who need more support so all students may be guided to where they need to go next. The school staff strive to meet the educational demands of future citizens of the world for which change will be a constant. They do this by providing increased use of technology as a true learning tool, across the board STEAM implementation and utilizing the latest pedagogical methods for deeper understanding of core subject areas like language arts and math. All the while, appropriate attention is still given to emotional and social learning in hands-on settings. This is modeled from the administration, the teachers, and educational support staff to the students which results in an atmosphere of safety and well-being for students and their families.

The school family is supportively all inclusive while continually challenging each member to be their personal best. This is why Oriole Beach Elementary’s unofficial motto has been “OBE is the place to be” for more than twenty years.



Sarasota County Public Schools  
**Cranberry Elementary School**  
 Linda Daniels, Principal



Total Enrollment	772
2015-2016 Student Demographic Percentages	
White	68.5
Black/African American	8.4
Hispanic/Latino	14.4
Asian	2.1
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	*
American Indian or Alaskan Native	*
Two or More Races	6.1
Disabled	20.3
Economically Disadvantaged	65
ELL	12.6
Migrant	

Cranberry Elementary is a K-5 Public School of in Sarasota County, opening in August of 2003. It is one of five elementary schools in the rapidly growing town of North Port, Florida. Staff and students have been led by the same administrators since opening day, which has led to a sense of community and family at the school. Cranberry is known for setting high expectations for behavior and academics and for providing students and staff with the necessary resources to meet these expectations. The school has received an A rating for 11 out of 13 of its years. Uniforms are worn by students, who are encouraged to be respectful, responsible, and ready to learn every day.

**Positive** Amazing  
 Love Student-focused  
 Exciting  
**Respectful** Family  
**Relationships** Committed Inviting

# Previous Exceeding Expectations Award Schools

## 2012

Micanopy Area Cooperative School (Alachua)  
Driftwood Middle School (Broward)  
Sheridan Hills Elementary School (Broward)  
Floral City Elementary School (Citrus)  
Long Branch Elementary School (Duval)  
Stewart Street Elementary School (Gadsden)

Clewiston High School (Hendry)  
Reddick Elementary School (Hillsborough)  
Maxey Elementary School (Orange)  
Palm Springs Middle School (Palm Beach)  
Wynnebrook Elementary School (Palm Beach)

## 2013

Pinewood Elementary School (Brevard)  
Millennium Middle School (Broward)  
Pines Middle School (Broward)  
Manatee Elementary School (Collier)  
Highlands Elementary School (Duval)  
Apalachicola Bay Charter School (Franklin)  
Chiefland Middle School (Levy)  
Pinetta Elementary School (Madison)

Comstock Elementary School (Miami-Dade)  
Emerson Elementary School (Miami-Dade)  
Ethel K Beckham Elementary School (Miami-Dade)  
Hialeah Gardens Elementary School (Miami-Dade)  
Royal Palm Elementary School (Miami-Dade)  
Tropical Elementary School (Miami-Dade)  
American Sr. High School (Miami-Dade)  
Hiawassee Elementary School (Orange)

## 2014

Somerset Academy Miramar Elementary (Broward)  
Golden Gate High School (Collier)  
Lorenzo Walker Technical High School (Collier)  
Gretna Elementary School (Gadsden)  
Sneads Elementary School (Jackson)  
Varsity Lakes Middle School (Lee)  
Emerson Elementary School (Miami-Dade)  
Miami Lakes Educational Center (Miami-Dade)  
Law Enforcement Officers Memorial High School (Miami-Dade)

Meadowlane Elementary School (Miami-Dade)  
Silver Sands Exceptional Center (Okaloosa)  
Howard Middle School (Orange)  
Crosspointe Elementary School (Palm Beach)  
Dixieland Elementary School (Polk)  
Alta Vista Elementary School (Sarasota)  
Lake Orienta Elementary School (Seminole)  
Westside Elementary School (Volusia)

## 2015

Palm Pointe Educ. Research Center (FAU Lab School)  
Alexander Elementary School (Hillsborough)  
N. Ft. Myers Academy for the Arts (Lee)  
Varsity Lakes Middle School (Lee)  
Bent Tree Elementary School (Miami-Dade)  
Coral Park Elementary School (Miami-Dade)  
Dante Fascell Elementary School (Miami-Dade)

Emerson Elementary School (Miami-Dade)  
Hialeah Gardens Middle School (Miami-Dade)  
Howard D. McMillan Middle Schools (Miami - Dade))  
Jack David Gordon Elementary School (Miami-Dade)  
Allamanda Elementary School (Palm Beach)  
Cypress Trails Elementary School (Palm Beach)  
Bushnell Elementary School (Sumter)

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

## **Dr. Dana Godek**

**Administrative Director, Compliance and Special Projects  
School District of Palm Beach County**

Dr. Dana Godek serves the School District of Palm Beach County by leading its federal, state, and resource development initiatives to support over 90,000 students living in poverty in the public school system. She brings a background in both education and not-for-profit leadership, having served as the senior executive for national education organizations and resource and legislative affairs in higher education.



Dana is a published researcher on the topics of organizational systems development, large scale federal policy implementation and strategic philanthropy. She is the author of *Daisies, Pushing Up*, a memoir of adolescence in the social services system. She holds the international credential of Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE), is an alumna of Nova Southeastern University and was conferred a Doctorate of Education in Organizational Development in 2007.

Dana lives in West Palm Beach with her husband Bernard, CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach County, and their ten-year-old son Jonathan, as well as her sister and nephew. She can be found on Twitter @DanaGodek.

## **Dr. Walt Griffin**

**Superintendent,  
Seminole County Public Schools**

Dr. Walt Griffin was appointed Superintendent of Seminole County Public Schools in 2012. Prior to serving as Superintendent Walt served as a mathematics teacher, middle school principal, high school principal and executive director of the Seminole County High Schools. He is a two time Florida Department of Education turnaround principal, the 2003 Florida Principal of the Year and in 2014 was named a U.S. Future Ready Superintendent. Since taking over as Superintendent, Seminole County is ranked #1 in the state in Advanced STEM education, career/vocational education has quadrupled and Seminole County has maintained an “A” rating from the Department of Education.



# PRESENTERS

## Odyssey Charter School - Brevard Public Schools

**Ms. Constance Ortiz**, fondly known as Ms. Constance, began her work as a homeschooling mother in the early 1990s helping educate her own and other children in the community. In 1998, this Montessori-trained educator with an innovative vision for a holistic school, Ms. Constance proposed a charter school with a unique mission in Brevard County, Florida. She is an exceptional leader and community leader that has set the tone for academic excellence in education through the founding of the first and only green, healthy, and holistic charter school in the state of Florida. Her leadership in the development of holistic models supporting the intellectual, social, physical, spiritual, and emotional development of the whole child has resulted in her receiving numerous personal awards, including the 2016 Florida Consortium Charter School Pioneer and the 2016 Woman of Excellence by the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce, as well as organizational awards including the National Green Ribbon Schools Award, the Florida Green School award, the Golden Carrot Award from Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, and numerous other accolades.

**Ms. Wendi Nolder** started with Odyssey Charter School when the school opened in 1999 as a teacher. She taught at Odyssey for 10 years before becoming the school leader in 2010. Ms. Nolder has her Bachelor's degree in Mathematics with a minor in Secondary Education, her Master's degree in Science Education, and is certified in Montessori 3-6, Elementary Education, Mathematics 6-12, Educational Leadership, and Gifted endorsed.

**Dr. Monica Knight** has been with Odyssey schools for four years as an elementary, middle, and high school principal. Dr. Knight has a PhD in Social Foundation of Education, Specialist degree in Multicultural Education, Master's degree in Middle Grades Education with an emphasis in Educational Leadership, and a Bachelor's degree in Middle Grades education. Dr. Knight is certified in Middle Grade Integrated Curriculum, Educational Leadership, and she is gifted endorsed. Prior to coming to Odyssey, she was a middle school teacher and school-based leader and then a Director and Coordinator of Federal Programs for several schools districts focusing on leveraging Title I, Title II, Title III, IDEA, and 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC and other funding to support the education of high risk students and families.

