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School-wide Plan 2017-18 School Year

School Mission:

“It is not a question of education, not a question of instructing the mind in old or new mathematics, or old and new physics. It is life, pulsating, demanding life that we give to the child.” (Maria Montessori)

The South Broward Montessori Charter School (SBMCS) is designed as a child-centered, community-oriented elementary charter school rooted in the scientific teachings of Dr. Maria Montessori. It serves students in grades K-5, and offers a quality, Montessori education and a nurturing environment to the economically and culturally diverse families in the area. The academic program offers a uniquely prepared, individualized educational environment that emphasizes development of students who are self-disciplined, cooperative, responsible, creative thinkers of the community and the world. As a public school it is open to all children. The school will strive to instill a solid foundation in intellectual growth, social education, and humanitarianism.

The School’s pedagogical philosophy is based on the premise that excellence in education requires:

- An extraordinary commitment on the part of the family, school, and community members. The central focus of this compact is the belief that families are ultimately responsible for their child’s growth and development.
- Teachers who keenly observe, diagnose, and prescribe an individual education plan for each learner that is cooperatively developed and regularly evaluated by the director, parent, and child.
- A developmentally appropriate, experiential learning system that facilitates a sense of mastery and accomplishment.

The goals of the School are:

- To facilitate a well-rounded, comprehensive curriculum that instills a sense of wonder about the universe and the child’s place within that universe.
- To implement an individualized child-centered curriculum that includes movement, manipulation and discovery within a multi-age classroom.
- To extend the classroom out into the community, creating a web of exchange among community members, family, and teachers.

Literacy Programs

K-2 Core Reading Curriculum: Based on a balanced literacy approach, SBMCS will utilize the Montessori Language curriculum, Journeys, Primary Phonics, Waseca Reading program and Literature read-aloud. Literacy instruction occurs throughout the school day during both the morning and afternoon work periods. Teachers deliver literacy instruction in whole group, small group and one-on-one formats. Small group formats are heterogeneous and/or homogeneous depending on the teacher's objective. Students will work collaboratively (with the teacher and their peers) and independently with Primary Phonics, Waseca Reading, and Montessori Language lessons. Independent instruction is based on the student's individual level as determined by teacher observation/interaction and/or performance data.

3-5 Core Reading Curriculum: Based on a balanced literacy approach, SBMCS will utilize the Montessori Language curriculum, Journeys, Literature studies, District reading portfolios (Grade 3 only), Grade-level specific reading passages, and the SRA Reading Laboratory. Literacy instruction occurs throughout the school day during both the morning and afternoon work periods. Teachers deliver literacy instruction in whole group, small group and one-on-one formats. Small group formats are heterogeneous and/or homogeneous depending on the teacher's objective. Students will work collaboratively (with the teacher and their peers) and independently with the Montessori Language lessons, reading passages, and SRA program. The SRA Reading program challenges students with complex text and enhances comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, word analysis, and study skills. Additionally, it increases students' knowledge base using a variety of fiction and nonfiction selections at their own reading levels. Independent instruction is based on the student's individual level as determined by teacher observation/interaction and/or performance data.

Vocabulary Enrichment Grades 3-5: Word Wisdom (Zaner-Bloser) vocabulary in context program will be utilized to increase students' understanding of the English language through context clues, Latin/Greek roots, and reference skills. The program increase reading fluency and comprehension, and strengthens reading and writing across subject areas. This program aligns to Common Core State Standards for Vocabulary Acquisition.

Spelling Program (Grades 1-5):

The K-12 Reader Spelling Program is currently being utilized in Grade 1. Students are introduced to the words at the beginning of the week, complete various activities to reinforce retention and memorization of the words including the Reading Comprehension Worksheets provided, and complete an assessment at the end of the week.

The Spelling Connections (Zaner-Bloser) program is being utilized in Grades 2-5. This program will provide students with daily comprehensive spelling practice by connecting spelling to thinking, phonics/vocabulary, reading, and writing. Teachers will provide differentiated instruction within this program and additional spelling support to ELLs which includes audio conversations.

Handwriting (Grade 2-5):

The cursive handwriting program being utilized by Grades K-1 follows the philosophy and principles of the Montessori Method.

