



Community Report on Emerson Elementary School

A Traditional Parent's Perspective on School Policies and Environment

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Emerson Elementary serves students from PreK through fifth grade in Westchester Miami. Enrollment is around three hundred fifty students with a student-teacher ratio near sixteen to one. Academic performance is strong, with approximately seventy-seven percent proficiency in math and reading. The school consistently earns A grade ratings and is ranked highly among elementary schools in Florida.

The school operates under district policy that requires staff to respect student chosen names and pronouns from early grades without a parental opt-out option. From a traditional or faith-based perspective the school receives a **rating of three point five out of ten**. While academic credentials and enrichment programs are excellent strengths, some families may wish to explore how identity policies are applied.

School Contact Information

School Name

Emerson Elementary School

Address

8001 Southwest 36th Street
Miami FL 33155

Phone

305 264 5757

Grades

PreK to Five

District

Miami Dade County Public Schools

1. Academic Standing and Programs

The school offers Gifted and Talented classes, STEAM integration, literacy nights, academic challenges, and family oriented reading programs. Enrichment also includes clubs, arts projects, and community science fairs to reinforce learning.

2. Student Community and Support Services

The student community is nearly ninety-six percent Hispanic with a relatively small mix of other backgrounds. About fifty percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Services include ESL assistance, reading intervention programs, special education support, and counseling services for student well-being.

3. Facilities and Learning Environment

Facilities include modern classrooms, a media center, an arts and robotics lab, and secure outdoor areas. Parents report strong safety routines and supportive classroom environments. Community events and tutorial support are offered frequently.

4. Values and Policy Environment

District policy defines gender identity and sexual orientation as protected categories. Staff are mandated to respect preferred names and pronouns and undergo inclusive training. Inclusive language may appear during announcements or counseling even though there is no formal curriculum focused on these topics in early grades.

Parents may wish to clarify how these policies are introduced to students and how their own family values are considered in classroom communication.

5. Recent Incidents or Concerns

In 2019 a kitchen gas leak prompted a temporary evacuation. All staff and students were led to safety and returned once the situation was resolved. Other than this event no serious safety or misconduct incidents are reported.

6. Parent Engagement and Communication

The school supports family involvement through monthly advisory council meetings, PTA events, Parent Academy workshops, newsletters, teacher contact platforms, and classroom volunteering opportunities. Parents often report responsive communication and community support.

7. Parent Concerns and Recommended Actions

Families aligned with traditional or faith-based values may consider:

- How pronoun and identity practices are introduced in classrooms
- Access to reading or math support for students needing help
- Communication process when behavior or safety incidents occur
- Opportunities to contribute to school policy via advisory council or volunteering

Recommended actions for parents

Attend advisory meetings early

Meet with your child's teacher at the start of the year
Volunteer in literacy or arts events to observe class dynamics
Examine the school handbook and ask about dismissal and incident policies

Final Rating: 3.5 out of 10

Policy Environment – 2

District requires pronoun and identity affirmation from PreK onward without opt-out

School Practice – 5

The school demonstrates strong teaching and parent involvement while following district policies

Classroom Exposure – 4

Inclusive language may appear informally; no formal LGBTQ curriculum in early grades

Community Culture – 6

Parents are actively involved and students perform well; communication protocols are generally strong

Final Summary for Parents

Emerson Elementary offers high academic achievement, enrichment opportunities, and a supportive community atmosphere. It follows district mandates on pronoun use and inclusive training for staff starting in primary grades. Families who prefer minimized exposure to these practices are encouraged to participate in school events, meet with educators, and volunteer early to ensure alignment with their values.