

# CONNECTION

A Newsletter for Miami-Dade County Public Schools Parents

INNOVATION, RIGOR, ACCESS, EFFICIENCY AT CORE OF M-DCPS' BOLD 2016-2017 NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES

2016 MAPS | MILLENNIAL ACCESS PLATFORMS



## 61 Additional Choice/Magnet Programs



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

M-DCPS students and teachers will begin the 2016-2017 school year with a host of new, bold programs that build on the District's goal of providing classroom innovation, academic rigor, and increased student access, as well as increased efficiencies in operations.

Sixty-one new choice/magnet programs were created for 2016-2017, the most ever in one year. These new courses bring the total of choice programs to nearly 600. The new programs are in the areas of STEM (robotics, coding, biomedical), music, entertainment technology, business studies, visual and performing arts, Advanced Placement, legal studies, and sports medicine and management.

New initiatives include:

**Digital Convergence** - The District is deploying an additional 35,000 mobile devices, bringing the total number to nearly 140,000.

**Digital Citizenship** - Students will be provided with strategies and resources that will allow them to utilize technology for mastery of academic content and make them aware of, and responsible for, their digital footprint.

*Keeping Parents Connected and Informed*

**Values Matter Miami** - This expanded, yearlong District-wide campaign promotes a positive school culture by addressing the social/emotional needs of all students, leading to increased school safety and student achievement.

**Pathways to Bilingual** - The initiative provides for five distinct pathways to meet the diverse linguistic needs of M-DCPS students.

**Parents Helping Parents** - Increases meaningful parental involvement by enhancing parents' understanding of the federal, state & District policies impacting their children; perfects their advocacy skills on behalf of their children; and teaches them to effectively share information & support with other parents.

**iTransition** - Provides 6th- and 9th-grade students a multi-faceted support system as they transition between elementary and middle school, and middle and senior high school.

**Cultivating Civic Engagement** - Students will be able to interact with members of the Miami-Dade Delegation and discuss current education issues through live online sessions from Tallahassee.

**Online School Payment System** - A new online payment program at selected high & middle schools provides parents the flexibility to pay for students' fees and activities through online credit card payments directly to the school. Parents can log into [www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net) using the Parent tab and their established credentials to access the OSP system.

M-DCPS continues its tradition of providing students with exceptional educational programs and instructional enrichment. For additional information on new programs and initiatives, please visit <http://news.dadeschools.net/cmnc/new/25538>.

### M-DCPS SHOWS OFF 2016-17 HEALTHY FOOD OPTIONS



M-DCPS' Food & Nutrition Department is rolling-out healthy, nutritious menus for this school year. New menu items include mini-vegetarian sliders, baked chicken wings, caffeine-free teas and Aspire, a low-sugar sports drink. Breakfast is free to all students at all schools every day. Healthy bodies fuel healthy minds, and it starts with a healthy breakfast.

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

## PREPARE NOW: OPENING OF SCHOOLS, ZIKA PROTECTION



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) have reported several cases of the Zika Virus in a one-mile square area in Wynwood. The number one priority among school and District staff is always the safety and well-being of your child. Please know that we are taking every precaution to ensure that our schools are clean and free from conditions that may further heighten the spread of the Zika Virus and mosquito-borne illnesses. District staff has also been in frequent communication with state health department and CDC officials for the most recent information and guidelines.

You can also take steps to protect your child against mosquito-borne illnesses. Before your child leaves home make sure they are dressed in long-sleeved shirts and long pants. The health department and the CDC recommend applying mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Repellent should be applied at home as school employees are prohibited from applying it on students. Remember to consult your doctor or health care provider before using any type of insect repellent.

M-DCPS will work in close consultation with the FDOH and the County regarding outdoor activities including physical education, recess, and after school activities. Should guidance be provided to limit outdoor activities, the appropriate adjustments will be made.

M-DCPS will partner with the FDOE and the FDOH to spread the word in our classrooms about Zika prevention. The District will share the Spill The Water! mosquito prevention campaign with all students to encourage them to cover up and spill sources of standing water around their homes.

There are many online resources that provide useful, up-to-date information and education awareness materials regarding the Zika health concern. You may access these virtual resources by visiting the District's website at [zikaresources.dadeschools.net](http://zikaresources.dadeschools.net).

### DATES TO REMEMBER

August 30 -	Teacher Planning Day
September 5 -	Labor Day
October 1 -	Magnet Application Period Opens
October 3 -	Teacher Planning Day
October 12 -	Teacher Planning Day

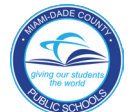
### UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

September 7	11:00 a.m.	Regular Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Second Budget Public Hearing and Adoption of Final 2016-2017 Millage Levy and Annual Budget, Approval of 2015-2016 Annual Financial Report, and Approval of 2015-2016 Final Budget Resolutions
October 5	11:00 a.m.	Regular Meeting

### M-DCPS REFRESH: A NEW LOOK FOR 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY LEARNING

The M-DCPS logo received its last true makeover more than 15 years ago. It symbolized opening the book of learning to a world of lifelong opportunities and complemented the district's slogan "giving our students the world". The way we teach, the way our students learn, the tools we use have all changed and our classrooms and schools have evolved before our eyes. It is time for our image to reflect what we truly are and the impact we are having in this 21st Century learning environment.

The M-DCPS Refresh initiative is a redesign of our logo through a contest that will engage students, while bringing greater awareness to our District. Next month, we will be asking for your input into the logo redesign process through telephone surveys and through social media outreach. Stay tuned for more details.



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