

# CONNECTION

A NEWSLETTER FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARENTS

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## M-DCPS LAUNCHES SUMMER 305 FOR STUDENTS TO EXPLORE, EXPERIENCE & EXCEL



interdisciplinary learning in core areas to strengthen foundational skills that students will need in their next grade level. They also will address social-emotional learning.

Middle school students will be able to participate in the Smart Start Teen Camp, Middle School Course Recovery, a Career Technical Education (CTE) Summer Program, and Speak Up! Summer Camp.

The Smart Start Teen Camp is an interdisciplinary summer program that is fun and engaging with hands-on activities and project-based learning. Students will participate in thematic camp classes like “Finding Your Voice to Shape the World Around You,” “Going Global,” “Time to Explore” and “STEM Up!” These classes will ensure that students think critically and problem solve while preparing them for their classes next school year.

High school programs include the Summer Youth Internship Program (SYIP), High School Credit Recovery, Driver’s Education, Speak Up! Summer Camp, CTE Summer Programs and ACT/SAT Prep Home Connections. The SYIP gives students real-world, practical experience and opportunities for networking through professional connections.

Next month, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will be launching an exciting and robust summer program designed with the whole child in mind. M-DCPS has reimagined summer school through a one-size-fits-none approach to create an experience that will meet the unprecedented needs of our students and continue to address achievement/opportunity gaps.

“Summer 305” runs from June 23 to July 21 and will provide stimulating and challenging courses at 113 schools. Students will be able to explore and experience a menu of options that goes beyond academics to include social-emotional learning, mental health services, physical activities, arts programs, internship opportunities and more.

This year, M-DCPS will once again partner with The Children’s Trust, the largest funder/provider of summer camps in our community, to expand

program offerings. The Children’s Trust offers more than 300 camps across the community – some of which are in our schools. M-DCPS’ certified teachers will be deployed to participating summer camps to provide students with academic instruction on literacy and numeracy to address unfinished learning and develop foundational skills in reading and math that will prepare them for the next grade level.

For students in grades PreK-5, offerings will include Smart Start Elementary Camps, such as Hands-on STEAM, Investigations/Challenges and Math & Reading Foundations, Summer Reading Camps, Summer Arts Programs, Extended-School Year Program, and a school-home connection program called the Adventure Backpack Program.

The Smart Start Camp concept lessons will provide hands-on,

The program will run from July 1 – August 5, 2022. Along with receiving stipends, program participants also will earn high school credit and be given the opportunity to earn dual enrollment credit through Miami Dade College. The High School Credit Recovery program will run from June 14 to July 21.

Driver's Education, new this summer, provides students with the opportunity to receive behind-the-wheel training. Program participants will earn one high school elective credit. The class will run from June 14 – July 21 and is open to both public and private school students.

High school students also will have

access to specially designed online lessons, through the District's Student Portal, which will provide tutoring and preparation for the ACT and SAT exams.

Schools and camps will adhere to current health, safety and sanitization protocols. Transportation will be provided to students who meet standard eligibility requirements, and breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge.

"Summer 305" is an exciting and expansive summer program. It will ensure that our students enter school in the fall prepared for learning. For more information, visit [summer305.dadeschools.net/](https://summer305.dadeschools.net/).

## IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION

**May 30**

Observance of Memorial Day

**June 8**

Last Day of School

**June 9**

Teacher Planning Day

**August 17**

First Day of the 2022-2023 school year

## MAY IS WATER SAFETY MONTH



Water safety skills are one of the most important lessons you can teach a child, especially in the Sunshine State. Every day, 10 people die by drowning and most of them are children. From 2017-2019 combined, Florida had the highest unintentional drowning death rate among children 0 to 9 years of age. At Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), we are helping to combat this statistic by implementing the successful "Learn to Swim" program

to bring water safety awareness to our community.

M-DCPS observes Water Safety Awareness Month each year in May. As many parks and beaches begin to reopen, we encourage families to learn about water safety and stay safe while enjoying all the fun and relaxation that water can provide. Protect your children and set them up for a safe and enjoyable swimming experience by following the tips below.

### **Buddy Up! Make sure you never swim alone.**

When it comes to water safety, never swim alone. It is always a good rule to use the buddy system when swimming.

### **Jump in feet first!**

Severe injuries can occur if you jump or dive headfirst into shallow water. When it comes to water safety, always remember to jump in feet first.

### **Learn proper swimming and safety skills.**

Swimming helps children become self-confident, believe in their abilities and offers them plenty of opportunities to make new friends. Before going into the water, remember to learn proper swimming and safety skills.

### **Wear a life vest.**

Be water smart! If you cannot swim, or while on a boat or in open waters, remember to wear a life vest.

