

# CONNECTION

A Newsletter for Miami-Dade County Public Schools Parents

APRIL 2019

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 52

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## SOUTH FLORIDA PROVES ITS COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION AT 4TH ANNUAL #MIAMISUP5K



Thousands of teachers, students, parents and community supporters joined Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho to run and walk in support of education at the fourth annual Superintendent's 5K Challenge, a Race for Education.

## MAGNET OFF-CYCLE APPLICATION PERIOD

M-DCPS is opening its Magnet Off-Cycle Application period on April 17. Beginning this date, Magnet seats that are still available at select schools will be listed on the Magnet Off-Cycle website. Interested parents must first download and fill out the Off-Cycle Magnet application, and then contact the school directly to confirm availability and registration information. Students must meet entrance/eligibility requirements for acceptance. Seats will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

### OFF-CYCLE MAGNET APPLICATION

**THERE IS STILL  
A CHANCE...  
SEATS AVAILABLE**  
FOR THE 2019-2020  
SCHOOL YEAR

**MAGNET  
SCHOOLS**

Accepting an Off-Cycle seat will not affect your wait-list status on your existing Magnet application. More information and a full list of

available Magnet programs can be found by visiting [miamimagnets.org](http://miamimagnets.org) or by calling 305-995-1922.

## SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

**MAY 8**

10 a.m.

Instructional Material  
Public Hearing

11 a.m.

Regular Meeting; Final  
Reading - Attendance  
Zones for 2019-2020

**JUNE 19**

11 a.m.

Regular Meeting

## IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION

May 9 - Secondary Early Release Day  
May 27 - Observance of Memorial Day  
June 6 - Last Day of School  
June 7 - Teacher Planning Day



## INSPIRATIONAL M-DCPS TEACHER



Jennifer Jimenez, a music teacher at South Miami Senior High, has been named one of only six winners in the nation of the 2019 Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards. These awards spotlight some of the country's most inspirational teachers and recognize them for their contributions.

Nominated by former students they once taught, their stories exemplify the power one teacher has to inspire others and transform lives. Jimenez received a \$10,000 cash prize and she was honored at the Center along with the former student she inspired, Jackeline Zelaya.

Zelaya credits Jimenez with teaching her to "breathe" not only to master the flute, but through the many episodes of her young life including Zelaya's survival of a toxic household when barely a teenager, and suffering from a collapsed lung years later.

## VALUED M-DCPS COMMUNITY PARTNERS HONORED AT AWARDS CEREMONY



Partnerships are a critical component of the success of our schools. Acknowledging the best of the best of those partners is an important effort to show the appreciation and impact of the great work being done as a result of those partnerships. It was a packed house at the Community Partners Recognition Luncheon held on March 21. More than 400 community and education leaders gathered to celebrate the District's top community partners for 2018-2019.

The year's Outstanding School Volunteers, Exemplary Dade Partners, and Superintendent's Choice honorees were honored at the luncheon and awards ceremony. Winners of

the State Department of Education's Five Star School Award were also recognized, as were many of the families selected through the District's "Families Matter" initiative, which highlights the partnerships with families involved in our schools.

The winners during this year's event were:

Superintendent's Choice Awards: 5,000 Role Models, Miami-Dade County, Royal Caribbean, Fatherhood Task Force of South Florida.

Outstanding School Volunteers: Adult - Lorena Gutierrez, Treasure Island Elementary, Senior - Fred Goldman, Dr. Michael M.

Krop Senior High School, Youth - Sasha Farid, Air Base K-8 Center.

Exemplary Dade Partners: Districtwide – Triumph Steps, North Region – City of North Bay Village, Treasure Island Elementary, Central Region – ODLI, G.W. Carver Elementary, South Region – University of Miami's Frost School of Music, Arthur and Polly Mays Conservatory of the Arts, Adult – Technical Colleges and Educational Opportunity and Access – Miami Diaper Bank, Dorothy M. Wallace COPE Center.

Visit [www.EngageMiamiDade.net](http://www.EngageMiamiDade.net) to view photos and learn more about the event and its honorees.

## OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL, AP OF THE YEAR



Miguel Veloso, who serves as principal of Miami Springs Adult Education Center, won top honors as M-DCPS' Principal of the Year. Veloso began his 24-year education career as a Social Science teacher at Booker T. Washington Middle School. He was then promoted to Assistant Principal of Miami Southridge Senior High School before going to Miami Springs Adult Education in 2006.

Rhonda Gaines of Miami Carol City Senior High School was recognized as Assistant Principal of the Year. Gaines began her career with M-DCPS as a Reading/Language Arts teacher at Allapattah Middle School in 2003. She has served as an Assistant Principal at Carol City since 2017.



## FLDOE FIVE STAR SCHOOL AWARD WINNERS

The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) Five Star School Award was created by the Commissioner's Community Involvement Council and is presented annually to those schools that have shown evidence of exemplary community involvement. In order to earn FIVE STAR school recognition, a school must show documentation that it has achieved 100% of the established criteria in the categories of: Business Partnerships, Family Involvement, Volunteerism, Student Community Service, and School Advisory Council. Many schools may have strong programs in one area, but outstanding schools develop strong programs in all five areas. When these



five components collaborate, they paint a picture-perfect successful program that reflects a school's commitment to the pursuit of educational excellence!

Each Five Star School Principal received a certificate

and a flag to proudly display at their school. For a list of the 2018-2019 Five Star School Award Winners, visit <https://www.engagemiamidade.net/community-five-star-school>.

## M-DSPD SWEARS IN 31 NEW POLICE OFFICERS



The swearing-in ceremony for 31 new M-DSPD police officers was held on April 2, the largest class of officers since the passing of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. Among the new officers are a former NFL player, an Iraqi war veteran, and former or retired officers from the Hialeah, Pinecrest and City of Miami police departments.

## DISTINGUISHED CAREER ACADEMIES AT M-DCPS



Twenty-one M-DCPS academies were among 88 across the nation identified by the National Academy Foundation (NAF) network as Distinguished on its annual assessment. This designation is NAF's highest level of achievement. This number is the most for any district in the nation. NAF identified an additional 100 academies as Model level, of which 10 are in M-DCPS, including first-timers Barbara Goleman Senior's Academy of Finance and Southwest Miami Senior's Academy of Information Technology.

### PARENT E-TIPS:

#### Primary:

Don't Always Answer Your Child's Questions  
<http://bit.ly/2UoatFS>

#### Secondary:

Turn A Smart Phone into a Learning Aid  
<http://bit.ly/2Xbm0tH>



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

## SOCIAL MEDIA



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**Produced by the  
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