

# **BRITO MIAMI PRIVATE SCHOOL**

## **FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM**

### **MATHEMATICS**

The program is designed to provide all students with a complete background in arithmetic and basic geometry, along with an introduction to the language and territory of basic algebra. Math instruction should stress thought, not just methodology and results. Students must develop mathematical skills to analyze information, solve problems, and create products to meet new needs. They must learn to wisely allocate resources used to solve problems.

Students learn to count, count back, and skip count; estimate and compare the sizes of sets; recognize geometric shapes in variety of positions; measure and compare lengths; read simple bar graphs; solve story problems that involve addition and subtraction of one and two digit numbers; and are introduced to concepts of simple multiplication and division.

### **SCIENCE**

The science curriculum underscores the principles of scientific method and suggests sciences' worldly applications and possibilities. This curriculum provides students with the opportunity to practice and develop to the fullest their habits of mind. Students become scientists as they think about paradoxes, conflicting philosophies, and the implications of their own beliefs and actions. As students question, wonder, argue, dream, plan, fail, succeed, rethink, innovate, and imagine, they learn that education is a lifelong journey.

Topics may include the characteristics and habitats of animals; pet care; the parts and growth patterns of plants; differences between day and night; common weather conditions and climate; properties of water and air; and forms and sources of energy. Students handle and observe growing plants; monitor and record facts of their development; and perform simple experiments involving variations in water, soil, and sunlight, predicting results and testing their hypotheses.

### **ENGLISH**

Fully literate students are seekers of meaning in a world rich with language. Curious about life's complexities, adept at inquiry, and disciplined to pursue understanding, they use the processes of language arts effectively.

The major areas of concern are as follows: Reading, Composition, Listening and Speaking, Basic English usage skills (grammar, vocabulary, spelling, etc.) and literature.

Phonics instruction continues, integrated with a carefully designed program of reading and writing. Students build vocabulary while they read silently and aloud; a variety of stories, poetry, fairy tales, folktales, and legends. Grammar is introduced: nouns, verbs, and their agreement; elementary rules of punctuation and capitalization; and simple sentence structure. Instruction in writing begins and includes attention to the alphabet, handwriting, spelling, syllabication, and the reinforcement of grammatical lessons through short writing assignments (sentences, story summaries, and creative and descriptive exercises). Students visit the library regularly and borrow books for independent reading.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

This course offers students early, continuous, and cumulative instruction in history, geography, and civics. Social Studies plays an important role in the development of well-educated people. It prepares students to be personally and socially aware, promotes multiple perspectives, encourages intellectual curiosity, incorporates critical thinking skills, reinforces a broad range of communication skills, charges students to assume responsibility for positive change and civic action, and challenges them to imagine and create a better world.

Historical instruction includes attention to American customs through study of traditional and patriotic songs, legends, and folktales; lessons about daily life in the American past; and a unit on the beliefs, traditions, and geography of a foreign country. Other lessons in geography teach students to give and follow simple directions; to identify common land forms; and to trace initial connections among landscape, climate, land use, transportation, and commerce. Civics instruction encourages good character through stories about moral problems and their solutions; develops individual responsibility through assignment of classroom chores; identifies familiar American symbols (the Bald Eagle, the Liberty Bell, the Statue of Liberty, the Capitol, and Uncle Sam); and briefly describes the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

### **SPANISH**

Early study of foreign languages makes sense. The imitative capacities of young children give them natural advantages as language students. It allows children a taste of the size and diversity of human experience and helps them to distinguish similarities and differences between their own and other cultures and people. To support teachers in choosing effective strategies to use in working with students in their classes, the following suggestions are provided.

Spanish as a foreign language is introduced with a strong emphasis on pronunciation, intonation, conversation, dialogue, and vocabulary building. Grammar begins with simple verbs and sentence structure. Students read and write short passages. Attention is paid to elementary cultural material from countries in which the language is national or widespread, including children's games, folk songs for choral singing, fairy tales, legends, and simple arts and crafts. Building on to more advanced vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and constructions; extended conversation; selections of foreign literature; writing assignments; elementary translations; and frequent cultural lessons.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Physical education plays an important role in every student's physical, mental, and social well-being. The physically educated student understands and seeks the benefits of a healthy and physically active life. Every student, regardless of physical ability or background, should have the opportunity to pursue and enjoy these benefits, which help to motivate a commitment to fitness throughout life. Physical education also provides significant opportunities for learning those social skills that are important for cooperation and individual success. In addition, we try to include in our program a positive attitude towards sports.

A general program of physical and health education is taught. Physical education activities previously learned, skills apply to common team and individual sports; teach the terminology and rules associated with each game; continue to emphasize fitness, respect for rules, sportsmanship, safety, and use and care of sports equipment. Topics in health include hygiene; nutrition; disease prevention; first aid and safety; peer resistance and individual responsibility in connection with alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs; and rest and exercise. Lessons about sexual maturation - taught according to community standards and with parental involvement and approval - should provide basic information about physiological and psychological changes associated with puberty.

