Muller Elementary Magnet School

County: Hillsborough
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School Website: http://muller.mysdhc.org/

Principal: Wendy Harrison
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About Muller Elementary:

Muller Elementary Magnet School screams “Arts education is important here!” The school's two “magnet” areas are the arts and environmental studies. These have been effectively connected and showcased throughout the school.

Ms. Harrison is committed to arts education. She has managed the school schedule to ensure that each student has a significant, exemplary amount of time spent in arts classes and experiences each day. We admired her relationship with her faculty, staff, parents, students, and community members. Ms. Harrison has connected with the community in a multitude of ways to support the arts education program at Muller. She has effectively linked her magnet themes, the arts and the environment, in creative and appealing ways.

Arts education is thriving at Muller and the teaching faculty is outstanding. The orchestra program would rival that of larger schools with an “older” student population. The artwork on display throughout the school, as well as in the art gallery, is quite impressive.

In addition, the school’s commitment to Arts Integration was evident throughout our visit, a concept of which the teachers are quite enthusiastic. Principal Harrison has developed a position for a full-time “arts integration specialist” to support the work at Muller. The AI Specialist supports faculty development as well as content generation and implementation. The school-wide “themes” for instruction help to bring the
teachers together to implement arts integration teaching and learning. After several years of implementation and refinement, this is a very effective approach at Muller.

In addition to the assemblage of supportive and enthusiastic parents at this Title 1 school, members of the community are equally supportive. Partnerships in arts education at Muller is lauded by the Hillsborough Community Foundation as well as by community arts organizations. The school reaches out into its surrounding community with programs in nursing homes and Publix, as well as other venues. Truly, this is another area of strength found at Muller.

Quoting from the site-visit team’s evaluation narrative, “Muller Elementary Magnet School is a school that will inspire others with leadership, teachers, parents, and students who will “shout” the message!