

# **W.R. Thomas Middle School**

***13001 SW 26<sup>th</sup> STREET  
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33175***

**PHONE: 305-995-3800**

**SCHOOL HOURS  
9:10 AM - 3:50 PM**

**[www.wrthomasmiddle.net](http://www.wrthomasmiddle.net)**



**TWITTER: @WRTTIGERS  
INSTAGRAM: @WRTTIGERS  
FACEBOOK: @WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WRTHOMASMIDDLE**

**Laura Tennant, Principal  
Janet Argilagos, Assistant Principal**



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL  
DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

Miami-Dade County Public Schools  
The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

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Dr. Jose L. Dotres

**OFFICE OF SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AND PERFORMANCE**

Dr. John Pace III

**Deputy Superintendent**



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## **Vision Statement**

*Inspired, valued, educated, and empowered students thriving in and beyond the classroom*

## **Mission Statement**

*To provide relevant learning experiences that foster life-long curiosity and enable ALL students to achieve their full academic, personal, and civic potential.*

## **Values**

**Excellence** - *We pursue the highest standards in academic achievement and organizational performance.*

**Equity** - *We foster an environment that serves all students and aspires to eliminate the achievement gap.*

**Student Focus** - *We focus on meeting our students' diverse needs and supporting them in fulfilling their potential.*

**Innovation** - *We encourage risk-taking, creativity and adaptability to new ideas and methods that will support and elevate student learning.*

**Accountability** - *We celebrate our successes, learn from our failures, and embrace challenges as we strive towards continuous improvement.*

**Joy** - *We accept individuals for who they are, encourage them to engage with one another authentically, and cultivate welcoming environments that promote fun and excitement*



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK



## **Miami-Dade County Public Schools**

*giving our students the world*

**Superintendent of Schools**  
Dr. Jose L. Dotres

**Miami-Dade County School Board**

Mari Tere Rojas, Chair  
Danny Espino, Vice Chair  
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Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall

Mary Blanco  
Monica Colucci  
Dr. Steve Gallon III  
Luisa Santos

August 1, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

On behalf of the School Board and the dedicated teachers and staff of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), I would like to welcome you and your child to the 2023-2024 school year. Students enrolled in M-DCPS can expect to receive a world-class education in an "A"-rated school district. M-DCPS celebrates students' unique abilities while fostering curiosity and creativity in a safe and secure learning environment, making it your best choice in education.

This Parent/Student Handbook outlines the major policies, procedures, and expectations that guide student life in our District. I encourage you to familiarize yourself and your children with its contents as students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the information and guidelines contained herein. We have made every effort to ensure that this handbook contains the most up-to-date and accurate information. However, please note that changes or updates may occur throughout the school year. In such cases, we will communicate any revisions promptly to keep you well-informed.

It is also my hope that you and your child will avail yourselves of the numerous resources we provide. As a parent/guardian, you are a vital partner in your child's education and are welcome to actively participate in school and district functions. I encourage you to stay connected by downloading the M-DCPS mobile application on your mobile device and by following us on social media (Twitter @mdcps, Facebook at Miami Schools, or Instagram @miamischools). For more information regarding specific resources and activities at your child's school, please contact the school directly and ensure that the school's staff is provided with your most updated contact information.

Thank you for your partnership and for entrusting us with your child's education. I wish you and your child much success this academic year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jose L. Dotres  
Superintendent of Schools

JLD:ga  
L0048

*School Board Administration Building • 1450 N.E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue • Miami, Florida 33132  
305-995-1000 • [www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net)*



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL  
DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

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# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

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# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

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# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A big warm welcome to our amazing school, W.R. Thomas Middle home of the TIGERS!

This school year promises to be an exciting time for your student as he/she continues to develop academically, emotionally, and physically. The faculty and I look forward to working with you as partners to ensure your child's success. As parents/guardians, families, and caregivers I encourage you to "Get Involved and Stay Connected," with our school and your child's educational experience will be positive and powerful. Through your ongoing support and partnership coming to school can be the best part of every student's day. When schools and families work together, children can receive an education that supports and empowers them as they strive to reach their full potential as young men and women of innovation, imagination, and intelligence.

We look forward to a year of infinite possibilities, unimaginable joy, and all the opportunities that await us in the future. This parent guide is designed to familiarize you with the expectations of being a student at W.R. Thomas Middle School. It will inform you of our district-wide and school specific policies, procedures, programs, and opportunities. We recommend reviewing the guide carefully. We know that your membership in our community will be an important part of your unique educational journey.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Laura Tennant*





MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL  
DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## W.R. Thomas Middle School

### **Mission Statement:**

The mission of W.R. Thomas Middle Community School is to encourage each student to achieve the highest standards in academics, technology, health, fitness, and the arts by creating an atmosphere of excellence that will instill the importance of lifelong learning within the school, home, and community.

