

# CONNECTION

A newsletter for Miami-Dade County Public Schools Parents

SEPTEMBER 2017

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 35

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Hurricane Irma
- Diploma Pathways
- FAFSA

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR MORE THAN 380 MAGNET PROGRAMS BEGINS OCT. 1



**MAGNETSCHOOLS**  
GIVING OUR STUDENTS A WORLD OF CHOICES

**MAGNET APPLICATION**  
OPENS OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

To apply, visit [www.miamimagnets.org](http://www.miamimagnets.org).

## SCHOOLS TO HOLD OPEN HOUSES

M-DCPS will hold Open Houses beginning Monday, Sept. 25 through Thursday, October 19. Please contact your child's school to confirm your Open House date.

Attend Open House to meet your child's teacher(s), learn about your child's classes and academic programs, and homework policy and expectations. Remember that daily attendance plays a pivotal role in academic achievement and your support is key to your child's



success. Share your Open House experience with us on Twitter using the hashtag #openhouse2017. Visit

<http://openhouse.dadeschools.net/> for more information.

## SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

**OCT. 11**  
11 a.m.  
Regular Meeting

**NOV. 14**  
10 a.m.  
Organization Meeting

**NOV. 15**  
11 a.m.  
Regular Meeting

**DEC. 6**  
11 a.m.  
Regular Meeting

## IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION

September 28 - Secondary Early Release Day  
October 2 - Teacher Planning Day  
October 27 - Teacher Planning Day

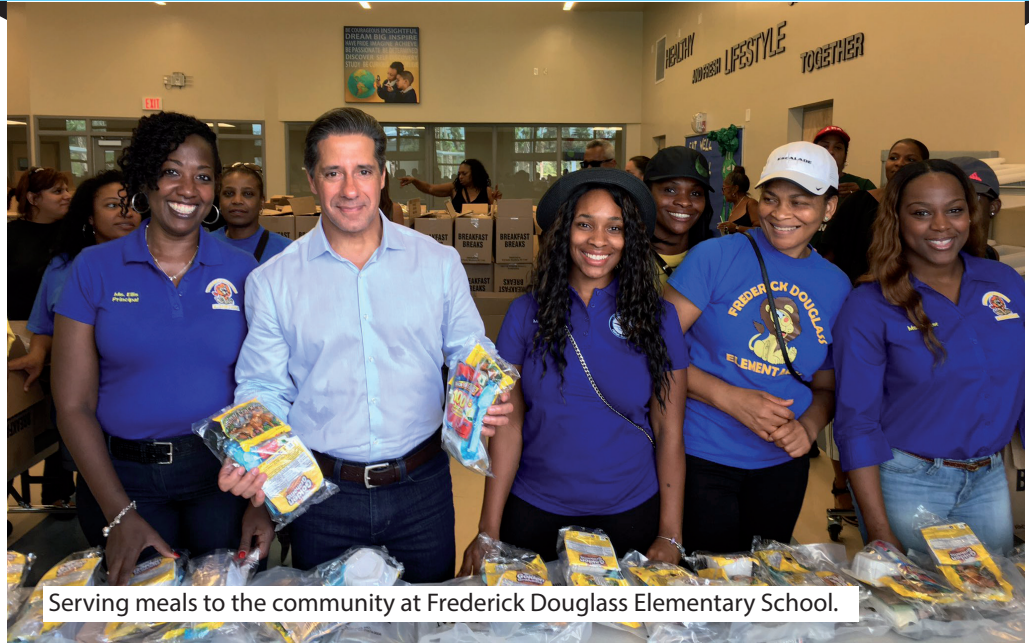
## ATTEND M-DCPS



## Attendance is a priority at M-DCPS.

- Students are considered chronically absent if they miss as few as two days of school per month.
- Students can't learn if they are not present in school, so attendance is a must.
- Being late to school leads to poor attendance.
- Attending school regularly makes students feel better about themselves and school.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from high school, attend college and enter the workforce successfully.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring that children are in school every day.

## M-DCPS FAMILY COMES TOGETHER FOR HURRICANE IRMA



Serving meals to the community at Frederick Douglass Elementary School.

Hurricane Irma was one of the most powerful storms to impact South Florida in recent history. The contributions of every segment of the M-DCPS family provided a community-wide safety net for those in need as we faced the grave uncertainty of the storm's impact. The evacuation and shelter operation carried out was unprecedented in scope, size and effectiveness. More than 30,000 community members sought refuge in one of the 44 school facilities opened as a shelter. As soon as Irma passed, we turned our attention to the careful

### Nearly 50,000 meals were distributed to members of the community.

evaluation of damages caused during the hurricane, followed by clean-up and repair efforts, in order to re-open schools quickly. Our primary objective was to return a sense of normalcy to the children and families we serve in our community. Steps were taken to ensure that students and families had access to food as soon as school facility conditions allowed. On September 14

and 15, several schools across the District served as food and water distribution sites. Efforts were also coordinated among Miami-Dade Schools Police, District staff, and local government entities to ensure safe routes to schools for our students. As our community recovers from Irma, M-DCPS will continue to provide the same level of commitment to excellence and the delivery of high-quality public education. Be sure to download the Dadeschools mobile app and follow us on social media to stay informed and connected in the event of an emergency.