### **PRACTICAL ARTS**

Introduction to Computers, Keyboarding, and Computer Applications and use of the Computer Lab enables students to get a feel of computers and the business world. Basic programs and business skills are introduced. Through the completion of these courses, students acquire knowledge that will be very beneficial for the future.

Introduction to Computers:

Its focus is to introduce our youngsters to the world of computers. Through the use of a wide range of elementary level software, students acquire knowledge while working with fun and educational programs. Students work at their own pace, gradually advancing to the next level and being introduced to more challenging software.

Students are required to use the computer lab for educational purposes only. Students will be instructed to work on projects, or may be permitted to surf the web, research or play educational games.

### **FINE ARTS**

Arts acknowledge the fact that not everyone can know everything in even one arts area. However, it also recognizes the need for everyone to know something about dance, music, art, and theater. The arts are a fundamental part of being an educated person and are therefore an essential part of every student's education.

# **BRITO MIAMI PRIVATE SCHOOL SECOND GRADE CURRICULUM**

## **MATHEMATICS**

The program is designed to provide all students with a complete background in arithmetic and basic geometry, along with an introduction to the language and territory of basic algebra. Math instruction should stress thought, not just methodology and results. Students must develop mathematical skills to analyze information, solve problems, and create products to meet new needs. They must learn to wisely allocate resources used to solve problems.

Students learn place value by grouping physical objects; round numbers to the nearest tens and hundreds; master simple addition and subtraction facts; estimate solutions to large number addition and subtraction problems; solve story problems that involve multiplication and division facts; discuss coins and the money system; and are introduced to fractions. In geometry, students recognize properties of two and three-dimensional shapes; classify models of plane and solid figures; learn about edges, sides and angles.

## **SCIENCE**

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Topics may include seasonal changes and life cycles in various organisms; how seeds mature into plants; differences between vertebrates and invertebrates; the Earth's orbit and its effect on the seasons; the effect of the moon on tides; basic ideas about magnets and magnetism; forces of motion; and simple machines and their inventors. Students construct their own magnetic compasses, use them to determine general directions, and participate in orienteering games and exercises.

## **ENGLISH**

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The major areas of concern are as follows: Reading, Composition, Listening and Speaking, Basic English usage skills (grammar, vocabulary, spelling, etc.) and literature.

Phonics instruction is completed and students begin to read silently for longer periods of time. Group reading of imaginative literature emphasizes the development of interpretative skills: making generalizations, drawing inferences, and determining character motivation and plot sequence. Vocabulary and spelling work is done both in the context of reading and isolation. Instruction in grammar covers word order, pronouns and their antecedents, adjectives, contractions, and possessives. Cursive writing is introduced, and student writing assignments include stories, poems, letters, and simple book reports. Children have frequent opportunities to share their reading and writing with classmates. During library visits, students learn to identify books by their titles, authors, and illustrators.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

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communication skills, charges students to assume responsibility for positive change and civic action, and challenges them to imagine and create a better world.

Students expand their understanding of the past through study of the lives and accomplishments of important American leaders (e.g., George Washington, James Madison, Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, and Martin Luther King, Jr.) and famous scientists and inventors (e.g., Benjamin Franklin, the Wright Brothers, Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, and George Washington Carver). Time lines are used to promote a more concrete understanding of past, present, and future. Where appropriate, students explore their own family backgrounds and discuss the customs, beliefs, and geography of their ancestors' homelands. Further geography instruction teaches students to recognize cardinal directions, map symbols, and physical and cultural distinctions among urban, suburban, and rural areas. Civics instruction focuses on the duties and privileges of citizenship, and voting and elections.

### **SPANISH**

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A general program of physical and health education is taught. Physical education activities previously learned, skills apply to common team and individual sports; teach the terminology and rules associated with each game; continue to emphasize fitness, respect for rules, sportsmanship, safety, and use and care of sports equipment. Topics in health include hygiene; nutrition; disease prevention; first aid and safety; peer resistance and individual responsibility in connection with alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs; and rest and exercise. Lessons about sexual maturation - taught according to community standards and with parental involvement and approval - should provide basic information about physiological and psychological changes associated with puberty.

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# **BRITO MIAMI PRIVATE SCHOOL THIRD GRADE CURRICULUM**

## **MATHEMATICS**

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Students master the multiplication table; develop computational proficiency with two and three digit addition and subtraction, two and three digit by single digit multiplication, and division with single digit divisors. They also solve story problems that involve whole number operations, fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals. Manipulative toys and articles are used throughout to extend concepts of place value to other bases; to add and subtract decimals; and to find equivalent fractions. In geometry and measurement, students learn units of length, area volume, weight, and time; measure area and volume using squares and cubes; and interpret bar and picture graphs with units greater than one. Class projects involve the collection, display, and analysis of data.