## Discovery Elementary School - Broward County Public Schools

**Raylene Z. Thomas** started her career in education in 2007 as a primary teacher and has climbed the ladder of success moving from Teacher to Literacy Coach, and currently the Assistant Principal at Discovery Elementary School. Raylene believes if you have little goals then you expect little achievements, but if you have big goals, you win big success.

**Dannyelle deVarona** is a Primary Curriculum Specialist at Discovery Elementary. She has been teaching primary (K-2) for the past ten years and recently received her masters and certification in Educational Leadership. She loves to learn, take on new challenges, and work with teachers to see that EVERY child succeeds.

**Shaquoia Brooks-Moore** has been teaching in the primary grades for the last eight years. She is gifted endorsed and is currently working on her reading endorsement. As a teacher at Discovery Elementary for 5 years, she's passionate about making learning exciting and engaging. "I can't" is not a part of her classes' vocabulary. She believes that ALL children can learn, just not all in the same way.



# PRESENTERS

## Forest Glen Middle School - Broward County Public Schools

**Ronald H. Forsman, Jr.** is the principal at Forest Glen Middle School. His teaching career began in Broward County in 1987 as a middle school math teacher. While working for BCPS, he has served as math teacher, assistant principal, Certification Manager, intern Principal and principal for the last 14 years. He has spent 23 of his 30 years in middle school with 20 years at Title I schools. He is an advocate for students and teachers and especially public education. He lives and operates by the creed, "Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day." Mr. Forsman tells parents and staff, "If I'm in my office, then I'm not doing the most important part of my job - Instructional Leader."

**Megan Weller** began her teaching career with Broward County Public Schools in 2000. During her 17 year tenure she has worked in the Social Studies Department as a teacher and Department Chair for over 12 years. She has worked with Mr. Forsman for 14 of her 17 years at two different middle schools. She has been a lead mentor teacher and also helped create the Honors Academy Innovative Program with Mr. Forsman at both schools where they have served together. She is a highly regarded teacher, School Advisory Chair, Department Chair and innovative teacher who leads in advancing student learning through technology integration. She spearheaded the move to using the "Flipped Classroom Model" on her team.

**Mitchell Comiskey** began his teaching career with Broward County Public Schools in 1987. During his 30 year tenure he has consistently taught middle school science. Currently he teaches Biology (H) and Marine Science (H), both high school credit earning classes. He serves on two State environmental boards, Our Florida Reefs and South East Florida Coral Reef Initiative, and sponsors the school's Robotics and Ocean Guardians Clubs. He is a highly decorated teacher winning many awards over the years and this year was awarded the Preserving our Planet for Posterity Eco-Challenge Teacher of the Year for Broward County.

**Natasha Wilson** is one of the school's Guidance Counselors. She began her career with the charter schools and transitioned to public education at Forest Glen last year. She has a positive "Can Do" attitude and is a strong advocate for the students. She leads the school in RtI and ELL and helps staff in developing the necessary skills to effectively serve these populations. She will be transitioning to Guidance Director in the fall.

## Lyons Creek Middle School - Broward County Public Schools

**Horace A. Hamm** is the proud principal of "the" A-Rated Lyons Creek Middle School. He earned a Specialist degree from Nova Southeastern University (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) in Educational Leadership and holds a Master degree in Education and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. Mr. Hamm is a consummate professional who has high expectations for all students and strongly believes in fostering a student-first environment where the entire staff is dedicated to ensuring that all students receive a high quality education. He is truly a visionary leader who is data driven and has implemented approximately 12 innovative programs for students at Lyons Creek Middle. Mr. Hamm's leadership extends beyond his school's campus as he serves on several district committees including the Middle School Principal's Executive Board, District Contract Bargaining Team and the District's Budget Committee. He also serves as a Principal Coach and mentor to newly appointed principals and assistant principals. Mr. Hamm was recently recognized in Legacy Education Magazine Education Issue as one of Legacy South Florida's Top Black Educators of 2017.

**Alisa Feldman** holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education and Master of Science in Communication Disorders from University of Florida and a Doctorate degree in Audiology from University of Texas. Her teaching career began with a wonderful opportunity at Lyons Creek Middle School. While practicing as a Doctor of Audiology in Deerfield Beach, she was offered a Science interim substitute position, and after one day in the classroom the spark was ignited and her journey begun. She has been privileged to be awarded Teacher of the Year from both Deerfield Beach Middle School and Lyons Creek Middle School and Science Teacher of the Year at Lyons Creek Middle School. Dr. Feldman's passion for teaching goes beyond the classroom. She believes children flourish when provided the opportunity to grow as individuals while providing strength, guidance and love and she is proud to have been able to coordinate a bevy of motivational speaker visits and campus events bringing the school and community together.

# PRESENTERS

**Letia Gale** is a dedicated math coach at Lyons Creek Middle School in Coconut Creek. She holds a master's degree in Administration & Supervision (University of Phoenix) and a specialist's degree in Educational Leadership (Nova Southeastern University). As she prepares to begin her 13<sup>th</sup> year in education, she continues to hone her reflective practices to ensure that the upcoming school year is even more successful than the last. With her strong beliefs in the importance of leadership and building capacity, Letia continues to mentor new educators and focus on building capacity within all faculty and staff, while continuously concentrating on her own professional growth. Committed to the idea that all students can learn and achieve, Letia Gale is proud to be a part of a school community that goes above and beyond to ensure the success of each child on the Lyons Creek campus, as well as one that encourages her to be a better educator and leader.

**Shemetria Hughes-Sullivan** is currently the Literacy Coach at Lyons Creek Middle School in Coconut Creek, Florida. She holds a Master's Degree from Central Michigan University and a Specialist Degree from Lincoln Memorial University. Both her master's and specialist degrees are in Curriculum and Instruction. Mrs. Sullivan began her teaching career in 2001 at Silver Lakes Elementary as a second grade teacher. She later moved to Human Resources Development (HRD) to become a District Program Trainer. Her certifications are in Elementary Education, Middle Grades Language Arts, she is also ESOL and Reading Endorsed. Her position as a Literacy Coach as well as her District Program Trainer position has offered her substantial opportunities to present research-based lessons, skills, and strategies that aid in yielding higher student achievement.

## Sallie Jones Elementary School - Charlotte County Public Schools

**Jennie Hoke** serves as the principal of Sallie Jones Elementary. Throughout her time at SJE, she has worked as a kindergarten teacher, a Reading Coach, an Assistant Principal, and Principal. This has allowed her to build relationships with her staff, students, and their families. Mrs. Hoke is a high trust administrator. She sets the tone and expectations for her staff, encourages them along the way, and celebrates their successes. One of the many strengths of Mrs. Hoke that has led to the success of SJE, is her ability to find the strengths and talents of each of her staff members. These talents are recognized and encouraged, allowing each of our staff members to remain passionate and excited about their work with students.

**Lauren Elek** served as the Assistant Principal at Sallie Jones Elementary from 2013-2017. During her time at Sallie Jones, she shared her excitement for learning with staff and students. Mrs. Elek led the staff by example, engaging in learning opportunities side-by-side with staff. She successfully implemented Bully Prevention lessons and the Watch DOGS program, was an active member in the school's Lighthouse Team, and frequently shared her knowledge with other educators at national conferences. The importance of building relationships will be long felt at SJE, because of Mrs. Elek's contributions. School staff openly took feedback from Mrs. Elek on curriculum, instructional strategies, and behavior management, and were eager to improve to meet her high expectations due to high trust relationships that she established.

**Jenny James** currently works as a Kindergarten teacher at Sallie Jones Elementary. Mrs. James is passionate in developing the talents and leadership skills of the students and staff at SJE. She leads both our staff and student Leader In Me Lighthouse Teams which plans and facilitates numerous leadership events each year for our families and community members. Mrs. James is data and standards driven when developing high yield lesson plans, and willingly shares these plans with her kindergarten teammates, which she leads as their department head. Because of her phenomenal teaching practices and involvement in developing a culture of leadership, Jenny was named the Charlotte County Public Schools' 2017 Teacher of the Year.