## FREE BREAKFAST & LUNCH THROUGH OCT. 20

**M-DCPS**  
DEPARTMENT OF



**FOOD &  
NUTRITION**

*EATING HEALTHY EVERY DAY!*

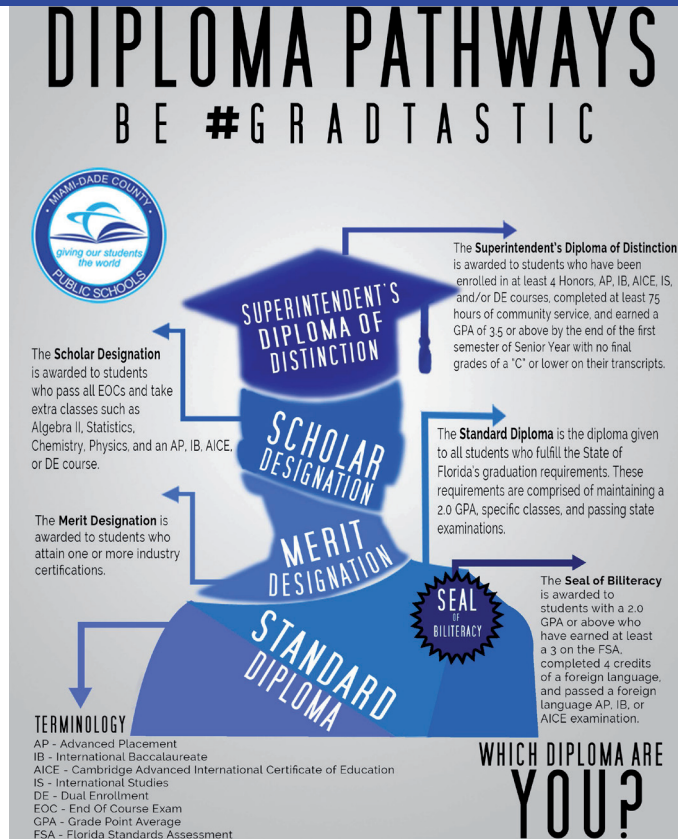
Due to Hurricane Irma, lunch is free for all students through October 20, 2017. After that date, only students certified for free lunch are eligible to continue receiving this benefit. If your child is eligible, please make sure you fill out the application for meal benefits now or any time before October 20. For more information, visit <https://freeandreducedmealapp.dadeschools.net/lfserver/LandingPage>.

Remember that breakfast is FREE for students at all Miami-Dade public schools each school day. Elementary schools offer breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m., middle schools from 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and high schools from 6:30 a.m. to 7:15 a.m.

## 'DIPLOMA PATHWAYS' TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

M-DCPS wants to ensure that parents and students are aware of the different diploma options available in Florida and in our school district. Through Diploma Pathways, students can plan their academic trajectory early on and also have the opportunity to distinguish themselves to colleges and universities.

Students can earn a Standard Diploma, Scholar or Merit designations, or be awarded the Superintendent's Diploma of Distinction. International options include AP Capstone, Cambridge, and International Baccalaureate. For more information, speak to your school's CAP Advisor or school counselor.



## STAY INFORMED



Students are required to have emergency contact information on file at their school to ensure that parents and other designated individuals may be quickly notified in the event of an emergency. Please make sure the information on your child's student data card is always updated. Should changes to names, telephone numbers or addresses occur, be sure to provide new information.

## NEED HELP PAYING FOR COLLEGE?

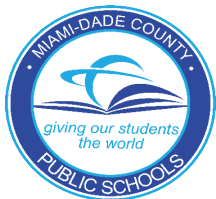


Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) beginning Oct. 1, 2017. Completing and submitting the FAFSA form is free and quick, and gives you access to the largest source of financial aid to pay for college or career school. The process takes on average 25 minutes to complete. Visit [www.FAFSA.gov](http://www.FAFSA.gov) to submit your application.

### PARENT E-TIPS:

Primary: Get Your Child Organized  
 Secondary: Speak to Your Teen's Teachers

For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/2xE7NJ>.



[www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net)

## SOCIAL MEDIA



@MDCPS  
 @MiamiSup



MiamiSchools  
 AlbertoMCarvalho1



@MiamiSchools  
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MiamiSchools

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