

Emerson Elementary School

A Bilingual School Organization (B.I.S.O.) SCHOOL

Inspired Choice Instruction



Home of the Wise Owls

Emerson Elementary School Background

- Constructed in 1955, Emerson Elementary School presently serves the instructional needs of a prominently Hispanic community.
- Title I funded with 82% of the student population on free and reduced lunch program.
- Dual Language Program is implemented school-wide.
- Staff certification enables advanced language and cultural competence.
- Staff embraces community's language and cultural diversity.
- Teachers collaborate on key curricular issues during biweekly common planning time.
- Staff collaboration on school wide and grade level events exemplifies cohesiveness of personnel.
- Administrative visionary management style encompasses needs of community, students, and staff.
- Minimal staff turn-over rate reflects professional fulfillment.

Inspired Choice Instruction: Introduction

- Tapping into professional strengths and experiences to maximize instructional student growth.
- Encouraging staff to integrate individualized innovative instructional programs that enrich district mandated Common Core Curriculum.
- Professional freedom to explore innovative research based teaching styles to intensify student learning.
- Providing resources to staff promoting individualized teacher programs.
- Surveying teachers to acquire grade level and subject area teaching preferences to maximize professional expertise.
- Parents choose to promote school wide and individual programs.

Emerson Elementary

School Wide Data 2012-2013

| Year | School Grade | Points Earned | Unadjusted Satisfactory or Higher Performance Points | | | | Learning Gains Points | | Learning Gains Points for Lowest 25% | |
|------|--------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------|------|---------|---------|-----------------------|------|--------------------------------------|------|
| | | | Reading | Math | Writing | Science | Reading | Math | Reading | Math |
| 2013 | A | 558 | 66 | 71 | 58 | 66 | 76 | 71 | 84 | 66 |

Inspired Choice Instruction: School Wide Programs Bilingual School Organization (B.I.S.O.):

OVERVIEW

- The goal of B.I.S.O. is to develop high levels of proficiency in both their first and second languages (Spanish and English).
- Multi language proficiency leads to higher academic performance levels in both languages.
- Students demonstrate positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors.
- Students' self esteems are well established with peer acceptance.
- Parents choose to participate in a B.I.S.O. Curriculum.

Inspired Choice Instruction: School Wide Programs

Bilingual School Organization (B.I.S.O.): Operational Aspects at Emerson Elementary

- Students in all grades receive Math instruction in a dual language setting for one hour.
- Language Arts, Writing and Reading are taught daily in Spanish for one hour.
- Science or Social Studies instruction is taught in a dual language setting.
- Language Arts Writing and Reading instruction are taught for a two hour block in English.
- Special Areas are taught in English.
- Title I funds are utilized for our Community Involvement Specialist (CIS) and to fund the Intervention Program (hourly tutors).

Inspired Choice Instruction: School Wide Programs

Bilingual School Organization (B.I.S.O.): Individualized Aspects Offered at Emerson Elementary

Subject-matter instruction must be:

- Adjusted to the student's instructional level incorporating the needs of SPED, Gifted, and ELL.
- Challenging and rigorous for all students.
- Relevant in both languages.

Inspired Choice Instruction: School Wide Programs

Bilingual School Organization (B.I.S.O.): Community Outreach at Emerson Elementary

- Citizenship classes are offered during the school day to ease the transition of parents and community members into the mainstream of the United States.
- English classes are offered after school hours for monolingual Spanish speaking parents and community members.
- Tutorial and cultural programs offered to enhance community integration.

Inspired Choice Instruction

...IN ACTION!!!



SPED Pizza Garden Project



- Ensuring understanding of the natural environment using a hands-on approach, students plant basil, oregano, peppers, and tomatoes from seeds or seedlings. Students are responsible for the daily observations and maintenance of crops.
- Students enjoy the fruits of their labor by eating pizzas on whole wheat English muffins as a culminating activity.
- Funding is provided by parents' contributions and teachers' resourcefulness.

Fourth Grade Writing Marathon

- Three exciting and rigorous days of intense writing activities to further enhance the skills taught throughout the school year. The marathon, which takes place two weeks before the FCAT Writing Assessment, provides the 4th grade students the opportunity to polish their writing, collaborate with teachers and students, and practice the necessary skills needed to be successful writers.

