

CONNECTION

A Newsletter for Miami-Dade County Public Schools Parents

SEPTEMBER 2018

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STARTING THE YEAR OFF RIGHT!



Citrus Grove Elementary School students start the year off right thanks to a donation of more than 1,000 backpacks full of school supplies from Office Depot.

NEW, RENOVATED SCHOOLS WELCOME M-DCPS STUDENTS

Beyond the usual excitement of beginning a new school year, students, staff and the community can look forward to Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) many beautiful new buildings opening during the 2018-2019 school year. These gleaming new campuses are made possible with capital funds along with the main funding source – General Obligation Bonds (GOB) – to renovate, remodel and replace schools; expand student capacity;



enhance safety and provide technology upgrades. This year, \$147 million in building improvements are set to

be unveiled at more than 60 schools as a result of the GOB. #GOBprogress

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

OCT. 10

11 a.m.

Regular Meeting

NOV. 20

10 a.m.

Organization Meeting

11 a.m.

Regular Meeting

IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION

September 27 - Secondary Early Release Day

October 1 - Magnet Registration Opens

October 26 - Teacher Planning Day

SPRINT 1 MILLION PROJECT



Miami-Dade County Public Schools is expanding its Sprint 1 Million Project (1MP) distribution of smartphones to include eligible 11th and 12th grade students. Initially, the project was open to 9th and 10th grade students, but starting in 2018-19, all high school students (grades 9-12) who meet the Sprint 1MP eligibility criteria may receive smartphones/hotspot devices. To be eligible to receive a device, students must qualify for free and reduced lunch and not have high-speed internet at home. Sprint defines not having high-speed internet at home as: no home internet access at all; multiple students in the same household, working from a

single computer; Internet is available at home, but at a very low bandwidth and is not adequate for completing homework assignments.

The 1 Million Project provides eligible students with an Android smartphone for use while they are enrolled in an M-DCPS high school, free hotspot capability while on the Sprint network, 3 GB per month of free high-speed LTE data while on the Sprint Network, unlimited data at 2G speeds, unlimited Voice and Text (no international long distance calls), and unlimited domestic calls/texts while on the Sprint Network. Eligible students must complete the required consent form and turn in the signed form to the designated school personnel.

For information regarding the Sprint 1 Million Project, visit <http://digital.dadeschools.net/sprint.asp> or Sprint's Student Resources page at <http://www.1millionproject.org/student-resources>.

#MIAMIREADS WILL KEEP OUR STUDENT READING



M-DCPS recognizes that reading is the most important skill that determines success in school. We encourage our students to read from a young age and we provide unique and creative opportunities to promote literacy. Our vision is to engage the whole community in reading by sponsoring the #MiamiReads Campaign. We are kicking off 2018-2019 school year with this dynamic literacy initiative.

The campaign begins in September with Library Card Sign Up month. M-DCPS and the Miami-Dade County Public Library System help students and their parents sign up for a free library card! Additionally, each month on our website, <http://Read.Dadeschools.net>, students can find award-winning books as well as

opportunities to get to know the authors who wrote them.

The #MiamiReads Campaign features special community events such as the Miami Book Fair International in November, Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida in January and Women's History Month Read-In Chain in March. In May, community leaders will visit schools to read to students to discuss the influence books have made in their lives. We encourage you to join us in making reading the foundation for lifelong learning. For more information on #MiamiReads please visit our website or follow us on social media at @MDCPS or @MDCPS_ELA.

Caught someone reading? Use the #MiamiReads poster to showcase the importance of reading across the community.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID AVAILABLE - APPLY NOW!



The 2019-20 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will become available on October 1, 2018 at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>.

Completing and submitting the FAFSA form is free and quick, and gives students access to the largest source of financial

aid to pay for college. In addition, many states and colleges use FAFSA data to determine eligibility for state and school aid, and some private financial aid providers may use FAFSA information to determine qualification for their aid.

Access to college is often dependent on one's ability to secure financial assistance to pay for college. Florida has the third highest percentage of students who are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant in the country. A Pell Grant is a federal grant for undergraduate students with financial need. It is essentially free money to attend college that does

not need to be repaid. The maximum Federal Pell Grant award was \$6,095 for the 2018-19 award year.

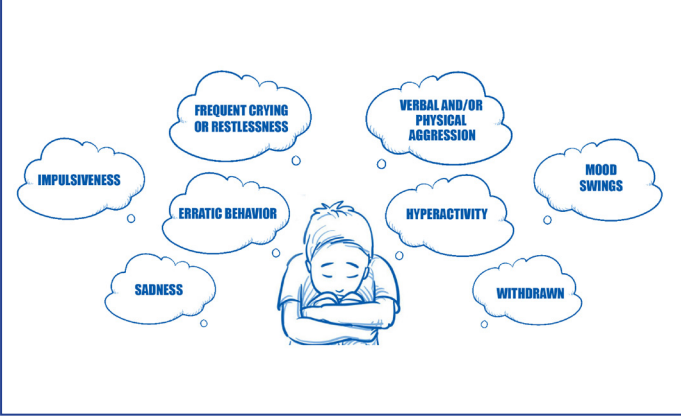
FAFSA completion has been simplified and takes on average 25 minutes to complete online or on any mobile device. Most high schools host FAFSA Completion events.

Contact your school's College Assistance Program (CAP) advisor for more information.

M-DCPS' DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES - WE CAN HELP!

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) established the new Department of Mental Health Services to provide an enhanced coordination of District and community resources in an effort to deliver evidence-based mental health care and treatment for students. Services include provisions for mental health assessments, diagnosis, intervention, and recovery. In addition, there will be an expansion of partnerships with outside agencies to strengthen the collaboration between schools and community.

Mental health challenges among children and adolescents can bring serious



changes to the way they typically learn, behave, or handle their emotions which in turn can cause distress and challenges in getting through the day. M-DCPS is here to help.

In addition to mental health counseling services for students and families, the department is focusing on

prevention programs in the areas of Bullying, Sensitivity and Culture of Respect Training.

For assistance, please contact your child's school or call (305) 995-7100.

Does your child currently qualify for free or reduced-priced lunch at Miami-Dade County Public Schools based on last year's eligibility? To continue these benefits, a new application must be submitted by October 3, 2018. Apply now at freeandreducedmealapp.dadeschools.net.

FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH ELIGIBILITY



PUT IT DOWN!

**NO text.
NO call.
NOTHING**
is worth losing a life over.

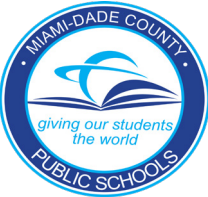
Did you know that texting takes your eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds? That's like driving the length of a football field at 55 mph, blind. M-DCPS encourages you to take the no-texting pledge!

"No text message, email, website, or video is worth the risk of endangering my life of the lives of others on the road. I pledge to never text and drive and will take action to educate others about the dangers of texting while driving."

E-TIPS FOR FAMILIES:

Primary:
Get Your Child Organized
<https://bit.ly/2wQ9yUI>

Secondary:
Strong Relationships Start with Time
<https://bit.ly/2NSdo6V>



www.dadeschools.net

SOCIAL MEDIA



@MDCPS
@MiamiSup



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@AlbertoMCarvalho1



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