**Keli Sare** is Sallie Jones Elementary's Lead Teacher. As a teacher on assignment, she provides the staff with on-site support in curriculum and behavior management. This support comes in many forms including grade level data days, professional development sessions, make and take sessions, professional learning communities, collaborative lesson planning, and modeling or co-teaching lessons. Keli values engagement and the role it plays in the willingness of staff and students to try new or difficult tasks, and is often seen hosting thematic PD sessions or dressed in costume to model a lesson. Keli Sare was named the Charlotte County Public Schools' 2018 Teacher of the Year and was the recipient of the 2018 Macy's Magic of Engagement Award.

# PRESENTERS

## Vineland Elementary School - Charlotte County Public Schools

**Laura C. Blunier** has been the Principal of Vineland Elementary School since 2006. She holds a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. She is also endorsed in Gifted Education. Mrs. Blunier began her teaching career in 1991 teaching first grade at Vineland which had opened only 4 years earlier in 1987. She has spent her entire career as an educator at Vineland. Mrs. Blunier feels fortunate to have worked with several generations that have come through Vineland's doors. She is proud to be the leader of an amazing school with a collaborative and hardworking community who always put children first.

**Cathy Janiak** has been working as School Counselor at Vineland Elementary for 12 years. She has been an educator for 38 years working with high-risk students as a teacher and counselor in Title I schools. Mrs. Janiak has taught special needs children, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and middle school, as well as being a school counselor at the elementary and middle school level. In addition to counseling students, her current duties at VES include coordination of MTSS, 504, and she is a member of the PBIS and Family Engagement Teams. Mrs. Janiak is a National Board-Certified Teacher in the area of counseling.

**Dianna Padilla-Harris** has been the Lead Teacher at Vineland Elementary for the past 11 years. She has been in education for 36 years with experience K-8 as a teacher, counselor and administrator. She holds degrees in Elementary Education with minor in Bilingual Education and Masters in Counseling and Administration. In her current role as Lead Teacher she is responsible for coordinating professional development, ELL student services, test coordination, curriculum and managing various academic programs. Mrs. Padilla-Harris is the go to person for teachers who have questions, need materials, or just someone to lean on.

**Michele Meservey** has been working at Vineland Elementary School for twelve years. She has taught third, fourth and fifth grades and is currently an ESE Inclusions Teacher serving all grade levels. Mrs. Meservey works with ESE students in their General Education Classrooms, providing individualized academic and behavioral strategies, and accommodations that will aid in allowing these students to be more successful in the classroom and in their everyday lives. She is also a member of the school's Family Engagement Team, working with community stakeholders to ensure the success of all students.

## Crystal River Primary School - Citrus County Public Schools

**Donnie DeVane Brown** has been an administrator for the past 15 years, 6 of which have been at Crystal River Primary School. As the current principal of CRPS, she has enhanced community involvement, established the first ECO School in Citrus County through the National Wildlife Federation, provided strong and focused professional leadership, initiated one-to-one technology devices at 3 grade levels and increased student engagement and achievement. Her passion is working with teachers, mentoring administrators and encouraging teacher leaders.

**Tony Stukes** is the current assistant principal of Crystal River Primary School. Tony is a graduate of the Citrus County school system. He holds a B.S in Education from the University of Florida and Masters in Educational Leadership from St. Leo University. His career in education includes time in the classroom as a middle school and high school mathematics teacher, coach and athletic director. For the past 1.5 years, he has served as the Assistant Principal at CRPS. Tony enjoys traveling and spending his time with his wife and two sons.

**Gail Bockairo** has been a highly effective intermediate classroom teacher for 20 years, the past 5 years at CRPS. She is currently a Title I Interventionist and part of the CRPS behavior leadership team. Gail works with the lowest 3rd and 4th grade students, modeling lessons for new teachers, managing the ISS room, and as a mentor with teachers on how to handle behaviors within the classroom. She has consistently been recognized as a high impact teacher by the state of Florida.

**Megan Furniss** has been an educator for 16 years and is a highly effective teacher with experience in Kindergarten - 3rd grade. She has served as a Title I Interventionist and most recently joined the CRPS team as the Media/Tech Specialist. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Central Florida, a Masters in Educational Leadership from Saint Leo University and is a National Board-Certified teacher in Literacy: Reading Language Arts- Early and Middle Childhood.

# PRESENTERS

**Jackie Gregg** has over 32 years in education. She began as a teacher assistant in Citrus County, while completing a B.S. in Specific Learning Disabilities from USF. She began teaching at CRPS 26 years ago working in resource, full-time, and inclusive settings. She earned a Master's degree in ESE from the University of Central Florida and a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification in Exceptional Needs Specialist/Early Childhood through Young Adult. Her current position is the ESE Specialist at CRPS.

**Jason Cates** was a student at CRPS and originally hired as the PE Coach 5 years ago and eventually transferred to Title I as an interventionist. Over the past 3 years, he has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills as he completed his Master's in Educational Leadership. He has served as the Behavior Teacher on Special Assignment for the past two years, leading the PBS system, Behavior Leadership Team and working with challenging students as he facilitates the discipline process at CRPS.

**Niky Wardlow** has twelve years of public education experience in kindergarten, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. She earned her Elementary Education degree from Lee College in TN and her kindergarten certification from FL Southern. She joined the team at CRPS five years ago as a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher and is now a Title I Interventionist working primarily with the K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade population. Niky leads the Title I team as the facilitator for parent nights, overseeing the documentation for Title 1, mentoring new teachers, presenting at professional development sessions and assisting with testing.

**Virginia George** has worked for 17 years in public education after a career in banking. As an alternative certification teacher, she holds a degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice from the University of SW Louisiana and has been a fifth-grade teacher, science teacher and Title I Interventionist. She joined the CRPS team 5 years ago as the Teacher on Special Assignment. In the TOSA role, she provides training for new and veteran teachers, serves as a liaison between district and school in curriculum matters, and is the test administrator for CRPS.

## Pinemount Elementary School - Columbia County School District

**Rachel Stephens** has worked in the education field for the past 19 years. In addition to teaching third and fourth grade Rachel currently serves as the Curriculum Resource Teacher at Pinemount Elementary. She holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Florida A&M University and a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Saint Leo University. She has presented at several conferences and helps to run a successful after school program. Rachel believes that student relationships really make the difference in a child's education.

**Donna Darby** has worked in the education field for the past 15 years. She is the current principal of Pinemount Elementary. However, much of her time has been spent in secondary education serving as a teacher, instructional coach and assistant principal. She holds a bachelor's degree in Finance and a master's degree in Educational Leadership from American College of Education. Donna believes that building connections with students is the foundation upon which education is built.

## Hilltop Elementary School - Hardee County Schools

**Ashley Rigney** graduated from Florida Southern College with a Bachelors in Elementary Education 2013. She then returned to Hardee County and has taught Kindergarten for the last 4 years at Hilltop Elementary School, and often spends her summers teaching VPK housed at Hilltop Elementary. She is a proud advocate of high-quality early education, works tirelessly to educate children and their parents, with the goal of inspiring even the earliest learners to continue on the path of academic excellence.

**Brittany Wiggins** graduated from Flagler College with a Bachelor's in Exceptional Student and Elementary Education in 2013. After college, she returned home to teach in Hardee County at Hilltop Elementary School. Over the past four years, Brittany has taught the following grade levels: 3rd Grade ELA, 3rd – 5th ESE (self-contained), and for the last two years 5th Grade Science and Social Studies. She has also taught the afterschool program every year to give students extra support in Reading and Science. For the past three summers, Brittany has taught 3rd Grade Summer Reading Camp for Hardee County. Currently, she is working on her Master's through Nova Southeastern University in Exceptional Student Education with a specialization in Autism Spectrum Disorder. She is a very dedicated teacher, a constant advocate for her students, and believes that all children can reach their highest level of potential.

