

CONNECTION

A Newsletter for Miami-Dade County Public Schools Parents

JANUARY 2018

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EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS...WHERE LEARNING BEGINS

READY, SET, ENROLL!



earlychildhood.dadeschools.net



Miami-Dade County Public Schools
is now enrolling children
3 and 4 years of age.

To find your nearest
public school and learn more
call 305-995-7632.



M-DCPS' GRADUATION RATE CONTINUES TO RISE, SETS NEW HIGH

M-DCPS' graduation rate rose once again to 80.7 percent for the 2016-2017 academic year. This rate marks the highest graduation rate M-DCPS has achieved since the Florida Department of Education began tracking graduation statistics in the late 1990's. The graduation rate rose despite the more rigorous Grade 10 Florida Standards Assessments English Language Arts component.

The District's graduation



rate has increased by 22 percent from 58.7 percent in 2006-2007 to 80.7 percent in 2016-17, and if charter

schools' data is excluded, the graduation rate is 84.2.

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

IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION

Feb. 2 - Take our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
Feb. 15 - Regular school day (previously secondary early release day)
Feb. 19 - Presidents' Day

FREE TAX PREP



United Way Miami Offers Families Free Tax Assistance

Working families need a secure, free way to file their taxes correctly, claim all their tax credits and receive maximum refunds. The IRS estimates that 80 percent of Miami-Dade tax filers may qualify for free tax preparation services at Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Sites. Last year, nearly 10,000 families received free tax preparation services and earned \$12.9 million in tax refunds through the VITA Program.

For more information, please call 2-1-1 or visit www.miamifreetaxes.org.

EVERYBODY MENTORS!



Mentoring provides an opportunity for men and women to be positive adult role models in a child's life. A mentor is someone who is genuinely happy to see that child each time they meet, someone who is refreshing and upbeat, someone who can be an objective observer, an encourager, a fun companion, and good listener.

Mentors can help an adolescent see the glass as half full instead of half empty, and through devoting at least one hour a week, sends a child the message that she or he is important.

With the help of a mentor, at-risk youth are 55 percent more likely to pursue a higher education.

Business leader Humberto Comellas has mentored three students from Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High School. He enjoys mentoring because he is able to help youth look past their challenges and reach their full potential. He builds relationships with them and is there for them as they grow into adults.

He encourages fellow mentors to exercise patience with their mentees.

Many students face adversity every day and can be very guarded as a result. It takes time to build meaningful bonds with students and break down their barriers to help them succeed. Not all students are the same; they have different needs. Some students need support and structure from their mentors, while others may just want somebody to talk to.

Who mentored you? Behind every graduate is a "coach" who contributed to their success. Ready to make a difference? Find out how by visiting

<https://www.engagemiamidade.net/>

LEARN FROM INNOVATORS AT THE STEAM EXPO



Future innovators have the opportunity to show off their skills at this year's STEAM Expo, scheduled to take place February 10 at Miami-Dade College.

The Expo is Miami-Dade County's keystone STEAM event. It provides an excellent opportunity for students to showcase the fruits of their hard work in the areas of Science, Technology, Art, Engineering and Mathematics. The STEAM Expo promotes a healthy level of competition that allows students to calibrate themselves against the brightest students throughout our community. The public is invited to attend and support the next generation of inventors, explorers, innovators, artists and leaders.

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

NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR COMES TO MIAMI, FEB. 25, 2018

Representatives from nearly 200 colleges and universities will be at the 2018 Miami National College Fair – on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2018, to meet with students and parents on subjects such as financial aid, college planning, admission and testing requirements.

The Fair, which has free admission, will be held from 12 - 4 p.m., at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Miami Airport & Convention Center, 777 N.W. 72nd Ave., Miami, FL 33126. Parking is \$5, cash only.

Select informational sessions will be presented in Spanish and Haitian-Creole. A Counseling Center also will be available to allow



students and their parents the opportunity to talk with trained professionals regarding college preparation, admissions and scholarships.

Requesting information from multiple colleges/universities at the College Fair is easy. By pre-registering, students can print a bar-coded

confirmation to be used at the Fair as an electronic ID. Students can pre-register at www.gotomyncf.com.

For more information, contact the College Fair hotline at 305-995-1739 or visit www.nacacnet.org. Follow the event at #collegefairmiami.

STAY HEALTHY!



Help prevent the spread of the flu:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash hands often.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect hard surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.

KING CARTER GLOBAL TRADE & LOGISTICS ACADEMY



The King Carter Academy of Trade & Logistics at Miami Northwestern Senior opened its doors earlier this year. This initiative was made possible by a donation from an anonymous benefactor in memory of King Carter, the six-year-old Van E. Blanton Elementary School student who invoked pride and deep respect from all who knew him and loved him.

PARENT E-TIPS:

Primary: Help your child make friends
Secondary: New techniques for reviewing math skills
For more resources, visit

<https://www.engagemiamidade.net/e-tips-for-parents>



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SOCIAL MEDIA



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