### **Vision:**

We are committed to provide educational excellence for all.

### **Core Values:**

We pursue the highest standards in academic and organizational performance. We build positive relationships through honesty, respect, and compassion, which enhance the self-esteem, safety, and well-being of our students, families, and staff. We foster an environment that serves all students and aspires to eliminate the achievement gap. We honor the diversity of our community by working as a team to ensure the educational success of all our students and recognize that our obligations go beyond our professional responsibilities to promote democratic principles.



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## Faculty Roster & Contact Information

NAME	EMAIL
AMARO, PATRICIA	pamaro@dadeschools.net
ARTIME, MARIA	mariatartime@dadeschools.net
CABALLERO, ALEXANDER	dr.caballero@dadeschools.net
CABEZA, RICARDO	rcabeza@dadeschools.net
CARRET, HIRDANIA	24307@dadeschools.net
CASTANO, MANUEL	mcastano@dadeschools.net
CRUZ DE LA PAZ, YAREMYS	yaremyscruzdelapaz04@dadeschools.net
DIAZ, KASSANDRA	310992@dadeschools.net
DIAZ, MADELEINE	diazmaddie@dadeschools.net
DOBSON, ELI	edobson@dadeschools.net
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GROSS, JEFFREY	jigross@dadeschools.net
HERNANDEZ, AUDREY	306949@dadeschools.net
LOPEZ, TATIANA	Tatiana.Lopez@dadeschools.net
LUC, JOSEPH	lucjoseph@dadeschools.net
MARTINEZ, CECILIA	csmartinez@dadeschools.net
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MONTEAGUDO, ANA	308127@dadeschools.net
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NAVARRO DEL RISCO, BEATRIZ	navarro@dadeschools.net
OLAVARRIETA, LAURA	lolavarrieta@dadeschools.net
OLIVERA, MARIELA	mjfolivera@dadeschools.net
ORTEGA, JOSE	jaortega@dadeschools.net
OTERO, VAN	vwo2@dadeschools.net
PEREZ, NATACHA	natachaperez@dadeschools.net
QUINCOSA, ILEANA	iquincosa@dadeschools.net
ROBLES, HEIDY	roblesh@dadeschools.net
REGUEIRO, RICARDO	rregueiro1@dadeschools.net
ROCA, YAKELIN	yroca@dadeschools.net
RODRIGUEZ, SANDRA	sandyrodriguez1@dadeschools.net
ROIZ, MILTON	mfroiz@dadeschools.net
SMITH, TIMOTHY	timothyjamesmith@dadeschools.net
SOTOMAYOR, RAFAEL	325415@dadeschools.net
SUAREZ, MARTA	suarezm@dadeschools.net
VIQUEZ, SYLVIA	Sviquez1@dadeschools.net



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## Communication Pathways

In addition to the contact information above (we always welcome your call anytime!), the strategies listed below are additional ways for you to get in touch and stay in touch.

### A. E-mail

Every staff member has a [dadeschools](mailto:dadeschools) email address available on our web page. We ask that the following guidelines be observed when using this form of communication:

- If you need to set up an appointment with a staff member in order to discuss lengthy or confidential information, please send a message via e-mail with a phone number and a good time to reach you.
- Staff members routinely check their e-mail before and after school. Important messages that must reach a staff member immediately are best sent through the office or via a written note. Alternative dismissal arrangements, emergency information and other timely information that must be received by the staff member the same day should not be sent electronically.

### B. Schoology

Each classroom teacher creates and maintains a current Schoology account. Schoology is a platform found on your child's portal. Teachers are able to post pertinent classroom information and updates on this platform.

### C. Unsure About Who to Call?

Please start with our main office number: 305-995-3800. This chart lists a variety of situations that can arise during the year and may help you find the best first point of contact at school in the event you do not know where to begin.