# PRESENTERS

## Sneads Elementary School - Jackson County School Board

**Melynda Howell** is entering her fourth year as principal of Sneads Elementary School. She has been an educator for eighteen years and holds a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Social Science Education as well as a Master's degree in Public Administration and Policy, earning both from Florida State University. She also holds a Master's degree in Psychology and Counseling from Troy University. Prior to entering school administration, she served as a guidance counselor for eight years. With her background in school guidance and counseling she continues to work diligently to help students succeed regardless of their challenges. Her recognitions include 1999 MHS Rookie Teacher of the Year and 2003 SHS Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Howell has worked fervently to maintain the level of rigor and excellence that Sneads Elementary School is known for throughout the state. Sneads Elementary has earned a school grade of "A" for the past ten years and is a repeat ECTAC Exceeding Expectations School.

**Cindy Applewhite** is a product of Jackson County Schools. After high school graduation, she attended Florida State University where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Mental Retardation. She also attended Troy State University where she received her Master's degree in Psychology. Her teaching career began 41 years ago, teaching in Jackson County for 2 years before moving away, and returned to Jackson County where she has been school counselor at Sneads Elementary for the last 14 years. She has served on many committees where she assumed various leadership roles. She was named one of the top five Teachers of the Year in Bay County and was also named Teacher of the Year at Sneads Elementary.

**Marissa Ballard** is in her eighth year of teaching at Sneads Elementary. She currently teaches kindergarten, but has experience in third and fourth grades, as well. Marissa has served as School Advisory Council Chairperson, grade group chairperson, and on several committees. She is the current Jackson County Teacher of the Year.

**Melanie Chason** has thirty-three years as a Florida educator having taught in third, fourth, and fifth grade. Currently, she is teaching third grade with eighteen years of experience. Aside from being passionate about her students, she has been grade group chairperson, a mentor teacher, served on various school committees, and has been a supervising teacher to many interns.

**Jeannie Downum** is a graduate of the Jackson County School System. She received her Bachelor's degree from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and her Master's degree from University of West Florida. Jeannie has fifteen years as a Florida educator including teaching pre-kindergarten, first grade and exceptional student education. Currently, she is teaching first grade and has been for the last twelve years. Jeannie has served as grade group chairperson and on various school committees.

**Rebecca Hart** is currently in her fifth year of teaching at Sneads Elementary School. She graduated from Chipola College with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Additionally, she earned her Educational Leadership Master's degree from the University of West Florida. In her five years as an educator, she has taught both fourth and fifth grade. Currently, she continues to teach fifth grade and is a co-sponsor of the school academic team.

**Monica Jones** graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Chipola College in 2013. She has taught third and fourth grade at Sneads Elementary for the last four years. Monica has a passion for teaching and loves being able to help all students reach their individual goals. She currently serves as grade group chairperson and as a school advisory council team member.

**Brandi Perkins** is a product of Jackson County, where she received her degree from Chipola College. She has taught third grade for eight years at SES. Mrs. Perkins has also served as the Marzano Mentor for the past two years, grade group chairperson, and served on various school committees. Aside from teaching, she has also volunteered her time coaching softball for the local recreation department.

**Tamelya Morris** is a product of Jackson County schools. After high school graduation, she went on to attend Chipola Junior College where she obtained her associate's degree. She then attended Florida State University and earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. After graduation, she started her teaching career with Jackson County School District at Sneads Elementary School where she has completed 26 years of teaching, including grades 2, 3, and 5, as well as obtaining certification in media and holding this position. Currently, she teaches fifth grade and is co-sponsor of the school academic team.

# PRESENTERS

## Bonita Springs Elementary School - School District of Lee County

**Susan Caputo** grew up in Providence, Rhode Island where her passion for learning and educating began. She earned her undergraduate degree from Newton College of the Sacred Heart (now Boston College) and her Masters in Elementary Administration from Providence College. After forty three years as an educator, that passion is still alive and burning. As a teacher, Susan taught second grade through high school and has taught at the graduate level. She was an Assistant Principal for two years and has been a Principal for thirty years. She has continued to teach classes through her tenure as an administrator. During her career, she has earned many awards and recognitions including Bonita Springs Elementary School Grade A (2016), recognition by the Department of Education (Washington DC) for RTI Practices (2011), Rayma C Page Elementary School Grade A (2007-2014), Rayma C Page Elementary (2007-2014) and Bonita Springs Elementary (2015-2017) Model Positive Behavior School, National Milken Award Recipient for State of Rhode Island (2002), Mentor for Aspiring Principal Program (2002), and guest lecturer at Providence College on preparing teachers (2000). Raising the rankings of Bonita Springs Elementary School from a D to an A in two years, Susan earned the honor of “Turnaround Principal” for Lee County School District in 2016. Susan received the highest honor in 2017 by receiving the State of Florida “Principal of the Year” for Lee County School District. Even after receiving such high honors, success stories from students and colleagues are what Susan values the most. Susan’s true calling is coaching and mentoring teachers to help them grow professionally as well as advocating for children. Coming from the Ocean State to the Sunshine State Susan enjoys spending time with her husband and family and reading while relaxing at the beach.

**Jillian Fiora** is completing her third year as assistant principal at Bonita Springs Elementary School (BSE) in Lee County. She has been part of the BSE family for four years. During her first year at BSE she was the Math Coach, primarily for the intermediate grades, and also the Kagan Coach. Prior to coming to BSE, Jillian taught eight years in the same county at Rayma C. Page Elementary School. She has experience as both a primary and intermediate teacher. Jillian was born and raised in Huntington, New York. She received her Elementary Education Degree at Long Island University – Southampton. Before coming down to Florida to start her career, Jillian pursued her Masters in Literacy Education. Five years later she decided she would like to go back to school to get her Educational Leadership Degree. Jillian is passionate about being an educator. Her other passions include being a wife and mother to her three year old daughter.

**Jessica Thompson** has been passionate about education since she was a young girl playing teacher with her sister in the basement of her New England home. After graduating from high school, she earned an elementary education and special education degree from Rhode Island College. Jessica received her first teaching opportunity the following year where she used her special education degree and worked as a first/second grade inclusion teacher. In the summer of 2011, she took a leap of faith and moved to southwest Florida. In Florida Jessica has taught third grade and fourth grade. Currently, Jessica is in her second year as a Teacher Leader. As a Teacher Leader she instructs students fifty percent of the day and coaches teachers the other half of the day. Jessica enjoys the opportunity to be able to continue with her passion of educating students and coaching teachers to help them achieve their highest potential. She currently lives in Ft. Myers Florida with her little family consisting of a wonderful husband, beautiful baby girl and pet dog.

**Lori Ramsey** grew up in Youngstown City, Ohio, and attended college as a “Penguin” at Youngstown State University. There she received an elementary education degree which kick started her passion and desire to be an educator. As a hometown girl, Lori taught locally for five years at Youngstown City Elementary school. After having three children, her family relocated to Boardman, Ohio. Lori taught first grade in Boardman local schools. She finished her twenty year long career in Boardman as a Title One Coordinator where she enjoyed advocating for families, students and teachers. In search of some Vitamin C, Lori, her husband and three children moved to sunny Southwest Florida. Lori never anticipated finding the “hometown” schools she worked in when in Ohio. She has been a Reading Coach and now an Intervention Support Specialist at Bonita Springs Elementary, where this school has surpassed all of her expectations.

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## Bonita Springs Elementary School - School District of Lee County

**Melissa Robinson** is a proud native Floridian who graduated from the University of South Florida with an Elementary and Early Childhood Education degree. She has taught for twenty five years in various grade levels including kindergarten, first grade, third grade, and sixth grade. She went back to school and earned her Master's in Curriculum Instruction with an emphasis in instructional technology. This degree allowed her to pursue her passion for integrating technology into the classroom. Melissa worked for three years at Lee County School District offices where she trained teachers to incorporate technology in their instruction. Currently, Melissa is back at an elementary school as a technology specialist. Here she spends time teaching students how to use technology and assisting teachers. When she is not working, Melissa enjoys spending time with her mother, sister and beautiful niece.

**Amanda Schumbacker** is originally from Wisconsin, where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin La Crosse. Not wanting to weather another winter, Amanda relocated to sunny southwest Florida and completed her teaching degree at Florida Gulf Coast University. She has been teaching in Lee County for seventeen years. Her teaching career started as a classroom teacher where she taught fourth and fifth grade for thirteen years. Amanda then trained and supported teachers in Lee County as a Curriculum Master Teacher in Elementary Mathematics. She now has the opportunity of supporting teachers and teaching math as the Math Coach at Bonita Springs Elementary schools. Amanda and her family live in Fort Myers Florida, enjoying her new empty nest.

