

**Miami-Dade County Public Schools'
District Student Government Association**

U.N.I.T.Y.

**Understanding Negative
Influences in Today's Youth**

Campaign

Information Packet



**The District's Student Government Association is part of Miami-Dade
County Public Schools' Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills.**

In this packet, you will find.....

- a) Statement of Purpose for the District Student Government Association's Campaign**
- b) Calendar of Events**
- c) SGA Leadership Conference Description**
- d) Registration Form- SGA Leadership Conference**
- e) Flyer for SGA's Leadership Conference**
- f) Description of Competitions**
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- h) Suggestions of Activities for Schools and Web Resources to Use During National Youth Violence Prevention Week, March 22-26, 2010**
- i) Senior High School Violence Prevention Week Reporting Form**

Statement of Purpose for the Student Government Association's Campaign:

In light of a recent increase in negative behaviors and violence in our schools, the District Student Government Association has organized a campaign titled, "U.N.I.T.Y.- Understanding Negative Influences in Today's Youth," in hopes of shedding some light on the issues facing students today and reducing negative behaviors and violence in schools.

As a kick off event for this campaign, the District Student Government Association, in cooperation with the Miami Heat Organization and the Anti-Defamation League, is hosting its annual Student Leadership Conference on Saturday, March 20, 2010 at the American Airlines Arena in downtown Miami (please see registration form and flyer on the following pages).

During this leadership conference, students will be trained by staff from the Anti-Defamation League through an initiative called "No Place for Hate." This initiative seeks to provide a model for combating intolerance, bullying and hatred, leading to long-term solutions to these problems in schools. It also provides a unique opportunity to incorporate new and existing programs with one consistent message and connects a participating school to a larger initiative taking place in the region and in other cities across the nation.



Calendar of Events:

- 1. Week of January 11, 2010: Announcements and information distributed to schools via Weekly Briefing**
- 2. Friday, February 19, 2010: Registration and payment for leadership conference due.**
- 3. Monday, March 15, 2010: Entries for poster/art, poetry, and/or video clip/public service announcements due.**
- 4. Saturday, March 20, 2010- SGA Leadership Conference.**
- 5. March 22-26, 2010: National School Violence Prevention Week.**
- 6. March 26, 2010: Senior High School U.N.I.T.Y. Reporting Form due.**

U.N.I.T.Y.
(Understanding Negative Influences in Today's Youth)
SGA Leadership Conference
Saturday, March 20, 2010

The Miami-Dade County Public School's District Student Government Association's Annual Leadership Conference will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2010 at the American Airlines Arena at the East Plaza Gate #5. This year's theme for the conference is U.N.I.T.Y.- Understanding Negative Influence in Today's Youth. The cost to attend the conference is \$20.00 per student. The \$20.00 includes: entrance into the conference, snacks during the conference, and entrance into the Miami Heat vs. the Charlotte Bobcats Basketball Game where the District's Student Government Association will be recognized during the game. Below is the schedule for the conference:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 12:45 p.m. | Registration Opens |
| 1:00-7:00 p.m. | Safe Schools training from the Anti-Defamation League, announcement of competition winners. Snacks to be included during this time. |
| 7:30 p.m. | 400 Level Ticket to Miami Heat vs. Charlotte Bobcats Game |

Schools may purchase additional tickets to the game for \$17.00 (for students/adults who do not attend the Leadership Conference). Parking is available at the Bayside Market Place for a fee and the American Airlines arena is easily accessible via the Metro Rail and People Mover transport system. Transportation is not being provided.

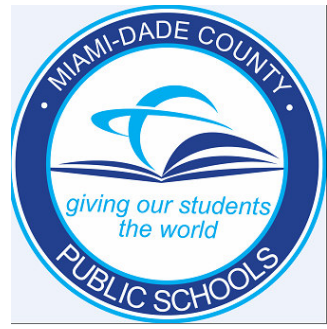
See the attached flyer for additional information, due dates of payment, and a school registration form.



SGA Leadership Conference

UNITY- Understanding Negative Influence in Today's Youth

Saturday, March 20th, 2010 @ 1:00 pm @ AA Arena



\$20 registration cost per student includes:

12:45 PM: Leadership Conference Registration on East Plaza- Gate 5

1:00-7:00 PM: District Student Government Association Leadership Conference
Includes 5 hour Safe Schools training from the Anti-Defamation League and announcement of winners of poster and video clip contest. Snack will be included.

7:30 PM: 400 Level Ticket to Miami HEAT v. Charlotte Bobcats Game

*Additional HEAT Tickets can be purchased for @ \$17

School SGA Sponsors are asked to collect money from students and send one school check made payable to THE MIAMI HEAT with the number of tickets to be purchased on the check.

