

CONNECTION

A Newsletter for Miami-Dade County Public Schools Parents

M-DCPS MAKES GREAT STRIDES IN REDUCING TESTING

Miami-Dade County Public Schools announced recently that the District would further reduce the number of tests students have been required to take in previous years. This school year, mid-year interim tests in English language arts and mathematics for students in grades 3 to 8 will be eliminated. This represents a reduction of 12 test administrations and an additional 185 minutes of class time.

The Florida Department of Education mandates that student progress is monitored by certain tests to gauge how they are progressing in their grade level. The District is eliminating duplicative assessments.

In the fall of 2014, M-DCPS led the state and nation when it first began to eliminate assessments. The Interim Assessment program was curtailed to eliminate fall and winter testing with the retention of just one mid-year assessment. This led to the reduction of 24 test administrations, and up to 260 minutes of additional class time.

By spring 2015, M-DCPS had eliminated nearly all the 300 District-Developed End-of-Course exams that were initially required by the state and scheduled to be administered in May to students in grades K-12.

Approval of the iReady diagnostic assessment as a grade 3-promotion opportunity has also led to the elimination of an additional end-of-year alternate standardized reading assessment.

#iATTENDMDCPS, AN ATTENDANCE INITIATIVE

Miami-Dade County Public Schools partnered with The U.S. Department of Education, My Brother's Keeper, STATE Bags, & Roc Nation to host a bag drop rally at Booker T. Washington Senior High School. Over 450 students from 11 elementary schools received backpacks and supplies and heard exciting motivational real life stories about hard work, dedication, and dreams. Ndamukong Suh from the Miami Dolphins and representatives from the White House were at the event to support the initiative.



EAT BREAKFAST, LUNCH AT M-DCPS & WIN PRIZES

M-DCPS' Food & Nutrition Department is sponsoring breakfast and lunch promotions where students have the chance to win Amazon gift cards by eating breakfast and lunch at school every day.

Back again by popular demand!

Breakfa\$t Bonu\$ Buck\$ Conte\$t

August 22, 2016 – October 28, 2016

Students who eat school Breakfast each day of the week will automatically be entered in the Breakfast Bonus Bucks Contest!

24 Winners Randomly Selected District-Wide Each Week!

Prize: \$25.00 Amazon Gift Card!

*You must eat school breakfast each day of the week to qualify!



Awe\$ome Amazon Award\$

FREE BREAKFAST DAILY!!

For 10 weeks, from September 12 - November 18, 2016, all students who eat school lunch each day of the week will automatically be entered into the "Magnificent Mini Mondays" Lunch Contest. Each week, 25 students, who eat school lunch every day of that week, will have their ID numbers randomly selected to receive a \$15 Amazon gift card. All students in the District are eligible for the weekly random selection if they eat school lunch each day of that week.



MINI-MONDAYS!

SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 – NOVEMBER 18, 2016



MINI TWIN CHEESEBURGERS!



MINI TWIN BBQ RIB SANDWICHES!



MINI TWIN CRISPY CHICKEN SANDWICHES!



MINI TWIN VEGGIE CHEESEBURGERS!

M-DCPS CHOSEN BY SANDY HOOK PROMISE FOR NATIONAL LAUNCH OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

As part of our Values Matter Miami initiative, Miami-Dade County Public Schools is partnering with Sandy Hook Promise, a national non-profit organization, which focuses on violence prevention so that no parent has to experience the loss of his or her child. This partnership included bringing Start With Hello Week to Miami-Dade County Public Schools during the week of September 19-23, 2016. The Start With Hello initiative raises awareness about social isolation and highlights the importance of creating connected and inclusive classrooms, schools, and communities.



MIAMI NORTHWESTERN SENIOR HONORS OLYMPIC GOLD-MEDALIST, ALUMNA BRIANNA ROLLINS



Miami Northwestern Senior High alumna and Olympian Brianna Rollins was recently honored with her own day by her alma mater and the Miami-Dade community for winning the gold medal in the 100-meter hurdles at the 2016 Rio Olympics last month.

UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

October 5	11:00 a.m.	Regular Meeting
November 22	10:00 a.m.	Organization Meeting
November 23	11:00 a.m.	Regular Meeting

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 1 -	Magnet Application Period Opens
October 3 -	Teacher Planning Day
October 12 -	Teacher Planning Day
October 29 -	ESE Family Forum and Exposition

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

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 Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman
 Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway
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Alberto M. Carvalho
 Superintendent of Schools

Sebastian M. Lorenzo
 Student Advisor to the School Board

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 Daisy Gonzalez-Diego
 Chief Communications Officer