**Bev Laney** began her teaching career after spending 5 years as a medical technologist specializing in bacteriology. The education bug bit when she volunteered in a friend's third grade class. It was an instant revelation of what was to be her real passion. So, she went back to college for an Elementary Education degree. She spent her first five years of teaching first grade in her home town of Jacksonville, Florida. Her husband's career brought her to southwest Florida, which was 31 years ago. She has taught for 30 years at her current school, in Kindergarten through third grade. Mrs. Laney has taken on many leadership roles within the school as well as district positions dealing with curriculum, best practices and advocating for children of poverty. She currently holds a position of Teacher Leader, which is a grant that builds leadership and best practices in Title I schools. She and her husband have a grown son and a daughter in college. They are avid Gators fans!

**Janelle Gelletly** grew up with her family moving and living throughout the East Coast and part of the West Coast. She earned her Education Degree at the University of Maryland. Pursuing her love for learning, Janelle went back to school and received her Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Gratz College in Pennsylvania. After college, Janelle and her husband were looking to escape cold winters so they decided to lay their roots in Florida. Here Janelle has been teaching for fourteen years. Her experiences include teaching middle school social studies, self-contained autism, private behavior therapy, co-testing coordinator and resource teacher. Janelle's passion is advocating for children with special needs as well as helping them close their achievement gaps. Janelle and her husband spend their free time chasing around her two year old son and three rescue dogs.

## Dante B. Fascell Elementary School - Miami - Dade County Public Schools

**Margaret Denise Ferrarone** has served as Principal of Dante B. Fascell Elementary School since July 2014. She began her career in education in 1987, and has served as an administrator since 1999. Ms. Ferrarone has worked in several Title I schools implementing programs that focus on students becoming 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. Her most recent endeavor resulted in DBFE becoming a Silver STEM Designation School. This is Ms. Ferrarone's second ECTAC award as Principal of DBFE.

**Jennifer Smith** has been an educator in schools located in low-socioeconomic areas for the past ten years. Ms. Smith has served those schools as teacher and instructional coach in the areas of Reading and Science. Ms. Smith has a love for working with teachers and students. She currently serves Dante B. Fascell Elementary as Reading Coach and Second Grade Teacher, Ms. Smith believes that great teachers are great learners.

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## [Ethel K. Beckham Elementary School - Miami - Dade County Public Schools](#)

**Ms. Cecilia C. Sanchez** has been an educator for Miami-Dade County Public Schools for the past 25 years, serving in the capacity of teacher, assistant principal and for the last 10 years as a school principal. Ms. Sanchez received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Florida International University and a Master of Science Degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University. Ms. Sanchez' leadership experiences include: presenter at the Education Trust National Conference, member of the Curriculum and Instruction District Liaison Committee, Lead Principal for the Southwest Miami Feeder Pattern, Executive Lead Principal for the South Region Office, Chairperson for Florida International University's (FIU) Professional Educators Partnership Council (PEPC), as well as a collaborative partner with FIU's Center for Children and Families. She is the proud mother of two sons and is passionate about education and her responsibility to the students and community she serves.

**Ms. Gracelynn Rosario** is currently the Reading Liaison at Ethel Koger Beckham Elementary and an integral part of the school's leadership team. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education, a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, and a Specialist degree in Educational Leadership. Ms. Rosario's career in education began in 2002 at Ethel Koger Beckham Elementary as a third-grade teacher. During the last 15 years, she has taught second through fifth grade and has served as grade level chairperson, EESAC chairperson, and professional development presenter.

## [Flagami Elementary School - Miami - Dade County Public Schools](#)

**Ms. Maria C. Mason**, Principal, has been with Miami-Dade County Public Schools for 31 year and the last 20 as a school site administrator. Her experiences range from elementary to high school. As the current principal at Flagami Elementary School, she continues to be passionate in her belief that all students can be successful no matter the obstacles they face. Her open-door policy provides all stakeholders the ability to work collaboratively in order to impact student achievement.

**Ms. Awilda Lam** is an instructional coach and started her tenure at Flagami as a first grade teacher where she taught three years. Then she taught two years in third grade when she was asked to become the reading coach. She has been serving in that capacity for the last eight years and currently holds various positions within the school; such as EESAC Chair, Media Specialist, PD Liaison, STEAM committee, Morning News Team, and safety patrols.

**Ms. Yinette Santos** is a 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade ESE teacher and Science Coach at Flagami Elementary for five years. She first started her career by interning at the school six years ago, and quickly adapted to the Flagami family school culture. Since then, she has taught all grade levels, is part of the STEAM committee, is the Science Liaison, and participates in multiple schoolwide and community activities.

## [Joelle C. Good Elementary School - Miami - Dade County Public Schools](#)

**Lizette G. O'Halloran** was originally a pre-law major and a substitute teacher. She became an elementary school teacher in 1989 upon graduating from Florida International University. As a college student, she determined she would have the greatest positive influence in our world by working with its most precious resource – children. Ms. O'Halloran is dedicated to all students she has serviced throughout her career as an ESOL teacher, an Assistant Principal, and the Principal of Joella C. Good Elementary for the past 11 years. She has credible experience leading ESOL and Exceptional Student Education programs both as an Assistant and School Principal. As an Assistant Principal and Principal, she has demonstrated her capacity to create cohesive teams that support a vision of change for academic and social student achievement. She is always improving her leadership abilities by designing and implementing new initiatives and programs based on the needs of her staff and ultimately, her students. She has been quoted as stating, "My role as leader is to be a cheerleader and a coach for what happens in the classroom." She

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strives to create a sense of unity among her faculty and staff that flows back to the classroom and positively impacts the future in the children they teach. Ms. O'Halloran is data driven and is involved in all tasks that benefit the learning environment of children. She has established strong ties with the community that she serves, which is evident in her school's increased enrollment over the last three years.

**Juliette O. Hinds'** journey in education began in 2005 as soon as she graduated from Florida International University with a bachelor's degree in Exceptional Student Education (K-12), an endorsement for English for Speakers of Other Languages, and a master's degree in Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and Elementary Education. Her first teaching assignment was an elementary ESE teacher in an inclusive setting. Her experiences led her to become an advocate for students who may have difficulty learning due to cognitive or behavioral disabilities. During her thirteen years in the field, Ms. Hinds was able to close the achievement gaps her students entered her class with; the large population of ESE and the ELL English Language Learners also successfully met adequate yearly progress and made learning gains. Ms. Hinds was recognized as a high impact teacher and eventually made the decision of pursuing other avenues so she could make a greater impact on student achievement. She completed a reading endorsement and accepted a position as a Literacy Coach at Joella C. Good Elementary School where her goal continues to be to help foster high achievement in all grade levels.

**Donna Quigley** began her career in education in 1994 upon graduating Barry University with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She quickly became specialized in teaching math and science to the upper elementary grades to increase student achievement and school accountability. Within five years of teaching experience, she began taking leadership roles in the development of school master schedules, student placement, data analysis, and standardized testing scheduling and implementation. She has had several leadership roles as a math and science coach and a curriculum support specialist at the region level. Her heart truly remains in a school setting where she is currently a Math Coach. Her passion is the analysis of several data points that are used to drive student achievement for the accountability for her school – Joella C. Good Elementary.

## Hialeah Gardens Middle School - Miami - Dade County Public Schools

**Ms. Maritza D. Jimenez** is the Principal at Hialeah Gardens Middle School. Ms. Jimenez initiated her career with Miami Dade County Schools nineteen years ago as an exceptional education teacher. She furthered her career as an Assistant Principal and ultimately Principal of Hialeah Gardens Middle School. During her tenure at this site she has been the creative engine behind the development of Six Career Academies (Agriscience, Arts and Entertainment, Biomedical, Engineering, Law Studies, and Information Technology), STEM focused programs, advanced courses of study, Cambridge International and a robust Fine Arts Program.

