

CONNECTION

A Newsletter for Miami-Dade County Public Schools Parents



IMMERSING STUDENTS IN #STEAM-FOCUSED EDUCATION

Miami-Dade County Public Schools aspires to engage and prepare all of our students in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) to ensure our community has the next generation of inventors, explorers, innovators, artists and leaders.



Rockway Middle School students tour the STEM Mobile Lab, built to ensure that teachers and students are exposed and immersed in state-of-the-art curriculum that supports what is being taught in STEM classrooms.



Hundreds of Miami-Dade County Public Schools students spend a day filled with learning science, technology, engineering and mathematics at the TEN80 STEM Fest.



Design & Architecture Senior High School students get a sneak peek at costumes from J.K. Rowling's *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.

WHITE HOUSE HONORS M-DCPS FOR INNOVATION, PERSONALIZED LEARNING

Miami-Dade County Public Schools was recognized at the White House as the leading large school district in innovation and personalized learning for all students, particularly underserved ones. Schools Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho had been invited to attend a discussion convened by the U.S. Dept. of Education.

The USDOE's Office of Innovation and Improvement partnered with the White House Domestic Policy Council to invite a select group of school superintendents from around the country who are leading personalized learning efforts nationwide. M-DCPS was the only school system from Florida among the 35 districts invited to attend the one-day, roundtable discussion at the White House.

Some of M-DCPS' personalized learning includes *Digital Convergence* – a multi-year initiative that has resulted in the distribution of over 140,000 digital devices to enhance the learning experiences and complement the 11,620 interactive boards previously installed in classrooms and 45 million square feet of physical space configured for Wi-Fi connectivity; *iPrep Math* – a personalized and blended instructional program in the District's 49 middle schools that combines adaptive software with face-to-face instruction to encourage an inquiry-based approach to the study of mathematics.

GOB PROGRESS CONTINUES ACROSS M-DCPS SCHOOLS



On November 6, 2012, county voters approved the issuance of a \$1.2 billion General Obligation Bond for renovating facilities, updating technology, building school replacements, expanding student capacity, and enhancing facility safety. Visit <http://pubreport.dadeschools.net/ReportServer/Pages/ReportViewer.aspx?/capitaldashboard/mainpage> to view the dashboard and stay up-to-date on the progress of projects across M-DCPS.

UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

November 22	10:00 a.m.	Organization Meeting
November 23	11:00 a.m.	Regular Meeting
December 14	11:00 a.m.	Regular Meeting

DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 23 - Teacher Planning Day
- November 24 - Thanksgiving
- November 25 - Recess Day

#VALUESMATTERMIAMI - M-DCPS STUDENTS, COMMUNITY SUPPORT HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS FOR HAITI

Continuing the rich tradition of service to others in times of disaster, M-DCPS students, employees and families came together to donate funds and nearly 3,000 boxes full of baby food, dry food, medical supplies, batteries, flashlights, backpacks, and school supplies to help the many victims of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti.



WHAT ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR THIS YEAR? #MDCPSGIVESTHANKS



Thanksgiving is right around the corner and M-DCPS is re-launching its #MDCPSGivesThanks social media campaign. Students, teachers and administrators across the district will be highlighting what they are thankful and grateful for this year. To view the posts, visit twitter and search for the hashtag #MDCPSGivesThanks.



M-DCPS OFFERS STUDENTS DIPLOMA PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

M-DCPS wants to ensure that parents and students are aware of the different diploma options that are available in Florida and in our district. This information will allow students to plan their academic trajectory early on and will also encourage them to take more rigorous courses, which will in turn make them more competitive as they prepare for college and careers. For more information, speak to your school's CAP Advisor or school counselor.

DIPLOMA PATHWAYS

BE #GRADTASTIC

The Superintendent's Diploma of Distinction is awarded to students who have been enrolled in at least 4 Honors, AP, IB, AICE, IS, and/or DE courses, completed at least 75 hours of community service, and earned a GPA of 3.5 or above by the end of the first semester of Senior Year with no final grades of a 'C' or lower on their transcripts.

The Scholar Designation is awarded to students who pass all EOCs and take extra classes such as Algebra II, Statistics, Chemistry, Physics, and an AP, IB, AICE, or DE course.

The Merit Designation is awarded to students who attain one or more industry certifications.

The Standard Diploma is the diploma given to all students who fulfill the State of Florida's graduation requirements. These requirements are comprised of maintaining a 2.0 GPA, specific classes, and passing state examinations.

The Seal of Biliteracy is awarded to students with a 2.0 GPA or above who have earned at least a 3 on the FSA, completed 4 credits of a foreign language, and passed a foreign language AP, IB, or AICE examination.

TERMINOLOGY

- AP - Advanced Placement
- IB - International Baccalaureate
- AICE - Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education
- IS - International Studies
- DE - Dual Enrollment
- EOC - End Of Course Exam
- GPA - Grade Point Average
- FSA - Florida Standards Assessment

WHICH DIPLOMA ARE YOU?

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

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Alberto M. Carvalho
 Superintendent of Schools

Sebastian M. Lorenzo
 Student Advisor to the School Board

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