

CONNECTION

A NEWSLETTER FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARENTS

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M-DCPS TRANSITIONS TO STAGE II OF REOPENING OF SCHOOLS PLAN - STAGGERED RETURN FOR SELECTED STUDENTS BEGINS ON OCTOBER 5

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is transitioning to Stage II of its Reopen Smart, Return Safe reopening plan. On Tuesday, the Miami-Dade School Board voted unanimously to authorize the Superintendent to reopen schools for students beginning Monday, October 5. Students whose parents opted for the Schoolhouse model in July will begin to return to school sites on Monday, October 5, with a phased-in approach, by grade level, which will be completed by Friday, October 9. Students whose parents selected My School Online (MSO) when surveyed in July will remain engaged in distance learning.

The safety of students, employees and their families has been the primary guiding principle throughout the District's reopening efforts. Given that commitment, and in alignment with the recommendations provided by public health experts, the physical return will be staggered by grade levels, providing for a reduced school capacity and allowing for the testing of protocols and potential adjustments, prior to schools operating at full Stage II capacity.

The reopening phase-in schedule will occur among the following student groups (whose parents opted into the Schoolhouse model), as outlined below:

Students will be returning to school five days a week through a staggered process with Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st graders, and students with special needs who are on a modified curriculum, returning on Monday, October 5th. Grades 2-6 and 9-10 will return on Wednesday, October 7th while grades 7-8 and 11-12 will return on Friday, October 9th.

Friday, October 2 will be a teacher planning day to allow teachers the opportunity to further arrange their classrooms, engage in additional lesson planning and other activities to assist in their preparation to welcome students back. There will be no school for students that day. This will have no impact on the instructional time already allocated for this school year. It is also important to note that ALL high school schedules will revert to a 7:20 a.m. start time beginning October 7, in both the Schoolhouse model and My School Online.

Parents have begun receiving a notification card in the mail, to serve as a reminder of which learning model

they selected during the July opt-in period. Students should be ready to present these notification cards to physically enter their schools on their assigned return date. Parents may also review their selection through their child's Student Portal or the Dadeschools mobile app. Those students whose parents opted for the Schoolhouse Model AND who are eligible for District transportation are also being provided with their transportation information.

School administrators will have the discretion to make limited exceptions for parents who wish to change their initial selection. To request a change, parents must contact their child's school to complete a change of declaration form. Any exceptions will be made based upon the specific conditions of each school's in-person enrollment to ensure social distancing measures are not compromised.

Parents are urged to talk to their children and emphasize the importance of personal responsibility and the proper utilization of facial coverings at all times, while on school campuses and school buses. Parents are also asked to conduct a daily health screening of their children, as outlined in the District's reopening guide, prior to sending them to school.

M-DCPS CONTINUES STELLAR RISE IN AP EXAM RESULTS, ENROLLMENT



The College Board has released the final results for the May 2020 Advanced Placement (AP) examinations for Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). These results summarize the performance of the students who participated in AP courses during the 2019-2020 school year and took the corresponding AP exam. Students in M-DCPS demonstrated an overall passing rate of 65 percent, an increase of 8 percent from 2019.

The District worked closely with the College Board to ensure that infrastructure and support were in place to make the administration of the 2020 AP exam a success. The AP Program provides high school students the opportunity to enroll in

advanced courses of study and to earn college credit and/or advanced placement credit, while still enrolled in high school. AP courses include 38 classes in various subject areas, such as the arts, social sciences, languages, science, literature, mathematics and computer science. Students are recommended for college credits if they receive a score of 3 or higher on a 5-point scale on the corresponding AP exam.

Since the 2010-2011 school year, there has been a continued increase in both enrollment and percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher on the exams. M-DCPS has seen a dramatic increase in the participation and performance of students in AP courses.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

October 21
11:00 a.m.
Regular Meeting

November 17
10:00 a.m.
Organization Meeting

November 18
11:00 a.m.
Regular Meeting

IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION

October 2
Teacher Planning Day

October 23
Teacher Planning Day

IMPORTANCE OF THE FLU VACCINE



As we approach the upcoming flu season in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to get the flu vaccine to reduce the impact of respiratory illnesses.

- As recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the BEST way to prevent the seasonal flu is to get an annual flu vaccine.
- Everyone who is six months of age or older can receive the flu vaccine.
- Make plans to get the flu vaccine early this Fall.

- Flu season peaks from December to early March.
- Getting the flu vaccine does not prevent you from getting COVID-19.

Contact your medical provider to schedule an appointment or the Florida Department of Health at (786) 845-0550, which will provide FREE flu vaccines for all children under 18.

M-DCPS TO CONTINUE SERVING FREE MEALS TO CHILDREN THROUGH DECEMBER 31



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced it would extend the summer meals flexibility waiver, allowing Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) to continue to serve free meals to all children through December 31, 2020.