**Ms. Evelyn Torres-McHale** is presently working as an Assistant Principal at Hialeah Gardens Middle School with emphasis on Curriculum, Professional Development, School Improvement Plan (SIP), Florida Continuous Improvement Model (FCIM) and Title I. This is her eighth year at Hialeah Gardens Middle School and she has over thirty years of experience with Dade County Public Schools. During her tenure with M-DCPS, she has worked as District Instructional Supervisor/Art; Region Art Coordinator; Magnet Lead, Curriculum writer, Vice Principal and Assistant Principal at all academic levels.

## Howard D. McMillan Middle School - Miami - Dade County Public Schools

**Hilca J. Thomas** has been a middle school administrator for fifteen years, seven of which has been a Principal at Howard D. McMillan Middle School. Her background as a science educator inspired her to develop educational programs such as the NASA Explorer School at Howard A. Doolin Middle School and the Cambridge Robotics Engineering and Technology Education (CREATE) Magnet at Howard D. McMillan Middle School. Under her leadership, the innovative educational programs she developed have propelled schools to earn Exceeding Expectations, Magnet Schools of America Awards of Excellence and Distinction, as well as Florida A+ School designation.

# PRESENTERS

**Angela M. Severino** has been a middle school educator for eleven years. She started her career as a Magnet Lead Teacher and an International Baccalaureate (IB) Coordinator at North Dade Middle School, where she led the school to IB authorization. She has been the Magnet Lead Teacher at Howard D. McMillan Middle School for the last three years, working with faculty and staff to ensure program integrity, success and growth. She has been successful in increasing the school's enrollment, monitoring the incorporation of the CREATE Magnet theme throughout the school, and providing professional development as the Professional Development Liaison.

## Rockway Middle School - Miami - Dade County Public Schools

**Sarah Caceres** has been a Miami Dade County Public School teacher for more than twenty years. After graduating from Miami Coral Park Senior High, she attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas to earn a Bachelor of Arts in English. She taught one year at Highland Park High School in Dallas before returning to her hometown to teach at Westview Middle School for nine years. Since then, she has been impacting students at her former Junior High, Rockway Middle School, as a language arts teacher, department head, Middle School Enrichment Program Manager, and P.T.S.A. board member, both as a teacher and a parent. Ms. Caceres is the proud parent of two young men.

**Melanie Megias** has been associated with Miami Dade County Public Schools for all of her life. She graduated from Hialeah Miami Lakes Senior High School and has worked as a teacher or administrator for the past 30 years. She currently serves as the proud principal of Rockway Middle School, a 6-8 school with 1,125 students. Mrs. Megias is the past president of the Dade Association of School Administrators and is currently pursuing an educational doctorate degree from the College of William and Mary. She is married and has 2 adult children. In her spare time, Mrs. Megias loves to travel, read novels, and bake.

## Yulee Elementary School - Nassau County Public Schools

**Mr. Scott Hodges** was principal of Yulee Elementary from August of 2005 until January of 2017 when he transferred to open Wildlight Elementary. He has worked in the Nassau School District since 1995 serving as a 5th grade teacher, a Curriculum Resource Teacher, a Dean, and an Assistant Principal before coming to Yulee Elementary. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership.

**Carey L. Scott** is a third grade teacher for the Nassau County School District at Yulee Elementary School. She graduated from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education. She also earned a Masters Degree in Elementary Education from Nova Southeastern University. In addition to teaching third grade for the past 4 years, she taught first grade in the same district for 12 years. She currently serves as grade level co-chair for third grade.

**Salena Hursey** is a third grade teacher for Nassau County School District at Yulee Elementary School. She graduated from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education. In addition to teaching third grade, she has taught grades 1-6 at a local Montessori and is currently serving as grade level chair for third grade.



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# PRESENTERS

## Oakshire Elementary School - Orange County Public Schools

**Raquel Flores**, principal of Oakshire Elementary School, has a Baccalaureate of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. She began her career as a Kindergarten teacher in the year 2000. As her career progressed, Mrs. Flores served in various leadership positions as a reading coach, LEA representative, as well as an assistant principal. She is now fulfilling her third year as principal of Oakshire Elementary. Mrs. Flores's strong leadership capabilities have made an impact on Oakshire's academic achievement. Oakshire has ranked in the top 10 percent statewide for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics achievement for their percentage of students scoring satisfactory or higher. Oakshire has also ranked in the top 10 percent for ELA achievement among all schools with 25 percent or more English Language Learners.

**Jennifer Lawrence** has worked in education for 18 years and is currently the Assistant Principal at Oakshire Elementary. She received a B.A. in Elementary Education from the University of Central Florida and a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from Stetson University. Now in her third year at Oakshire, Mrs. Lawrence works closely with teachers to ensure that instruction is fully aligned to the Florida Standards. She also collaborates with teachers to design assessments which guarantee that student progress is effectively tracked throughout the year. This intense focus on standards-driven instruction and assessment has produced remarkable results for a Title I school. The impressive achievement of Oakshire's students led to recognition by the National Center for Urban School Transformation in 2017.

## Boca Raton Elementary School - The School District of Palm Beach County

**Jordan Barenburg** is Assistant Principal at Boca Raton Elementary School. Well versed in the area of Education Technology Integration, he is a national speaker regarding #techCulture, obtained a designation as a Microsoft Showcase School for Boca Raton Elementary, and introduced the MIE trainings to the entire staff with the anticipation of moving our environment to 1:1 personalized education, specifically with our cultural adoption of Khan Academy site wide. Jordan is continuously ahead of the curve in understanding how these technology adoptions will redefine our school, and best prepare students for navigating 21st century eventualities. He understands the nuances of marketing and branding to promote the school's vision and recent achievements and holds two patents in the field of automated identification.

**Patricia Fusco**, an educator for Palm Beach County Schools for 7 years, has always had a focus on math in education. She was the Math Coach for Boca Raton Elementary for 3 years where she specialized in small group instruction and adaptive technology such as Khan Academy. This current school year she is teaching 4th grade math and science at Boca Raton Elementary School.

## Crosspointe Elementary School - The School District of Palm Beach County

**Anmarie Dilbert** has an Educational Specialist Degree from Nova Southeastern University, a Master's Degree in Education from St. John's University and is pursuing her Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Nova Southeastern University. She has many years of experience in education (22), in the classroom and as an administrator. Anmarie began as a Kindergarten teacher at a Title I school in New York, and is currently the Principal of Crosspointe Elementary in Boynton Beach, Florida. Crosspointe Elementary is a Title I School with a 94% free and reduced lunch rate. Currently, there are 703 students from Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Crosspointe is very diverse with 35% of the population speaking English as a second language. She is married to Captain Ezra Dilbert and they have 4 children. They moved to Florida 15 years ago from New York. She is a member of Boca Promise and the former chair of the Boca Raton Education Advisory Committee, working closely with elected officials, local schools, both public and private, the School District of Palm Beach County, and the Boca Raton community.

# PRESENTERS

**Karen Arnold** has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Reading from the University of New Mexico and is a Nationally Board Certified Teacher. She has been in the education profession for the past 25 years and has taught all grade levels at the elementary level. She has been an instructional coach for the Mathematics content area and a mentor for new teachers. Her role currently is as a Specialist focusing on Single School Culture. She has worked in Title I schools all her career and has been with Palm Beach County the past 14 years. She has worked at Crosspointe Elementary in Boynton Beach, Florida for the past nine years.

**Erica Medina** is a Florida Atlantic University graduate with a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Elementary Education, and has an endorsement in English Speakers of Other Languages. She is also pursuing an Educational Leadership Master's Degree at Florida Atlantic University with the hopes of becoming a School Principal. Erica has taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for 5 years and 1 year as a Reading Interventionist. She is currently the Literacy Coach at Crosspointe Elementary School, a Title I school in Palm Beach County with an ELL population of 35%. As a product of the Palm Beach County School System she believes that educating others is her way of giving back to our students.

**Scott Lehman** has a Master's Degree in Science Education from Nova Southeastern University and a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Penn State University. He has been in the education profession for 24 years and has taught grades 3-5. Scott earned a Certified Instructional STEM Coaching certificate from the University of Florida, and is Gifted and ESOL Certified. He has worked in Palm Beach County for the past 11 years in Title I schools. Scott currently works at Crosspointe Elementary in Boynton Beach, Florida as the Science / STEM Coach. He is the Green School Coordinator, part of the STEM Leadership team, and also provides Science Support for Crosspointe.