- Anchor Papers
 - Scoring Rubric
 - Identifying strengths/weaknesses
- Mock Writing
 - Timed narrative & expository assessment
 - Sharing/Editing/ Critiquing
- Test Taking Tips
- PowerPoint presentation on
 - Expository & Narrative Writing
- Enhancement Activities
 - “Show, Don’t Tell” (Description)
 - Onomatopoeia (Figurative Language)
 - “Superstar” Punctuation Marks
 - Quotation Marks & Dialogue
 - Strong Verb (Descriptive words)
 - Expository Web & Four Square
 - Story Elements (Planning)



Reading Intervention

- Students are initially placed using the previous year's FAIR, FCAT, and SAT scores.
- Both push-in and pull-out models are utilized and grade-level groups are adjusted based on District Interim results and in-house, on-going progress monitoring.
- Funding for these interventionists are supported through Title I.



Object Based Science Learning

- A multisensory approach to learning that involves a process of exploring the natural or material world that leads to asking questions and making discoveries in the search for new understandings.
- A hands-on way to refine skills of observation and perception; enhance creative thinking and problem solving ability; and to build on and apply different ways of communicating.
- As students are encouraged to share what they know, sense, feel, about an object the information that comes to the surface further enhances how others see that object.
- Inquiry learning and active learner involvement can lead to important outcomes in the classroom. Students who actively make observations, collect, analyze, and synthesize information, and draw conclusions are developing useful problem-solving skills.



Green Schools Initiative



- Students in the gifted program understand the value of taking care of our planet through monthly activities which include:
 - designing pledge posters to involve school,
 - displaying recyclable art work at Miami Dade County Fair and Expo,
 - creating informative brochures on green careers,
 - researching water conservation efforts, herb & vegetable gardens, and
 - encouraging the “lights-off” campaign.
- The instructional goal is to bring awareness on the impact of students’ small actions on the global environment.
- Funding is provided through teacher made resources, parental involvement, and district energy saving refund checks.

Health Awareness Initiatives



- Student are encouraged to make fundamental changes in their heart health and lifestyles. Our school is impacting the lives of our youth by making a meaningful shift toward a healthy diet and exercise habits.
- Informational newsletters JAM (Just a Minute) School Program offered by Health-E-Tips, Inc. provides a one-minute physical activity routine designed to help gets kids moving inside the classroom, during assemblies or throughout the school day.
- Presentations from experts are scheduled (i.e. JDRF, American Heart Association) to educate students on nutrition, fitness and health advice.
- Our Wellness and Literacy Event consisted of health and fitness activities, math and science experiments and reading under the stars.

After School Care Community Program



- The afterschool care program consists of planned activities, including home learning assistance, indoor and outdoor games, arts and crafts, and various recreational activities (wrestling, dance, and drama)
- Activities are designed to promote self awareness, responsibility, and build confident, well rounded students.

Emerson Players

An After School Care Drama Program



- Drama is offered through our Community School Program.
- Our Emerson Players plan for three performances; a comedy/improvisation, Broadway highlights, and one based on Children's Literature.
- Funding is provided through monthly fees paid by parents, teacher made resources and parental involvement.

Community Outreach at Emerson



Annual Toy Drive

- Special Education teacher encouraged parents and students to support the Miami-Dade County Firefighters “Toys for Kids” program in their efforts to provide needy families with toys during the holiday season.
- In an effort to broaden our students’ awareness of community responsibilities, students donated board games to “Toys for Kids”.
- Students experienced first-hand the meaning of giving by personally handing their contributions to Santa who arrived via fire truck. The time and energy invested generated benefits of immeasurable value to both our students and those of the community.
- The instructional goal of this annual event is to develop caring citizens of the future.

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- **Questions??**
- **Contact information:**
 - Emerson Elementary School
 - 8001 SW 36th Street
 - Miami FL 33155
 - 305 264-5757
- **Ramon J. Garrigo**, Principal, rgarrigo@dadeschools.net
- **Brittany McMillan**, Teacher of the Gifted, mcmillanb@dadeschools.net
- **Michele Defreitas**, Reading Coach, mdefreitas@dadeschools.net

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“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