SITUATION	TEACHER	COUNSELOR	SCHOOL NURSE	SCHOOL OFFICE	PRINCIPAL/ASST. PRINCIPAL
Concern about school work/student progress	X				
Concern about behavior/disciplinary issue in class	X				
Concern or conflict with teacher or other staff member	X				X
Concern about transition to middle/high school		X			
Social concerns/unhappy at school/home concern	X	X			
School-related incidents of bullying or harassment	X	X			X
Illness/Injury/School health records/Immunizations/health concerns			X		
Need a Device				X	
Moving or have a question about registration				X	



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## Feeder Pattern Schools

<b><u>Elementary Schools</u></b>	<b><u>Middle Schools</u></b>	<b><u>Senior High School</u></b>
Ethel Koger Beckham Elementary School	Paul Bell Middle School	G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School
Bent Tree Elementary School	Howard D. McMillan Middle School	
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Elementary School	Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer	
Green Glade Elementary School	W.R. Thomas Middle School	
Joe Hall Elementary School		
Zora Neil Hurston Elementary School		
Royal Green Elementary School		
Village Green Elementary School		




# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK



## School Information

- **Bell Schedule**

2023 - 2024



## W.R. THOMAS MIDDLE BELL SCHEDULE

Activity	Time		"A" Day (ODD)	"B" Day (EVEN)
Breakfast	8:30 – 9:05	35 Minutes	Doors Open	Doors Open
First Bell	9:05			
Homeroom	9:10 – 9:25	15 Minutes		
1 <sup>st</sup> Block	9:29 – 10:51	82 Minutes	Period 1	Period 2
2 <sup>nd</sup> Block	10:55 – 12:58	123 Minutes	Period 3	Period 4
Lunch Wave #1	10:55 – 11:35	40 Minutes		
Lunch Wave #2	12:18 – 12:58	40 Minutes		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Block	1:02 – 2:24	82 Minutes	Period 5	Period 6
4 <sup>th</sup> Block	2:28 – 3:50	82 Minutes	Period 7	Period 8

\*All students have 4 minutes to transition to next period.

- **Early Sign Out**

The early release of students causes disruption to the academic performance of all students and may create safety and security concerns. No students shall be released within the final thirty (30) minutes of the school day (3:20 p.m.) unless authorized by the principal or principal's designee (i.e., emergency, sickness). Early dismissals are usually reserved for emergencies. Please schedule routine health appointments outside of school hours. If the student is leaving for a professional appointment, then an excuse note should be provided by the professional. **Parents/Guardians must be prepared to come into the building and show identification prior to student dismissal.**

- **Early Dismissal**

In the case of divorced or separated parents, the enrolling parent shall indicate on the Emergency Student Data Form the individual(s) to whom the student may be released during the school day.



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

- **Late Arrival**

Students who are tardy to school (after 9:10 a.m.) must be escorted by a parent/guardian to the Main Office to secure an admit. Excessive tardiness may result in loss of privileges, detention, parent conference, and/or suspension.

- **Lost and Found School Policy**

W.R. Thomas Middle School makes every effort to support students when they lose or find an item as long as it does not interrupt an active learning environment. Items returned to a staff member that are believed to be lost should be brought to the Main Office to be stored in the school's vestibule. The school takes no responsibility for lost items to be returned. All lost and found books are to be returned to the teacher or to the Media Center.

- **Opening and Closing Hours of Schools**

Office Hours	8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Breakfast	8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
School Hours	9:10 a.m. – 3:50 p.m.

## Important Dates

- ***Back to School Nights – Open House***

School Level	Window Period	School Date
Elementary/K-8 Centers	Week of August 28, 2023	
Middle Schools/K-8 Center: Grades 6-8 (only) if needed based on school choice	Week of September 5, 2023	<b>Wednesday September 6, 2023</b>
Senior High Schools	Week of September 11, 2023	
Special Centers	Week of September 11, 2023	

- ***Interim Progress Report & Report Card Distribution***

Grading Period	Interim Progress Report Distribution	Report Card Distribution
1	September 22, 2023	November 10, 2023
2	December 1, 2023	February 2, 2024
3	February 23, 2024	April 26, 2024
4	May 17, 2024	June 21, 2024



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## **Academic Programs – Student Progression Plan (SPP), School Board Policy 5410**

Provides guidance to teachers, school and district administrators, parents and other stakeholders regarding the requirements and procedures for students to progress from one grade to the next, kindergarten through grade 12 and adult education. The information presented in this document is derived from requirements set forth by Florida Statutes, State Board of Education Rules and Policies established by The School Board of Miami-Dade County.

## **Attendance**

School attendance continues to be one of the most important variables contributing to student achievement. It is difficult, if not impossible, to replace the learning activities and interactions that occur among classmates and teachers on a daily basis. We have entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century and have the responsibility to prepare our students for the information age. Students are expected to arrive in time to be in their first period class by 9:10 a.m. for the morning announcements. **Students arriving after 9:10 a.m. are considered tardy and are to report to the security desk and then report directly to their class.**

**Absences fall into two categories – Excused and Unlawful/Unexcused:**



- Excused Absences/Tardies/Early Dismissals:
  - Illness or injury
  - Death of a family member
  - Medical or dental appointments
  - Authorized school sponsored event or activities
  - Required court attendance
  - Urgent reasons as deemed appropriate by school administration
  - Religious holidays observed by bona fide religious groups
- Unlawful Absences/Tardies/Early Dismissals:
  - Absence due to parental neglect
  - Missing the bus
  - Oversleeping
  - Any other reason not covered in excused absences above.