## Golden Grove Elementary School - The School District of Palm Beach County

**Dr. Adam Miller**, Principal of Golden Grove Elementary for four years and Pioneer Park Elementary for three years, has a Bachelor's degree from Florida Atlantic University in Elementary Education, Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from FAU and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership also from FAU. Dr. Miller is focused on systems, instruction, culture and data to improve the educational outcomes of all students in his school.

**Philip Preddy**, Assistant Principal at Golden Grove, has a passion for helping others and making sure each child reaches his or her highest potential. He has been the AP at Golden Grove for 7 years and has received his Bachelor's Degree from Florida Atlantic University in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

**Lori Bednarek**, has been the School Counselor at Golden Grove for 15 years. She has been a K-2 Teacher for 6 years. Lori received her Bachelor's degree from University of South Florida in Elementary Education and Master's Degree from Florida Atlantic University in School Counseling. Mrs. Bednarek is focused on creating positive school climate that actively involves teachers, students and parents.

**Diane Kinne** has served Golden Grove as the SAI Teacher for 7 years and K-2 teacher for 4 years. She received her Bachelor's degree from Florida Atlantic University in Elementary Education, Master's Degree in Reading Education from Florida Atlantic University and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

## Wynnebrook Elementary School - The School District of Palm Beach County

**Suzanne Berry** has dedicated her career to the students, staff, and community of Wynnebrook Elementary for the past sixteen years. Ms. Berry holds a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Florida Atlantic University and a Master of Education in Administration from Lynn University. Starting out as a teacher upon graduation, Ms. Berry has also served the school as a grade chair, resource teacher, Assistant Principal, and now Principal. She believes that high expectations for all, and teacher professional development is the key to students' academic progress.

**Mitch Bobrick** has been a teacher of English language learners for more than three decades. He holds a Master's Degree in TESOL from New York University and a Master's Degree in Library Science from Pratt Institute. Mr. Bobrick holds his National Board Certification in English as a new language and currently serves as a literacy teacher at Wynnebrook Elementary, as well as part of the Professional Development and Leadership Team.

# PRESENTERS

## Jay Elementary School - Santa Rosa County School District

**Amanda Hutchins** is in her 10th year of teaching in Florida, with the past 4 years at Jay Elementary School. She has taught multiple grade levels as well as serving as an ESE inclusion teacher. Amanda has served as a STEAM Innovator for Santa Rosa County and Jay Elementary School where she has attended national conferences and delivered professional development for teachers across the district. She was recognized as Santa Rosa County's Intermediate Math Teacher of the Year in 2015-16 and selected as a top 3 finalist for Santa Rosa County's Teacher of the Year in 2016-17. As a STEAM Innovator, Amanda has taken advantage of the opportunity to stay current on the latest educational strategies and techniques. The intense collaborative training has given her the chance to reflect on her instructional practices like never before. When planning lessons, she incorporate science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math into cross-curriculum themes which focus on possible future careers for her students. STEAM lessons have allowed her students to take control of their own learning as she facilitates instruction. All of the hands-on experiences the students receive in her class translates into a love and desire for learning, as they are motivated to learn beyond our established instructional standards.

**Brooke Steele** has taught in Santa Rosa County in Florida for 17 years. She has taught elementary school for 6 years, middle school Language Arts for 6 years, and high school Language Arts and Drama for 5 years. She was awarded Teacher of the Year for Jay High School in 2008 and was selected as a top 5 finalist for Santa Rosa County's Teacher of the Year in 2008. She has been awarded Who's Who for American Teachers, Jay Elementary's Math Teacher of the Year in 2015, and was chosen as a STEAM Innovator for Santa Rosa County. She says that STEAM has transformed her teaching by giving her a more student-centered classroom that is focused on purposeful goals and depth of knowledge. Her students have a greater understanding through trial and error, collaboration, and discovery. She says that her students are learning more while feeling a greater sense of ownership.

**Rhonda Adams** has taught in Santa Rosa County for 7 years. Her first teaching job was as an intervention specialist at Chumuckla Elementary for grades K-2. She then joined the staff at Jay Elementary School where she has spent the last 6 years in first grade and plans on entering a new path for the 2017-18 school year as a 3rd grade educator. Rhonda has been recognized as Jay Elementary's Rookie of the Year in 2013 and Santa Rosa County's Primary Math Teacher of the Year in 2016-17. Rhonda has served as a STEAM Innovator for the past 2 years which has totally changed her teaching philosophy. Her classroom has evolved into a collaborative community where students have more control over their experiences, real world connections are relevant, and students are engaged in a variety of ways.

**Kristen Davis** is in her sixth year of teaching first grade at Jay Elementary School in Santa Rosa County, FL. She's worked with her district and with teachers all over the country as a STEAM Innovator through The Discovery Educator Network to assist them with professional development and technology initiatives. Kristen was recognized by Discovery Education as a Program Champion for their partnerships and she was selected as a top 5 finalist for Teacher of the Year in 2016. Kristen says that steam has changed the way teaching and learning takes place in her classroom by giving kids memorable ways to learn valuable content. Kristen says "by bringing in other avenues for student learning, I am allowing my kiddos to take part in collaboration, teaching them to problem solve, and giving them a fresh perspective on the creative process. It has changed everything."

## Oriole Beach Elementary School - Santa Rosa County School District

**Monica L. Garcia** is a military spouse and mother of three wonderful children ages 8, 9, and 10. She was an Assistant Principal in Colorado before moving to Florida and joining the Oriole Beach Elementary School staff. Before joining administration, Monica taught ELLs for 11 years in Morocco, Venezuela, Nevada, Germany/DoDDs, Colorado, and Florida.

**Sheena Barron** is in her eighth year teaching at Oriole Beach Elementary (OBE). Her opportunity to become a teacher came a little later in life when, after working several years as a paralegal she went back to school to become a teacher. She originally envisioned teaching middle or high school since her background is in English Literature, but the path led in a very different direction. She loves OBE and the open, inclusive atmosphere that exists there!

# PRESENTERS

## Cranberry Elementary School - Sarasota County Public Schools

**Linda Daniels** has been an educator in Sarasota County, Florida for 35 years. She received her bachelor's in Elementary Education from Florida A&M University and her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Nova University. Mrs. Daniels opened Cranberry Elementary as its first principal in 2003. She believes that collective efficacy is the key to student achievement.

**Tami Taylor** has been an educator for 31 years, as a classroom teacher, literacy coach, data coach, ESOL Liaison, administrative intern, intervention teacher, and resource teacher. She has a BS in Early Childhood Education, a masters in Elementary Education, and an Ed.S. in Educational Leadership with an ESOL endorsement and a reading endorsement. Her teaching experiences have been in Pennsylvania, Charlotte County, FL, and Sarasota County, FL.

**Cheri Dame** is originally from Massachusetts and holds her Bachelor's Degree from Wheaton College and her masters from Cambridge College. She is currently entering her 20<sup>th</sup> year teaching. Cheri briefly taught 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade, with most of her career being a Science Lab Teacher for grades K-5 in Sarasota County. A mom to 5 boys herself, she feels all students should get the chance to find their passion for studying science.

**Taissa Bushnell** has a BA and MA in Art History from McGill University and an MA in Managing Archaeological Sites from the University of London. For ten years, she worked as a cultural heritage manager on international projects in Europe and recently has been teaching Kindergarten at Cranberry Elementary for the past two years.

**Stacey Embury** has 18 years of experience teaching primary grades in Hillsborough, Charlotte and Sarasota Counties. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education, a Master's Degree in Reading, a graduate certificate in Infant-Family Mental Health, and is National Board Certified in Early and Middle Childhood Reading and Language Arts.

**Deborah Pappas** holds a Bachelor's Degree from Salem State College, a Masters from USF, and a National Board Certification in Early Childhood Generalist. She has taught 28 years at all grade levels of elementary, except 4<sup>th</sup>, in both Charlotte and Sarasota County. She feels teaching is her calling and could not imagine doing anything else.