Send checks via school mail to:

**Bob Brazofsky- Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills
Mail Code # 9626**

**Miami Dade County Public Schools Annex Building Room 326 D
1500 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33132**

Check must be sent on or before:

Friday, February 19, 2010

***Sponsors will be able to pick up tickets during the conference.**



For questions/additional information- contact Bob Brazofsky, District Student Government Association Advisor- at 305 995-1599 or via email at rbrazofsky@dadeschools.net

**All ticket sales are final. There are no refunds or exchanges. Tickets are subject to availability. Lost or stolen tickets will not be replaced. Orders are filled on a first come first serve basis. To view the seating chart, please visit www.HEAT.com.*

Registration Form: SGA Leadership Conference- March 20, 2010

(to be submitted with payment for the conference)

Please Print Very Clearly

School Name: _____

SGA Sponsor's Name: _____

SGA Sponsor's E-mail Address: _____

School's Phone Number: _____

Best Number to Contact SGA Sponsor: _____

Number of Students Attending the Conference (\$20.00 each): _____

Number of Additional Tickets (if any: \$17.00 each): _____

Number of Chaperons (one chaperone free per school): _____

Total Number of Tickets Requested: _____

Make Check Payable to the Miami Heat. Amount of Check: _____

Send checks via school mail to: Bob Brazofsky- Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills. Mail Code #9626.

Checks must be sent on or before Friday, February 19, 2010. Tickets will be distributed at the Leadership Conference.

Schools are also asked send this registration form via FAX to (305) 995-1492 on or before Friday, February 19, 2010. No cover page is required.

Competition Information Sheet

Poster Competition: Schools may submit up to five entries for the poster contest. The poster must represent the theme U.N.I.T.Y. Understanding Negative Influences in Today's Youth. The poster must be a two-dimensional work in either: a) painting (oils, acrylics and watercolor-brushwork; b) graphics (drawings, pastels, oil sticks, and printmaking); c) photography/computer generated imagery; or d) mixed media. Artworks must be no larger than 18" by 24". Send artwork via school mail to : Bob Brazofsky, mail code #9626 or bring the artwork to MDCPS Annex Building, 1500 Biscayne Blvd. Suite 326 D. All posters must be received on or before: Monday, March 15, 2010. Winners will receive: \$100 First Place, \$75 Second Place; and \$50 Third Place.

Video Clip/Public Service Announcement Clip: Schools may submit up to five entries for the video clip/public service announcement clip. Video/Public Service Announcements must represent the them U.N.I.T.Y. Understanding Negative Influences in Today's Youth. The video clip/public service announcement must be original and be submitted via a CD and be able to be played via Windows Media Player. Clips should be no longer than 60 seconds long. Send CD's via school mail to : Bob Brazofsky, mail code #9626 or bring the CD's to MDCPS Annex Building, 1500 Biscayne Blvd. Suite 326 D. All CD's must be received on or before: Monday, March 15, 2010. Winners will receive: \$100 First Place, \$75 Second Place; and \$50 Third Place.

Poetry: Schools may submit up to five entries for the poetry competition. Poems must represent the them U.N.I.T.Y. Understanding Negative Influences in Today's Youth. The poems must be original and word processed on 8 ½ X 11 paper. Send entries via school mail to : Bob Brazofsky, mail code #9626 or bring the poems to MDCPS Annex Building, 1500 Biscayne Blvd. Suite 326 D. All entries must be received on or before: Monday, March 15, 2010. Winners will receive: \$100 First Place, \$75 Second Place; and \$50 Third Place.

All competition entries must have the following student identification sheet attached.

***Student Identification Sheet
SGA Leadership Conference
Competition***

Please complete for each entry the following form and securely attach it to the student work.

Please Print Clearly:

Name of School: _____

Name of Student: _____

Grade: _____

Title of Work: _____

Teacher: _____

Teacher's Email: _____

Teacher's Phone # _____

Please Check One of the Following:

_____ Poster

_____ Video Clip/Public Service Announcement

_____ Poem

Suggestions of Activities for Schools to Use during National Youth Violence Prevention Week March 22-26, 2010

Senior High School Student Government Associations are encouraged to organize events during National Youth Violence Prevention Week. Below are some daily suggestions, taken from the National Youth Violence Prevention Campaign's website, www.nyvpw.org, of events that schools can implement.

Day 1: Promote Respect and Tolerance:

This day, sponsored by the Teaching Tolerance, provides an opportunity to address common challenges facing today's youth such as prejudice, bullying and disrespect.

Here are some additional ways that you can create more inclusive schools...

- Conduct an essay contest on respect and tolerance. Have the winning essay read at an event or during morning announcements.
- Reach out to the unreached. Challenge all students to get to know at least one student they do not know.
- Kick off the week by talking about the impact of bullying. Guide students to the Stop Bullying Now! Campaign website for webisodes, games, surveys, and more!
- Demonstrate how respect and tolerance are fundamental aspects of our life as a democratic society using lessons developed by the Constitutional Rights Foundation-Chicago
- Have a class discussion/role play on the importance of showing respect.
- Use teambuilding activities that emphasize sharing and group participation.
- Identify examples of respect and lack of respect for others in history and literature.
- Assign research papers on different cultures and how they show respect to one another.
- Hold a "Culture Celebration Day" where dress, activities and decorations reflect different cultures from around the world.
- Have students pair up with a student from a different culture and allow them to "shadow" each other for a day to see what it is like to walk in someone else's shoes.
- Review the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and discuss how your school and community support these rights.
- Create a quilt of diversity using pieces of fabric that represent each student's cultural heritage.