## PARENT E-TIPS

**Helping Them 'Own' Their Own Learning**

<https://bit.ly/3PbHUsw>

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL IMMUNIZATIONS



Before entering or attending school (Kindergarten through 12th grade), children must provide a Florida Certification of Immunization (DH

680 form), documenting the following vaccinations:

## Public/Private Schools Kindergarten through 12th Grade:

- Four or five doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTaP) vaccine
- Three doses of hepatitis B (Hep B) vaccine
- Three, four or five doses of polio (IPV) vaccine
- Two doses of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine
- Two doses of varicella vaccine

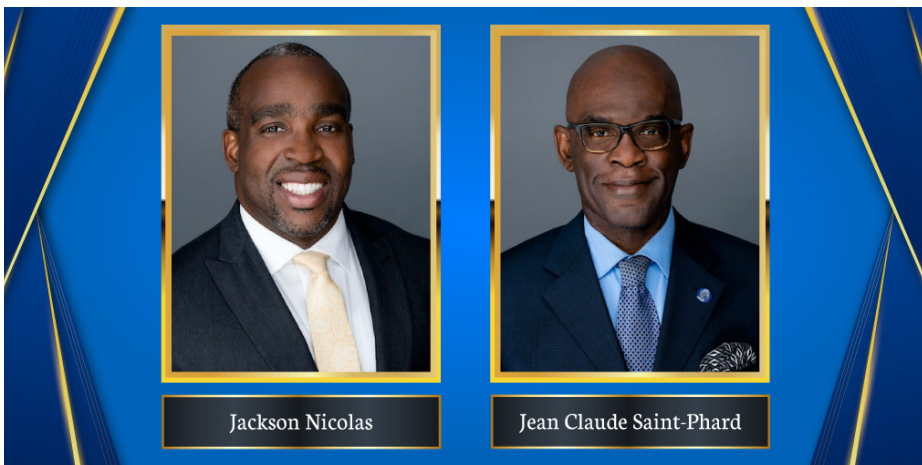
**Seventh Grade:** In addition to kindergarten through 12th grade

vaccines, students entering or attending seventh grade need the following vaccinations:

- One dose of tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap) vaccine in grades 7 through 12
- An updated DH 680 form to include Tdap must be obtained for submission to the school

Don't wait until the last minute and ensure your child's immunizations are up to date. Learn more by visiting <https://bit.ly/3wiO2Xh>.

# M-DCPS HONORS OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR



Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) honored its finest principals and assistant principals at an awards ceremony sponsored by the Dade Association of School Administrators (DASA), on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at the DoubleTree by Hilton.

Jackson Jean Nicolas, who serves as principal of Earlington Heights Elementary School, won top honors as the District's Principal of the Year. Nicolas has been an educator at M-DCPS for 20 years. After a successful teaching career, he became the Assistant Principal of

Charles R. Drew K-8 Center in 2012. He was promoted to principal and has served in this role at Earlington Heights Elementary since 2016.

Jean Claude Saint-Phard of George T. Baker Aviation Technical College was recognized as Assistant Principal of the Year. Saint-Phard began his career with M-DCPS as a Culinary Arts teacher at Lindsey Hopkins Technical College. In 2010, he was promoted to Assistant Principal and served in that capacity at Charles Drew Community School and Brownsville Middle School. He has been at Baker Aviation since 2015.

The Principal of the Year winner received a \$2,000 cash prize and a three-year lease on a car sponsored by Toyota of North Miami. The Assistant Principal of the Year received a \$1,500 cash prize and a 65-inch TV from Aflac.

This event was made possible through a partnership with Equitable, Toyota of North Miami, EdFed (formerly South Florida Educational Financial Credit Union), Ibiley, AIG, Bencor, Brian Power Wellness, Aflac, Carnegie Learning, HMMH, Brown and Bigelow, Tropical Financial Credit Union, Miami Heat, Miami Marlins, Certo Risto & Pizza, and FROST Science.

Also recognized at the ceremony were Principal of the Year Runner-up Dr. Susana Mauri, South Dade Technical College, and Assistant Principal of the Year Runner-up Vernatta Lee, Miami Edison Senior High.



May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is shining an even brighter light on the importance of positive mental health for child development. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, M-DCPS established the Department of Mental Health Services to ensure personnel, services, trainings and programs to expand mental health education and awareness and provide direct support to students and families.

M-DCPS recently observed National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day with activities at all schools spearheaded by staff and students. Students enrolled in Mental Wellness Clubs promoted mental health

awareness, available resources and the importance of maintaining good mental health.

The Department of Mental Health Services’ foundation centers around the 118 mental health coordinators assigned to all K-12 schools across the district. These licensed and certified professionals provide direct services to students through a streamlined referral process. Additionally, they provide training for parents, staff and students at the school site. This year, an additional 100 part-time mental health professionals have been hired and provide direct support to students.

Another key component of the work taking place in M-DCPS is the districtwide professional development opportunities for administrators, faculty and staff surrounding mental health. These opportunities provide additional tools to help recognize signs and symptoms of mental health challenges in students and how to refer them for appropriate professional help.

Outreach and communication are essential to meeting the needs of students. Parents can contact their

child’s school or the Assistance Line, Monday-Friday, 8-4 p.m. at 305-995-7100; visit the department’s website at [mentalhealthservices.dadeschools.net](http://mentalhealthservices.dadeschools.net) or follow the department on Twitter [@M-DCPS\\_MHS](https://twitter.com/M-DCPS_MHS).

## SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

**June 22**

11:00 a.m.  
Regular Meeting

**July 20**

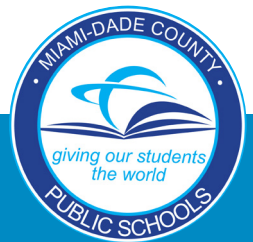
11:00 a.m.  
Regular Meeting

**July 27**

6:00 p.m.  
First Budget Public Hearing

**August 17**

11:00 a.m.  
Regular Meeting



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

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## SOCIAL MEDIA



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@SuptDotres



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