**Dawn Elsbree** received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Purdue University and has taught seven years in Desoto County at a Title I school and four years at Cranberry Elementary as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. She is an enthusiastic person whose energy transfers to her students and motivates them to do well.



# Congratulations!

## To the 2017 Award Schools!

# Thank You!

**Thank you to the following district representatives for facilitating the Exceeding Expectations Project with your respective school(s).**

**Brevard Public Schools**

Dr. Teresa Wright  
Director of Early Childhood Education  
and Title I Programs

**Broward County Public Schools**

Luwando Wright-Hines  
Director, Title I Programs

Paula Lovett-Canady  
Program Specialist, Title I, Migrant

**Charlotte County Public Schools**

Christine Murno  
Director, State and Federal Programs

**Citrus County Public Schools**

Patricia "Trish" Douglas  
Coordinator, Title I Programs

**Columbia County School District**

Joe Adkins  
Director, Federal Programs

**Hardee County Schools**

Sherri Albritton  
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Michael Kilts  
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**School District of Lee County**

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Katie Cubbal  
Program Coordinator of Title 1 Services

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Kimberly Gilbert  
Director, Federal Programs

**School District of Palm Beach County**

Dr. Dana Godek  
Administrative Director,  
Compliance and Special Projects

**Santa Rosa County School District**

Dr. Karen Barber  
Director, Federal Programs

**Sarasota County Public Schools**

Jane Mahler  
Supervisor, State & Federal Programs

# Thank You!

ECTAC would like to thank the following people for assisting with data analysis and school site visits for the 2016- 2017 Exceeding Expectations Project

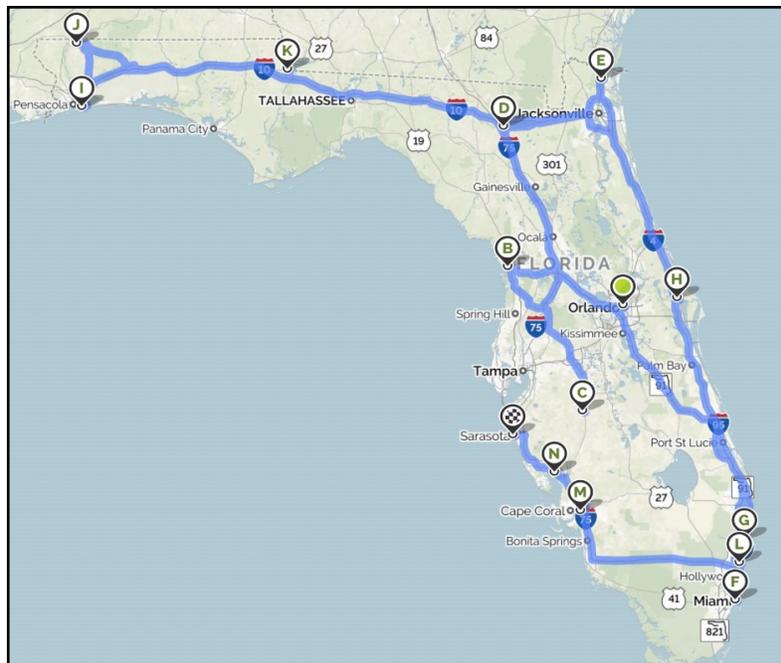
## Data Analysis

Maria Longa (Polk County School District)  
Julie McLeod (Hillsborough County Public Schools)  
Emily Plasencia (Hillsborough County Public Schools)  
Kaitlyn Trippany (Seminole County Public Schools)  
Shengwei Xu (Seminole County Public Schools)  
Dr. Courtney Zmach (Collier County Public Schools)

## School Visit Teams

Alice Blanco (School District of Indian River County)  
Laura Colo (Escambia County School District)  
Cynthia Cubit (Okeechobee County School District)  
Deanna DeCubillis (Pasco County School District)  
Trish Douglas (Citrus County School District)  
Felita Grant (Pinellas County Schools)  
Megan Johnson (School District of Manatee County)

Kelly Kurtz (Lake County School District)  
Wendy McCane (Pasco County School District)  
Terry Pitchford (School District Palm Beach County)  
Dr. Barbara Mundy (Hendry County Schools)  
Dr. Anjani Prashad (Seminole County Public Schools)  
Lonnie Steiert (Okeechobee County School District)  
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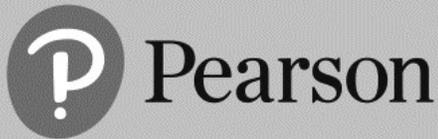


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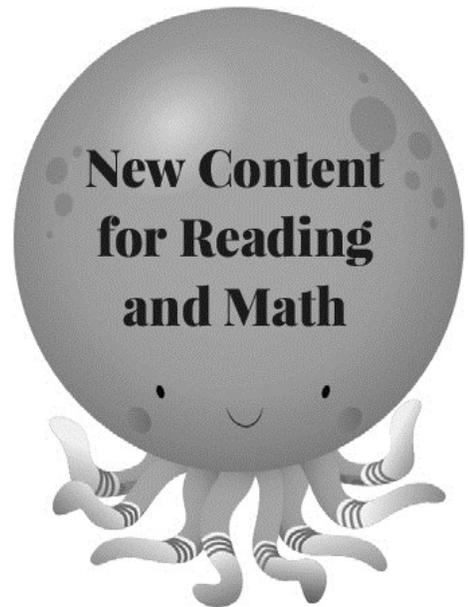


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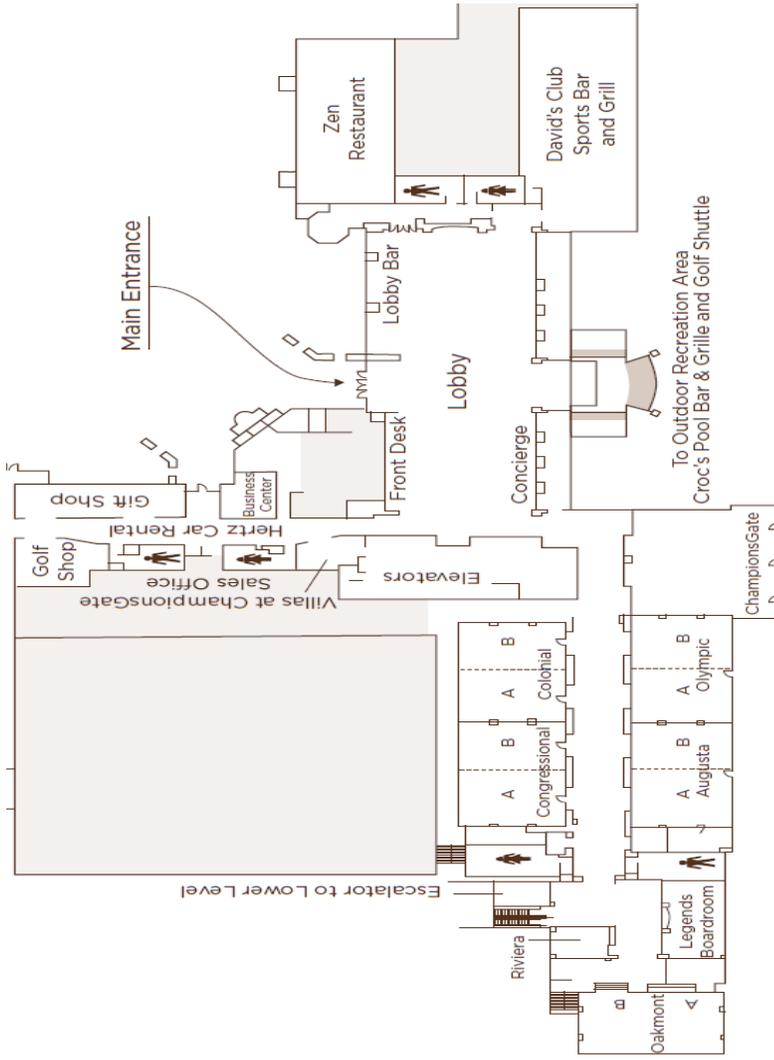
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