

FALL 2012

BREVARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

The goal of Brevard Public Schools is to educate students in a child-centered environment that promotes and develops literacy and understanding of mathematics, social studies, language arts and scientific concepts. In this environment students are viewed as active participants who are encouraged to explore, manipulate objects, question, take risks, work cooperatively, think, feel, trust, and evaluate themselves. The teacher's role in this environment is to facilitate learning rather than to only dispense knowledge. It is in this environment that students become responsible for their learning and behavior.

Grade Level Standards

The Common Core State Standards and the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards have been established in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. These grade-level standards list key benchmarks for student progress. A representative sample of standards by grade level has been developed for parents.

Elementary Handwriting

The Scott Foresman D'Nealian Handwriting is the district-adopted handwriting curriculum. D'Nealian Handwriting is the innovative, continuous-stroke method of teaching children to write in manuscript and in cursive. Research shows that consistency is the key to legible handwriting. Therefore, consistency from year to year is important. The D'Nealian philosophy also states that students who already have superior handwriting in another style should not be made to change to D'Nealian.

Elementary Reading/Language Arts

The goal of Brevard Public Schools' Reading Language Arts Program is to integrate reading and language arts in the elementary schools in order to develop and refine students' reading abilities to become successful readers.

The **Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Florida Treasures** program is the district adopted K-6 reading and language arts textbook series. This program is a systematic, balanced, and research-based program that builds success with every lesson that is introduced and reinforced. Leveled text and literature across a rich variety of genres provides a systematic path toward reading independence. The six essential components of reading which are: oral language, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension are integrated into a coherent instructional design that focuses on instructional sequence, explicit instruction, and ample practice.

The Spelling component of the **Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Florida Treasures** program will be used as the district adopted spelling curriculum in grades 1-6. This component creates a connection to reading in using words that reflect the vocabulary and phonics components of the grade level texts.

The **Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Florida Treasures** program includes materials to support Writing and Grammar instruction in alignment with the language arts Sunshine State Standards.

The **Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Florida Triumphs** program provides additional support for skill mastery. **Triumphs** connects with the themes and skills being taught in the **acMillan/McGraw Hill Treasures** comprehensive core reading program while offering scaffolded instruction to accelerate learning of basic skills necessary for reading successfully. Elementary Programs utilize evidenced based supplemental and comprehensive intervention programs when providing additional reading services beyond the initial ninety minutes of required core reading instruction. Elementary schools post intervention materials used in Chart C of the K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plan. Instructional charts of Brevard's K-12 Reading Plan may be viewed on the Just Read, Florida! website: https://app1.fl DOE.org/Reading_Plans/Narrative/PrintChartC.aspx.

Elementary Mathematics

The district adopted mathematics program for grades K-5 is Scott-Foresman-Addison Wesley *enVisionMath* (Florida © 2011). This program is organized into 16 topics (chapters) that provide in-depth instruction. A variety of assessment opportunities for ongoing progress monitoring and intervention are provided.

The district adopted mathematics program for grade 6 is Glencoe McGraw-Hill *Florida Math Connects Plus: Course 1* (Florida © 2011). This program is organized into 12 chapters and the content is arranged to provide depth and cohesiveness. A variety of assessments opportunities are offered throughout the program.

Both programs are aligned with our state adopted standards. In grades 3-6, the programs are aligned with the the Next-Generation Sunshine State Standards for Mathematics. Supplemental materials aligning the K-2 textbooks with the Common Core State Standards have been provided. These programs are research-based and designed to engage students in problem solving activities that enable them to build deep understanding of the mathematical concepts and ideas. Activities and lessons that support differentiated instruction and RTI (Response to Intervention) are offered in within these programs

Elementary Social Studies

Brevard Public Schools' social studies core curriculum focuses on Florida's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards while engaging students in lessons to develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions. Activities provide pathways for engagement, discussion and historical thinking while incorporating common core state standards for reading and writing. The district-adopted textbooks (**Kindergarten-Pearson's My World Social Studies, TK1-Grade 5-McGraw-Hill's Florida Studies and Grade 6-McGraw-Hill's Discovering Our Past-A History of the World**) support the standards-based curriculum by offering tools, information and resources to encourage students to think critically and make conceptual connections to the real world.

Elementary Science

The Brevard Public Schools' science goal is to provide students with a well-balanced K-6 curriculum, which is aligned with Florida's Science Standards. To develop science literacy in our students, they are actively involved in inquiry investigations that teach the content as well as the essential process skills. The district adopted programs, National Geographic Science for K-5 and Discovery Education Science Techbook for Grade 6, include multiple hands-on, minds-on activities that provide science content and real-world connections.