The Handwriting Program (Zaner-Bloser) is being utilized by Grades 2-5. This program provides cursive handwriting practice and support to students through the use of a workbook.

Writing (Grade K-5):

The core writing program that is being utilized for all grades (K-5) is WriteSteps. It is a standards-based writing program with and infusion of grammar lessons. It incorporates best practices of the 6 Traits of Writing, Writer's Workshop, Multiple Intelligences, and Bloom's Taxonomy. Lessons will be taught according to the program's pacing guide utilizing the daily lesson plans, visual aids, demonstration videos, student videos, and technology.

Literacy Goals

In grades K-5, 75% of the students will be on or above grade level according to the I-Ready end of the year Diagnostic test administered in May 2018.

In grades 1, 70% of the students will score 55% or higher on the Primary End of the Year Reading Test (BSA) administered in May 2018.

In grades 2, 70% of the students will score 65% or higher on the Primary End of the Year Reading Test (BSA) administered in May 2018.

In grades 3-5, 50% of the students will score Level 3 or above on the Spring 2018 administration of the FSA ELA.

Math

Core Math Curriculum grades K-2: The core Math program being utilized is Montessori's scope and sequence. Concepts will be introduced with the use of concrete, didactic materials. Singapore Math concepts and strategies are also incorporated into the Core Math teachings.

Core Math Curriculum grades 3-5:

The core Math program being utilized is the MAFS Ready Math curriculum. Concepts are introduced with the use of concrete, didactic materials (when appropriate). MAFS Ready Math incorporates the use of conceptual teaching with pictorial representations of concepts. Singapore Math concepts and strategies are also incorporated into the Core Math teachings.

Math Goals

In grades K-5, 65% of the students will be on or above grade level according to the I-Ready end of the year Diagnostic test administered in May 2018.

In grades 1, 60% of the students will score 55% or higher on the Primary End of the Year Math Test (BSA) administered in May 2018.

In grades 2, 60% of the students will score 65% or higher on the Primary End of the Year Math Test (BSA) administered in May 2018.

In grades 3-5, 40% of the students will score Level 3 or above on the Spring 2018 administration of the FSA Math.

Social Studies

Social Studies Core Curriculum (grades K-3): The core program for Social Studies used at SBMCS will be an integration of curriculum using Studies Weekly, Florida standards, and Montessori's Cosmic Education scope and sequence. Teachers will implement this curriculum following the Montessori scope which presents information to students in a sequential manner from the Beginning of Time (Big Bang) to present day. Lessons are introduced with the use of visuals and manipulatives. The Studies Weekly program will engage students in content aligned with the Florida standards.

Social Studies Core Curriculum (grades 4-5): The core program for Social Studies used at SBMCS will be an integration of curriculum using Studies Weekly and Florida standards. Teachers will implement this curriculum using the Montessori philosophy which presents information to students in a sequential manner and utilizes visuals/manipulatives. The Studies Weekly program will engage students in content aligned with the Florida standards.

Science

Studies Weekly Science K-3: The core program for Science used at SBMCS will be an integration of curriculum using Studies Weekly Science and Montessori's Cosmic Education scope and sequence/materials. Teachers will implement this curriculum using the Montessori scope which presents information to students in a sequential manner from the Beginning of Time (Big Bang) to present day. Teachers introduce/teach specific lessons from Studies Weekly. Teachers will utilize hands on materials/visuals and will provide inquiry-based learning opportunities. Teachers will encourage higher order thinking through the use of the Depth of Knowledge framework. All Florida Science Standards are taught with the integration of both curriculums.

Studies Weekly grades 4-5: The core program for Science used at SBMCS will be Studies Weekly Science and concrete materials/visuals. Teachers will implement this curriculum by teaching the specific lessons. Teachers will utilize hands on materials/visuals and will provide inquiry-based learning opportunities. Teachers will encourage

higher order thinking through the use of the Depth of Knowledge framework. All Florida Science Standards are taught with the Studies Weekly Science program.

Science Goal

In grade 5, 50% of the students will score Level 3 or higher on the Spring 2018 administration of the NGSSS Science Assessment.