## **Absence Reporting**

Absences shall be reported to the student's enrolled school by the parent/legal guardian no later than three (3) days upon the students return to school. Parents will have three ways to submit an admit.

- Via the Parent Portal or Mobile App or the School Website [wrthomasmiddle.net](http://wrthomasmiddle.net)
  - A link will be available via the Parent Portal and M-DCPS Mobile App for parents to submit admits directly to the school. Through the app, parents will be able to submit attachments and documents. Parents will need to provide the student's M-DCPS seven-digit number when using the STUDENT ATTENDANCE EXCUSE ADMIT Web Application.
- Via email to the school's attendance resource mailbox: [6901attendance@dadeschools.net](mailto:6901attendance@dadeschools.net)
  - Parents can send an email directly to the school's attendance resource mailbox stating the cause for the absence and attach documents. The email must include the Student's Full Name, MDCPS Student Seven-Digit Identification Number, Date of Absence, and the Reason for the Absence. The email subject line should read "Excused Admit".
- In-Person
  - Parents who wish to submit documentation in person, can give to their student who will provide to the HOMEROOM teacher.



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## **Before/After School Care Program & Middle School Enrichment After School Program**

We do not offer a before/after school care program.

## **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)**

Bring Your Own Device allows students, parents, staff, and guests to utilize technology devices at specified times during the instructional day to enhance the learning experience. Examples of the types of technology which can be used are Windows laptops/tablets, Mac laptops, Android tablets, and iPads. More information about the BYOD program as well as minimum device specifications for those that are considering purchasing a device can be found at <https://digital.dadeschools.net>

## **Bullying Prevention**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and therefore all allegations of bullying/harassment are taken seriously. When concerned about bullying or harassment behaviors, contact your child's teacher immediately. You can verbally report your concerns and/or fill out the [Bullying and Harassment Reporting Form](#). If the problem should continue to persist, notify the school's principal. You may also contact the Bullying/Harassment Helpline, staffed by the Division of Student Services staff at the District office. They can be reached at 305-995-CARE (2273). The Helpline is staffed from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Students and parents may also report bullying through our Districts anonymous online bullying reporting system available on the student and parent portals. Additional information regarding bullying and harassment can be found on the Student Services [website](#).

## **Class Interruption Policy**

To safeguard instructional time, interruptions to instruction due to parents wanting to relay messages about forgotten lunches, instruments, homework, projects, after school directions, etc., will NOT BE PERMITTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. Classrooms will not be called to inform students that their missing items, etc. are in the office.

## **Clinic**

Nicklaus Children's Hospital, in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools has a full-time nurse on campus to provide basic school health services. These services include activities such as sick care, first aid, management of chronic medical conditions, and other state mandates.

## **Closing of School**

The emergency closing of a school for any cause, such as weather or in which the safety of individuals may be endangered, is only at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools.

## **Code of Student Conduct**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approved The Code of Student Conduct (COSC). The COSC focuses on providing and maintaining a safe and positive learning environment for students, faculty, staff, and community.

A major consideration in the application of the COSC is cultivating a positive school climate to support academic achievement, promote fairness, civility, acceptance of diversity, and mutual respect. Toward that end, the range of inappropriate behavior is divided into five groups, along with both recommended and mandated corrective strategies.





## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

The COSC addresses the role of the parents/guardians, the students, and school, but also focuses on core values and model student behavior, rights and responsibilities of students, addressing student behavior, and disciplinary procedures. Furthermore teachers, counselors and administrators work to use a variety of progressive corrective or guidance strategies to correct the inappropriate behaviors.

Differences in age and maturity are recognized in determining the types of corrective strategies to be taken. However, the procedures outlined in the COSC apply to all students under the jurisdiction of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The COSC is in force during regular school hours, while students are being transported on a school bus and at such times and places – including but not necessarily limited to school-sponsored events, field trips, athletic functions and other activities – where appropriate school administrators have jurisdiction over students.

Principals are authorized to take administrative action whenever a student's off-campus conduct poses a threat or danger to the safety of other students, staff, School Board members, any other members of the District Community, or school property may constitute behavior that has a substantial adverse impact on the educational environment requiring disciplinary action. Types of behaviors range from acts that disrupt the orderly operation of the classroom, school functions, and extracurricular activities or approved transportation to the most serious acts of misconduct and violent actions that threaten life.