Elementary Health Education

The goal of the elementary health program in Brevard Public Schools is to develop a health consciousness in all students utilizing a standards based, developmentally appropriate curriculum aimed at enriching their well-being. A *K-8 Health Curriculum Guide* is available to teachers with lessons and activities that can easily be integrated into the core curriculum. This guide is aligned with the Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Health.

Mandated by the Florida Legislature, Brevard Public Schools developed a comprehensive, age and developmentally appropriate, *Human Sexuality Curriculum Guide* for use by teachers in all grade levels.

Beginning in the sixth grade *Life Skills Training* is introduced. It is a substance abuse prevention program that is comprehensive, interactive and based on 20 years of scientific research. It focuses on self- image, decision making, social and communication skills and peer pressure. Life Skills is aligned with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Math, Science, Language Arts and Social Sciences.

Elementary Physical Education

The goal of elementary physical education in Brevard Public Schools is to provide students with a standards based, balanced, sequential and progressive educational activity program. The program aimed at kindergarten through sixth grade students includes basic movement concepts and skills that are age and developmentally appropriate. This in turn leads to the development of motor skills, knowledge and values, which are needed to establish and maintain a healthy and physically active lifestyle. Aligned with Florida's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Physical Education, the *Elementary Physical Education Curriculum Guide, Adapted Physical Education Resource Guide and Physical Education Best Practices Brochure* are available to all teachers as the basis for their curriculum. *FITNESSGRAM-* is the physical fitness assessment program used by all Brevard schools. Fitness gram 8.6 and the new web-based 9.2 are the score reporting tools used by Physical Education Teachers to record and monitor each student's fitness levels. Individual FITNESSGRAM report cards are available to all students. Brevard is the first district in Florida to recognize excellence in physical education programs. Currently eleven (11) elementary schools have achieved the Excellence in Physical Education Award. Two of our elementary schools have received national recognition for their excellent programs by achieving the STARS award from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE).

Elementary Music

The goal of the Brevard Public Schools' music program is to provide a cohesive, developmental approach that emphasizes learning about music, performing music through various activities and mediums, and developing an appreciation for all aspects of music and music making. It is our hope that this approach will create a lifelong appreciation for the Arts. The elementary general music program uses the Scott Foresman/Silver Burdett *Making Music* series for the adopted text, the *Brevard County Elementary Music Guide*, and *Excellence in the Arts Focus 2000* as the basis for its curriculum.

Elementary Art

The goal of the Brevard Public School's art program is to provide instruction and assessment in elementary art that revolves around the development of the elements of art and principles of

design. Art activities are both process and product oriented with emphasis placed on inquiry, analysis and integration in art history, critique, aesthetics and production. The program includes individual, cooperative and cross curricular experiences connecting hands-on activities with life skills, and is aligned with Florida's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards to promote the development of critical thinking and innovation as part of 21st Century skills. Schools have several opportunities to participate in various events such as exhibits and contests. The District supports the Area Mall Shows, Art/Science Fairs and the K12 School Board Art Show. Brevard Public Schools participates with the Brevard Cultural Alliance in their Art In Public Places Program and the Artist in Residence Program. Schools are encouraged to participate in the Educational Theatre Programs sponsored by the Maxwell King Center for the Performing Arts. Brevard Public Schools' Art Program is correlated with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards which may be found at www.brevardschools.org. The district adopted series is Harcourt School Publishers for K-5 and Pearson Scott Foresman in 6th grade.

Elementary Writing

The goal of Brevard Public Schools' writing program is to provide instruction and assessment that supports the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards of Writing. This program relies on the integration of Six Traits instruction (Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Fluency, and Conventions) and process writing (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing). This instruction is designed to produce mastery of oral and written communication. The incremental curriculum develops writers who use the craft to learn, think, and communicate across the disciplines, stressing the linkage between writing and reading. Writing assessment to diagnose, prescribe, and strengthen skills takes place four times a year in grades TK 1 through sixth grade. Kindergarten assesses three times a year. Students acquire proficiency in informative, creative, and persuasive genres. To assist the teacher with writing instruction, Brevard has created several documents: *Piece by Piece*, a grade level pacing guide, K-6; *Developing the Craft*, best practices in writing for teachers in grades K-6; *Developing Ideas*, elaboration lessons for K-6; *Extreme Makeover: Conventions and Writing Skills Edition*, 100 convention lessons for teachers in grades 3 and 4, *Developing Sentence Imitation*, using literature to imitate sentence patterns, and *Developing Artistic Writing with Engaging Literature*, using mentor texts to teach literary skills.

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