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Topics may include the growth stages of animals; the food chain; simple rocks and minerals; basic physical and chemical properties of matter; the solar system, planets, moons, stars, and galaxies; important events and achievements in the history of space exploration; and electricity and electric charges. Students collect, compare, classify, and record the shape, size, weight, and texture of different rock and mineral samples.

## **ENGLISH**

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The major areas of concern are as follows: Reading, Composition, Listening and Speaking, Basic English usage skills (grammar, vocabulary, spelling, etc.) and literature.

Students expand vocabulary and comprehension skills while they read and discuss various literary forms. Reading work includes exercise in choral speaking to allow children to refine their oral language abilities. Grammatical instruction covers subject and predicate rules and the function of adverbs. Attention to spelling and penmanship continues. Lessons in writing emphasize formal process (outlining, drafting, revising, and editing) and more advanced composition skills: word selection (synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms); detailing; and paragraphing. Independent reading and writing are a significant part of each day. At the library, students learn basic reference skills with tables of contents, indexes, atlases, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and the card catalog.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

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History lessons explore the culture, beliefs, and daily life of selected Native American people. Students learn about Columbus, the impact of European settlers' arrival, the influence of Native American traditions on contemporary society, and the location of major Indian tribes and settlements on maps. Additional instruction in geography focuses on the travels and adventures of such significant explorers as Marco Polo, the Vikings, Sir Francis Drake, Balboa, Daniel Boone, Henry Hudson, Lewis and Clark, and Admiral Pearly. As they trace the explorers' path, students refine their map and globe reading skills, identifying latitude, longitude, the equator, the continents, the oceans, the hemispheres, and the poles. Civics instruction examines the Massachusetts and Virginia settlements, and their ideas about religious tolerance and local government.

## **SPANISH**

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## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

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A general program of physical and health education is taught. Physical education activities previously learned, skills apply to common team and individual sports; teach the terminology and rules associated with each game; continue to emphasize fitness, respect for rules, sportsmanship, safety, and use and care of sports equipment. Topics in health include hygiene; nutrition; disease prevention; first aid and safety; peer resistance and individual responsibility in connection with alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs; and rest and exercise. Lessons about sexual maturation - taught according to community standards and with parental involvement and approval - should provide basic information about physiological and psychological changes associated with puberty.



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## **FINE ARTS**

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# **BRITO MIAMI PRIVATE SCHOOL FOURTH GRADE CURRICULUM**

## **MATHEMATICS**

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Students solve story problems that reinforce whole number operations and fraction and decimal concepts; use estimation and rounding to divide large numbers by two and three digit divisors; interpret line graphs; compute, mean, media, and mode; and where and when possible, organize and display graphs and data on computers. In geometry, topics include symmetry, congruence, and parallel and perpendicular lines; acute, right, and obtuse angles; and more advanced characteristics of polygons.

## **SCIENCE**

The science curriculum underscores the principles of scientific method and suggests sciences' worldly applications and possibilities. This curriculum provides students with the opportunity to practice and develop to the fullest their habits of mind. Students become scientists as they think about paradoxes, conflicting philosophies, and the implications of their own beliefs and actions. As students question, wonder, argue, dream, plan, fail, succeed, rethink, innovate, and imagine, they learn that education is a lifelong journey.

It has a special emphasis on the earth sciences. Topics may include rock formation; glaciers; the process of erosion; the creation of fossil fuels; the atmosphere and weather forecasting; and stages of water cycle (rain, evaporation, and clouds). Additional topics from the life and physical sciences may include the life cycle and behavior of social insects; important bones and muscles of the human body; distinguishing features of comets, asteroids, and meteors; heat as form energy; and the idea of heat transfer.

Through news reports and, where possible, their own observations and measurements, students monitor changes in local rainfall, temperature, barometric pressure, sunrise and sunset, humidity, and speed and direction, and learn simple techniques of weather prediction.

## **ENGLISH**

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The major areas of concern are as follows: Reading, Composition, Listening and Speaking, Basic English usage skills (grammar, vocabulary, spelling, etc.) and literature.

An introduction a critical reading, with selections from classic children's literature: adventures and animal stories, fables, legends, myths, and tall tales. Students identify story structure, examine cause-effect relationships, and distinguish fact from fiction. Topics in grammar include compound subjects and predicates, and verb tenses. Spelling work introduces etymology as a tool. Students continue to refine handwriting and vocabulary. Writing assignments emphasize the construction of introductions and conclusions in creative and expository composition, and introduced more advanced techniques like summarization and dialogue. Independent reading and writing are significant part of each day. Students use library visits to prepare written and oral book reports.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

This course offers students early, continuous, and cumulative instruction in history, geography, and civics. Social Studies plays an important role in the development of well-educated people. It prepares students to be personally and socially aware, promotes multiple perspectives, encourages intellectual curiosity, incorporates critical thinking skills, reinforces a broad range of communication skills, charges students to assume responsibility for positive change and civic action, and challenges them to imagine and create a better world.

