

CONNECTION

A Newsletter for Miami-Dade County Public Schools Parents

FEBRUARY 2018

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REGISTER NOW AND RACE FOR EDUCATION ON APRIL 7! #MIAMISUP5K



Support your school's team! Register at: <https://www.athlinks.com/event/superintendents-5k-challenge-walkrun-167578>

NEW RECORDING STUDIO AT MIAMI ARTS STUDIO 6-12

The José Milton Foundation recently donated \$100,000 for a recording studio at Miami Arts Studio 6-12 at Zelda Glazer. The funds are being used exclusively for purchasing and installing equipment and setting up and maintaining the José Milton Foundation Recording Studio @ MAS.

The state-of-the-art recording space is the only professional studio housed in a public school and will be open to all M-DCPS



students beginning in April. The Foundation has also provided funds for the studio to have an artist-in-residence

who will work with students to produce, record and distribute their music.

IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION

Feb. 15 - Regular school day (previously secondary early release day)
Feb. 19 - Presidents' Day
Feb. 25 - National College Fair
March 23- Teacher Planning Day

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

FEB. 21

11 a.m.
Regular Meeting

MAR. 21

11 a.m.
Regular Meeting

APRIL 25

10 a.m.
Conference Session:
Attendance Zones for
2018-2019

11 a.m.
Regular Meeting; Initial
Reading - Attendance
Zones for 2018-2019

ALUMNI HALL OF FAME



Three outstanding alumni were honored for their achievements and astonishing work in the areas of media, business, and arts & entertainment by being inducted into M-DCPS' Alumni Hall of Fame.

Alumnus of Distinction- Chuck Todd, moderator of NBC's *Meet the Press*. Todd is a graduate of Miami Killian Senior High School.

Business- Thomas M. Cornish, Chief Operating Officer of BankUnited. Cornish attended Miami Central and Miami Edison senior high schools and earned his GED from Lindsey Hopkins Adult Education Center.

Arts & Entertainment- Lourdes Lopez, Artistic Director of the Miami City Ballet. Lopez attended Shenandoah Junior High and Coral Way Elementary School.

MOLLY WINTERS DIALLO NAMED M-DCPS TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Molly Winters Diallo, a Social Sciences teacher at Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High School, was named the 2019 Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year in a ceremony last month.

Four finalists vied for the coveted title this year, which included one nominee from each of the District's three regions, and one from Alternative/Adult Education.

During her 20-year teaching tenure, 13 of them with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Diallo impacted the lives of many students,

As an adoptee and adoptive mother, Molly Winters Diallo sees the world as a classroom and all people as family.

both by helping them reach their academic potential and deepening their understanding of the forces that shape their lives, the nation, and the world. Many of her students routinely score above the global mean scores in the U.S. History End-of-Course exam and the Advanced Placement Psychology and Human Geography exams. Among Diallo's favorite assignments to students is

a county-wide scavenger hunt that encourages students to explore various neighborhoods and make geographic connections.

Diallo encourages her students to study abroad during college and works closely with them to apply for such experiences. Five of her students were selected for highly competitive, fully-funded State Department youth leadership programs in Cambodia and Indonesia. Another student spent her junior year in India as part of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and study Abroad.

FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS



It's never too early to save for college. In fact, the earlier a family begins saving, the lower the cost per month. We want to make sure you know about an affordable, flexible option for college savings that is guaranteed by the State of Florida, and has helped more than 450,000 students attend college.

Florida Prepaid College Plans offers five Prepaid tuition plans to fit a variety of budgets. Lock in tomorrow's tuition costs with guaranteed plans starting at \$47 per month. Enroll by February 28 to take advantage of those prices during the current Open Enrollment period.

Saving for college can be simple, affordable and stress-free at myfloridaprepaid.com. Use promo code SUP1718 when you enroll by Feb. 28, 2018 and save half off the application fee!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

To help your child achieve the most from school, he or she must maintain high attendance.

Here are a few helpful tips for parents:

1. Ensure that your child arrives to school on time and avoids leaving early.
• Both may disrupt the teaching and learning process.
• Today's lessons depend on understanding yesterday's instructions.

2. Schedule doctor and dentist appointments in the beginning/end of the day or on a day when students are out of school.

3. Children will get coughs



and colds. Unless it is serious, it does not mean that they need to miss school.

• Collaborate with the school if your child needs medication or cough drops to be comfortable during the day.

4. Monitor your child's attendance using the Parent Portal.

• For assistance with the Parent Portal, please contact your child's school.

5. There are 180 school days. Families are encouraged to take vacation during the holidays, winter and/or spring breaks.

#MDCPSGRAD



Miami-Dade County Public Schools released its 2018 graduation dates, locations and times. This year's graduation ceremonies will take place from May 30 through June 7.

To download the schedule, visit:

http://pdfs.dadeschools.net/students/grad_schd_18.pdf

VIRTUAL LEARNING

**Log On
Learn More**



The Miami-Dade Online Academy offers students a comprehensive K-12 full-time virtual educational program providing anytime and anywhere learning.

Enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year begins March 13 and ends on July 20 at 11:59 p.m.

For more information, visit <http://mdo.dadeschools.net>.

PARENT E-TIPS:

Primary: Help Your Child Use 'In' & 'Out' Boxes
<http://bit.ly/2Eb1hNr>

Secondary: Strategies for Success for Children with Learning Disabilities
<http://bit.ly/2C8IMru>



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**Produced by the
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