The waiver of eligibility rules for children under 18 is particularly

important to high-need communities like Miami-Dade County. M-DCPS already provides free breakfast to all students, but this federal waiver will allow schools to serve free breakfast and lunch to all children into the fall months, no matter the socio-economic status of their families. This will help ensure all children have access to nutritious food during this difficult time in the community.

M-DCPS will be distributing meals for children at all school sites. Grab-and-go breakfast and lunch pick-ups take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The USDA requires that parents/adults provide proof of valid identification that the meal is for a child 18 years old or younger if the child is not with them. Identification can include a student ID, report card or progress report. These

are the same guidelines that were followed during M-DCPS' summer meal distributions.

Food insecurity is a reality in our community. Many families rely on school-provided meals as one of the only consistent sources of healthy food for their children. M-DCPS has not wavered in its commitment to support students and families, providing nearly seven million free meals since the closure of schools in March.

E-TIPS FOR FAMILIES

Establishing a Routine

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

12 M-DCPS MAGNET SCHOOLS RANKED AMONG TOP 100 BEST IN AMERICA BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT



Twelve Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Magnet schools have been ranked among the top 100 Magnet Schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, with eight schools in Florida's Top 20. Magnet programs offer unique thematic strands of study that focus on students' special interests, talents and abilities for all grade levels. Programs include Gaming Design and Animation, Business Innovation,

School	U.S.	FL	Miami Metro
Young Women's Preparatory Academy (6-12)	#21	#3	#2
Design and Architecture Senior High	#25	#6	#3
José Martí MAST 6-12 Academy	#32	#9	#6
iPrep Academy (PK-12)	#34	#11	#7
MAST@FIU	#43	#15	#11
International Studies Preparatory Academy	#44	#16	#12
TERRA Environmental Research Institute	#45	#17	#13
MAST Academy	#50	#19	#15
New World School of the Arts	#63	#22	#17
Coral Reef Senior High School	#70	#26	#19
MAST Academy @ Homestead	#74	#28	#20
Miami Arts Studio (6-12) @ Zelda Glazer	#98	#34	#24

Botany, Financial Technology, Medicine, Nursing and even Artificial Intelligence through Robotics.

The following are M-DCPS' best magnet schools as they rank in the U.S., in Florida and in the Miami Metro area.

Beginning October 1st, M-DCPS will begin accepting Magnet program applications for the 2021-2022 school year. The Magnet application will be available in multiple languages at <http://miamimagnets.org>.



The Miami-Dade School Board adopted the final 2020-2021 millage levy and annual budget during the final budget public hearing. The budget stands at \$5.6 billion and taxpayers will see a decrease in the millage rate from 7.148 to 7.129, a net decrease of 0.019.

Due to the global outbreak of COVID-19, the 2019-20 school year brought with it the unprecedented long-term closure of schools that led to the swift transition to distance learning in the spring of 2020. For M-DCPS, as well as the community and nation, 2020 has been a year of challenges, yet it has also been a time to show how much can be accomplished when a school system and its educators, students, parents

and the community work together for the benefit of our students.

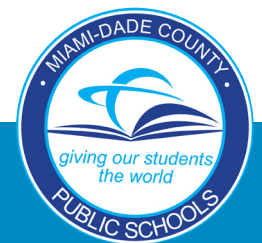
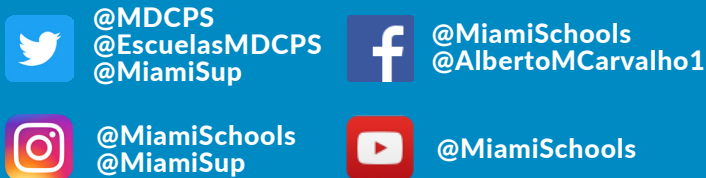
The FY 2020-21 Budget reflects a community that treasures the arts, student physical and mental health, dual-language learning and educating our students with special needs. It reflects an unparalleled commitment to Choice and an inclusive and rapid rollout of the General Obligation Bond that is solid evidence that at M-DCPS, a promise made is a promise kept. The budget continues to fund key commitments to instructional personnel, classroom support, school health and safety and innovation.

STAY INFORMED! STAY CONNECTED!



Miami-Dade County Public Schools wants to ensure that you continue to receive emergency information from your child's school and the District through text messaging. In order to opt in, you must text "Y" to 67587. If you do not respond, you will not be considered opted-in and will miss out on timely notifications.

SOCIAL MEDIA



www.dadeschools.net

Stay connected with Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Make sure you follow us on social media for the latest news and updates regarding the school district. #MDCPSConnects

The School Board of
Miami-Dade County,
Florida

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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