The major import in American History and culture from early settlement to the Civil War, taught through story and textbook reading. Students study the French, Dutch, Spanish, and English settlers; daily life in the colonies; the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution; the Constitutional Convention; the Louisiana Purchase and westward expansion; the growth of canals and railroads; and sectional differences preceding the Civil War. Map work identifies the 13 colonies, and follows westward migration and national expansion to the Pacific. Civics covers the functions of the three branches of government, the two party system, and constitutional issues surrounding slavery.

## **SPANISH**

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Spanish as a foreign language is introduced with a strong emphasis on pronunciation, intonation, conversation, dialogue, and vocabulary building. Grammar begins with simple verbs and sentence structure. Students read and write short passages. Attention is paid to elementary cultural material from countries in which the language is national or widespread, including children's games, folk songs for choral singing, fairy tales, legends, and simple arts and crafts. Building on to more advanced vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and constructions; extended conversation; selections of foreign literature; writing assignments; elementary translations; and frequent cultural lessons.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

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A general program of physical and health education is taught. Physical education activities previously learned, skills apply to common team and individual sports; teach the terminology and rules associated with each game; continue to emphasize fitness, respect for rules, sportsmanship, safety, and use and care of sports equipment. Topics in health include hygiene; nutrition; disease prevention; first aid and safety; peer resistance and individual responsibility in connection with alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs; and rest and exercise. Lessons about sexual maturation - taught according to community standards and with parental involvement and approval - should provide basic information about physiological and psychological changes associated with puberty.

## **PRACTICAL ARTS**

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### **Introduction to Computers:**

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### **Computer Lab:**

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## **FINE ARTS**

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# **BRITO MIAMI PRIVATE SCHOOL**

## **FIFTH GRADE CURRICULUM**

### **MATHEMATICS**

The program is designed to provide all students with a complete background in arithmetic and basic geometry, along with an introduction to the language and territory of basic algebra. Math instruction should stress thought, not just methodology and results. Students must develop mathematical skills to analyze information, solve problems, and create products to meet new needs. They must learn to wisely allocate resources used to solve problems.

Students explore prime numbers, factors, multiples, the number line, negative numbers, and the concept of infinity; learn percentages and ratios using physical materials and representational models; identify and convert equivalent fractions and decimals; and study more complex probability problems using "hands-on" experiments. In geometry, students estimate angles and make protractor measurements; draw, measure, and compare triangles and quadrilaterals.

### **SCIENCE**

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It has a special emphasis on the life sciences. Topics may include the reproduction of plants and flowers; the process of photosynthesis; the basic structures and functions of the human body; food groups and nutrition; and the evolutionary history of the Earth, including fossils, dinosaurs, and other prehistoric life. Additional topics from the earth and physical sciences may include geological change over time; problems of pollution and conservation; and complex machines and the concept of work. Students examine cross-sections of celery stems and tree trunks, grow mold on bread, observe mushroom spores by making spore prints on paper, compare different types of algae, and investigate water movement through plant and flower roots.

### **ENGLISH**

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The major areas of concern are as follows: Reading, Composition, Listening and Speaking, Basic English usage skills (grammar, vocabulary, spelling, etc.) and literature.

A continued introduction to critical reading, with selections from a variety of new and familiar genres and styles: short stories, essays, plays, short novels, and biographies. Students investigate plot and characterization in detail, interpret figurative speech and conditional statements, and distinguish stated and implied main ideas. Grammatical lessons include inverted word order, direct and indirect objects, conjunctions, prepositions, and prepositional phrases. Written work emphasizes research skills and version, and students are expected fully to apply their knowledge of grammar, spelling, and vocabulary to final drafts. Speaking exercises require students to deliver a short original talk before their classmates. Independent reading and writing are a significant part of each day.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

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The major topics in American history and culture from the Civil War to the present are taught through story and textbook readings. Students study events leading to the Civil War; slavery and abolition; the war itself; reconstruction; the industrial revolution; urbanization and immigration; World War I; the Great Depression and the New Deal; World War II; the Cold War; the Civil Rights movement; and the war in Vietnam. Students commit the 50 states and their capitals to memory. Map work identifies Union, border, and Confederate States; traces major military campaigns; and describes source countries of 19th century immigration. Civics lessons address major constitutional issues and amendments, and examine democracy and its adversaries in the 20th century.

## **SPANISH**

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