Day 2: Manger Your Anger

This strategy, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association, is an effective way to prevent anger from leading to violence. You can also incorporate such important skills as emotional literacy and stress management; as such skills help kids to keep a cool head when facing a potentially violent situation.

Here are some additional ways to teach anger management techniques...

- Sponsor a decorate-a-door contest on ways to handle stress or manage anger for homeroom classes.
- Run role-plays to illustrate positive ways to deal with specific situations, such as being bullied or having someone break into one's locker.
- Hold a class discussion on ways to "cool down" when angered.
- Create drawings, posters or other signs showing that anger is a natural and normal part of life -- but violence is not!
- Ask students to write anonymous essays on how anger hurt them and read the aloud to the class so students will understand what can happen if they don't manage their anger appropriately.
- Use physical education classes to demonstrate healthy ways exercise can be used to release anger and stress.
- Have older students create children's books that demonstrate positive ways to manage anger. Then read them to elementary school students or donate them to the local library.
- Review poetry and other literature that examines anger and how it can be released in healthy ways.

Day 3: Resolve Conflicts Peacefully

This strategy, sponsored by the Association For Conflict Resolution, prevents violence by enabling young people to deal with conflict in a productive way. By teaching kids how to manage their conflicts, they will learn how to de-escalate potentially violent situations before they get out of control.

Below are some ways to educate your students on how to resolve conflicts peacefully...

- Establish a peer mediation program at your school and use this day as a kickoff for the program by running mediation role-plays at a school assembly.
- Create a public service announcement on the importance of managing conflicts peacefully.
- Ask students to document how conflicts are resolved on TV and encourage students to write letters to TV stations asking them to present ways that conflicts can be resolved peacefully.
- Guide students through a brainstorming session where they come up with various ways to be a good listener. Have students participate in role-plays that demonstrate active listening.
- Create a Peacemakers Wall in your school that pays tribute to local, national, and international figures who have resolved conflicts peacefully.
- Identify conflicts in history and discuss how they were resolved peacefully.

Day 4: Support Safety

This day, sponsored by the National Youth Court Center, provides an opportunity to teach students, staff and the community about specific safety initiatives. Some of the issues that can fall under this strategy include preventing school violence by informing adults about specific threats, avoiding risky behaviors such as playing with guns, and stranger safety.

Here are some additional activities to teach students how to support safety...

- Conduct a safety-themed poster contest. Display and let students or faculty judge.
- Start a school crime watch program. Consider including a student patrol that helps keep an eye on corridors, parking lots, etc.
- Use materials from The Good Knight Empowerment Network to inspire youth to protect one another and to teach younger children about stranger safety.
- Prepare a school safety public information brochure or fact sheet.
- Develop a suggestion box or phone line asking for ways to improve safety or provide anonymous tips.
- Coordinate a safety day with local rescue agencies providing exhibits and activities.
- Introduce an anonymous reporting system in your school so that students can report potential violence.
- Set up a table or area where students can identify safe and unsafe places in their school or surrounding communities.
- Launch a mentoring program with your local police department through which students are mentored by police officers.
- Direct your School Safety Committee to promote school violence incident reporting and tracking.

Day 5: Unite in Action

Sponsored by Youth Service America, this day's strategy focuses on bringing communities together in service. By creating a positive sense of community and developing concern for others, students will learn that they can break the chain of violence.

Here are some additional ideas for possible service projects...

- Coordinate a community-wide conference on violence prevention with workshops and recognition awards for those working to reduce violence. Use this opportunity to establish a local community roundtable to address youth violence in your community.
- Promote and encourage students to begin planning for National Youth Service Day.
- Paint a peaceful mural over graffiti on the school or around the community.
- Create a skit or lesson plan to present to your school or other schools/community agencies to spread the violence prevention message.
- Organize a service project where all students and members of the community can come together and make a large impact in the school or community.
- Sponsor a "First Aid" event where students learn first aid techniques and participate in simulation activities that would prepare students to help others in times of need.
- Coordinate a fingerprinting afternoon at the local elementary school. Work with local law enforcement and parents to fingerprint young children.
- Institute an "Adopt-A-Student" program where new students are paired with older students.
- Offer babysitting services and/or donate stuffed animals to the local domestic violence shelter.

U.N.I.T.Y. Reporting Form

Directions: In order to be able to track the impact of the District Student Government Association's campaign in schools, senior high schools who implement activities during the National School Violence Prevention Week, March 22-26, 2010, are asked to fill out the following form.

Please Print Very Clearly

School Name: _____

SGA Sponsor's Name: _____

SGA Sponsor's E-mail Address: _____

Did your school attend the District's Student Leadership Conference on March 20, 2010?

_____ Yes _____ No

Did your school implement school-wide activities during the National School Violence Prevention Week, March 22-26, 2010?

_____ Yes _____ No

Please list and/or describe below the types of activities that were implemented:

Please send this reporting form via FAX to (305) 995-1492 on or before March 26, 2010. No cover page is necessary.