

Executive Summary

Al Noor International School - Riyadh

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Introduction

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

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

Description of the School

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

Established in 1997, Al Noor International School is licensed as an international school by the Ministry of Education, Department of National and Foreign Schools. It is authorized to offer an American -based curricular program for kindergarten through grade 12. The current owner purchased the school in 2003. A new administration was established by the owner to upgrade the school's standard in 2006. It is located in the Washem district of Riyadh in the Central Province of Saudi Arabia, it serves students from all areas of the district.

Demographics for 2012-2013 reflect 1,750 students comprising of expatriates from various Middle Eastern, African and Asian countries. Currently, the school population has doubled compared to the previous years.

Student nationalities also include Americans, Canadians, Ukrainians, Turkish, and Filipinos, with a majority of students from Egypt and Sudan.

The School has greatly improved its facilities to cater students' needs. In the Boys' Wing Section,we have three laboratories (Chemistry Lab, Physics Lab and Biology Lab), Library, Clinic and Playground for both lower and higher grades students and a basketball court. And in the Girls' Wing Section, we have 2 laboratories (Chemistry Lab and Science Lab), Library, Clinic and Playground, and a basketball court for for Girls' Wing Higher Grade Students.

At the moment, the school has 183 highly qualified teachers, 9 Subject Coordinators, 6 Wing Supervisors, 2 Section Principals (Lower and Higher Grades) Girls' Wing Section, and 10 Admin Staff.

In addition to these, although the school's community is increasing each year, workflow is being centralized under the administration of the Asst. General Manager of the whole school campus. There is one Assistant Principal to the Academic Affairs where academic issues and concerns are being addressed, one Assistant Principal to the Administrative Affairs who's in charged of the administrative issues. The School has one Finance Manager that manages the financial matters of the school its budgets and status. The School has also one centralized Registrar that administers students and organizes their files.

Through these working bodies, the school maintains its status as in institution with high quality standards.

School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

When Al Noor International School adopted the American Curriculum, the idea of principles and areas of emphasis has been thoroughly changed: The School visualize to be the leading educational institution in the world offering the best education based on clear standards and well-established systems in response to ever-changing global needs. And with a mission to educate our students to be leading professionals with positive basic values and to ensure academic growth though the support of a well-planned curriculum, diverse learning styles and strong cooperation among all our stakeholders.

During the past three years school improvement efforts included K-12 English Speaking Instruction for English Subjects, planned school - wide cultural events like cultures of the world, going green activities, and fire drill execution for each section that develop students' alertness during emergency situations.

In the school's aims to create the school as the school of active learners, extra-curricular activities have been integrated. Activities like English Week, Science and Math Week were introduced and carried out. These activities mold young learners to become more ready not just academically but also mentally, socially, physically and emotionally. Different skills are being nurtured shaped.

Furthermore, the School infuses the usage of technology in every aspect so as to create worthwhile learning outcomes that produces learners who are technologically advanced.

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

The 2012-2013 Al Noor International School Improvement Plan articulated three areas for improvement: academics, parent-teachers relationship, stakeholders' involvement to school goals and objectives.

Each of these areas has shown significant growth. Fidelity to core instruction has increased in all classrooms, resulting in increased student learning. Reading instruction has increased and students' individual development is tracked.

It is the goal of our leaders and school staff to produce a learning environment where all students, regardless of their economic-status, race, gender, prior knowledge can thrive and family circumstances. Al Noor International School exert much effort at each child as an individual and build an instructional plan to improve his growth as a young learner of the 21st century.

The 2012-2013 school improvement plans focused on in increasing student performance in the areas of reading, math and science subjects. Based on the Midterm Exams and Final Exam results, some students especially those who have difficulty in learning the language perform at low level. These students were having remedial classes with the concerned subject they are not performing well.

Classrooms have been improved, creating a positive learning environment for both students and teachers. Administration and support staff have collaborated with teachers in infusing technology to achieve global perspectives and 21st century skills.

Currently, the additions of CSV (Community Service Program) have had a positive impact on our school community. There has been in parent involvement due to the many activities Al Noor International School offers, and we are planning more activities to further increase parent involvement. In the next three years, we will continue to focus on preparing our students for global society, improving, an assessment scores and involving our community in our school.

Increase in enrollment and public feedback reflects growth of our school. Al Noor International School students are excited about learning, staff and teachers and are motivated, energized and characterized by these positive changes.

Additional Information

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

A change in school staff and teachers as well as administration three years ago created the opportunity to address areas of need. Major

concentrations were divided into two parts; the parent involvement in the school community and achieving academic success.

Open lines of communication with parents and stakeholders through many methods including electronic communication, informal meetings and formal presentations ensure parents involvement. Parents are provided with opportunities for parent education through parent engagement activities. Stakeholders regularly provide survey data on perceptions and provide suggestions for improvement. The school is committed to continuous improvement and seeks feedback from all stakeholders and utilizes this feedback to make strategic goals.

Positive communications with parents, professional training and workshop for teachers were given attention. Within the succeeding years, increased in satisfaction rates have been observed due to the increased in the school's enrollment rate that has doubled.

Another significant area that helped a lot in the school's improvement is the implementation of Common Core Curriculum Standards in English/Language Arts, and Mathematics. Technology improvements have also greatly assisted the school in the implementation. In these identified areas, Common Core materials and resources have been collected to supplement the textbooks and resources at school. Embracing the shift to Common Core Curriculum Standard has caused a paradigm shift in student expectations and instructional methodologies. The ability to communicate and be literate in a variety of form is essential to Al Noor International School's instructional for learning techniques and problem solving strategies.

Reading and Language Arts skills are developed through an integrated approach of phonics, grammar, and writing. Al Noor International School students read a diverse range of genres and an equal balance of fiction and non-fiction.

Literacy skills in elementary grades are also taught through the content areas of science, social studies. A comprehensive and flexible vocabulary is taught throughout the curriculum, as well as an isolated subject so greater focus can be made on language acquisition, spelling conventions and verbal skills, such as analogies and antonyms/synonyms. Writing is fully integrated across all content areas. Integration of research methods and study skills are inherent and embedded throughout the curriculum