
National Blue Ribbon Schools Program

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION SINCE 1982

AcadeMir Charter School Middle
Miami, Florida

Student Engagement and Opportunities to Learn Video Transcript

Gabriel Guevara, Graduate: If I met someone that wants to come to AcadeMir, I would tell them that it's a very special place. Everyone here treats you like family, and they want to make you the best person you can be, and they want to make you improve in every aspect, academically and in your personal way.

Robert Lewis, English Language Arts Teacher: One thing I feel AcadeMir Charter School Middle does real well is give students the opportunity to learn. Over and over we try to meet them where they're at by giving them multiple opportunities. If it's not through their English language arts course, it's through their intensive reading course, through after school tutoring, through Saturday academy tutoring. We try our best to give these students, many of which English is not their first language the opportunity to learn and to apply what they've learned throughout the day and throughout their courses.

Karla Rodriguez, Principal: We offer different programs and styles to help the students to succeed. So, we have our before school tutoring. Then, we have our after school tutoring that we offer in different subject areas, in our language arts, math, and science. And then we also offer our tutoring on Saturday to support the students in the specific subject area, depending on their grade level.

In addition to that tutoring, we have intervention during the day. The students receive two different types of intervention. We have intensive courses that are focused on the specific subject where the teacher uses their data to know exactly where the child is struggling and where they need the support. And then, we have intervention which is where the small group of students are pulled out, and work with a certified teacher which knows how the child is struggling and it's more in the one-to-one assistance for them in the class.

Erlan Cabrera, Science Teacher and Department Chair: All of these extra support programs that we have in school are always open to change throughout the year, mostly based in data, mostly based in student performance from previous years, or sometimes the same year. Like, we can open a specific tutoring session for a specific group, and then if we see improvement, we can change the students, change the setups, change the subject. So administration is always, always count on the teachers and on the faculty for those new ideas and ways of giving that extra support that the students need.

Yaneth Mago, Math Teacher and Department Chair: One of the things that also makes a difference, is I think in our students, is the balance. In addition to academics, you have electives that complement you, is great, because in this school, we have eight periods. So you have four core classes, and four electives.

We can use some of those electives for additional support in the subjects, but we also have fun things. I teach also a computer class that my students love. Math and technology go really close together. The students get the opportunity to develop additional potential. And those classes motivate them.

Erlan Cabrera, Science Teacher and Department Chair: I will always recommend the school because the choices that students have in terms of electives is huge. Like almost every department have a set of electives, and science department, we offer three different elective classes. And I would say the ones the student like the most is robotics, which is basically an engineering basic class where they get to build a robot, but they also learn coding, they learn how to program, to run autonomous program. Is a great elective that gives extra support when it comes to mostly science and math, engineering abilities. They develop skills of thinking and solving problems and they have fun.

Karina Borges, Math Coach: Electives are important because it's a fun way to incorporate the instructions that they get in their core classes, but also making it hands on. My advice to other schools would be to make learning fun. Make it engaging, make it interactive, so that the students don't realize that they're actually learning, and they just think that they're having a good time.

Ricardo Gonzalez, Exceptional Education and Math Teacher: It's really a family-oriented atmosphere. Everybody's trying to help everybody. Our goal, we don't have individual goals, we have goals for the school. You know, our goal is by the end of the year, we wanna see, as much as we can, kids go to the next level. And we don't want them only to go to the next level, we want them to be prepared for the next level, and a lot of this comes back to us when we see the kids succeed in high school.