The Code of Student Conduct outlines expected student behavior and a multitude of corrective strategies should misconduct occur.

The COSC addresses students' rights and responsibilities pertaining to the right to learn; attendance; students' records; grades; free speech, expression, and assembly; and publications. It also outlines parents' rights in regard to assuring their child's opportunity for an education.

Students or parents having problems interpreting the COSC should address concerns through the school principal. Additionally, should the concerns not be resolved at the school level, an appeal can be made at the region office and subsequently to the District.

The Code of Student Conduct can be accessed by going to the following website: <http://ehandbooks.dadeschools.net/policies/90/index.htm>. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may go to your child's school and request to review the Code of Student Conduct manual.

Please take the time to review and discuss the importance of the *Code of Student Conduct* with your child or children. After reviewing the *Code of Student Conduct*, you and your child/children must sign, date, and return the *accompanied* Parent Receipt and Acknowledgement Form to your child's school within 5 school days.

### **Comprehensive Student Services Program**

The Division of Student Services implements the Comprehensive Student Services Program, serving students from Pre-K to Adult. Through collaborative efforts with community agencies, students' academic, personal/social and career development needs are addressed through a team-based approach. An integrated team of uniquely trained Student Services professionals deliver direct services to students. These services focus on the elimination of social and emotional barriers that inhibit students' academic success and prepare students to be college and career ready. The Comprehensive Student Services Program supports student achievement through effective prevention, intervention, and crisis response services. For more information, please contact Martha Z. Harris, Administrative Director, Division of Student Services, at 305-816-0436.



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## **School Counselors**

The District strives to provide access for all students to a comprehensive school guidance and counseling program which is research based, data driven, and reflects the individual developmental needs of our students. Our professional school counselors work in collaboration with families and other staff and community members. School counselors advocate for an environment that promotes diversity and equity and provide a continuum of services through a comprehensive school guidance and counseling program for all students in grades K through 12. School counselors implement programs for systemic change in our schools based upon the recommended competencies suggested for all students, with the goal of developing students into open-minded, tolerant, curious, resilient, and self-advocating individuals. Through exposure to the school guidance and counseling program, students will experience growth within the three domains of: academic achievement, personal/social development, and career awareness, as recommended by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). Our school counselor's are responsible for providing support services to all of our students, grades 6-8. Please refer to our Counselor's Corner on our school website at [wrthomasmiddle.net](http://wrthomasmiddle.net)

## **Discrimination/Harassment**

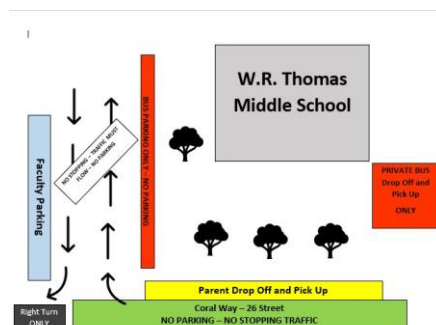
The School Board has a prohibition against discrimination and harassment based on age, sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, age, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, gender identification, social and family background, linguistic preference, pregnancy, and any other basis prohibited by law. The Board shall maintain an educational and work environment free from all forms of discrimination and harassment, which includes Title IX of which prohibits all forms of sex discrimination and unwelcomes sexual conduct. Students are encouraged to promptly report incidents of discriminatory or harassing conduct to their principal or the Office of Civil Rights Compliance (CRC) so that the conduct can be addressed before it becomes severe, pervasive, and persistent. For more information, please contact CRC at (305) 995-1580 or visit <http://hrdadeschools.net/civilrights>. The School Board has also adopted a policy Against Bullying and Harassment with Bullying defined by state law as systematically and chronically inflicting physical harm or psychological distress on one or more students. Complaints of bullying should be reported to the principal promptly.

## **Dismissal**

- **Bicycles** - Bicycles will be locked along the east student entrance fence. Skateboards should be brought to the security desk to be stored until dismissal.
- **Rainy Day Dismissal** - During extreme inclement weather, students will remain inside the building and will released in a staggered dismissal. Otherwise, students are dismissed under the covered areas.
- **Student Drop-Off Pick-up** – Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up is located on Coral Way 26<sup>th</sup> Street. During arrival and dismissal times, parking is not permitted on Coral Way 26<sup>th</sup> Street. Students should enter/exit vehicles on the passenger side of the vehicle only. Students being dropped-off picked up on the opposite side of Coral Way 26<sup>th</sup> Street must use the crosswalk located at the intersection. Students cannot be picked up or dropped off in the teacher's parking lot or in the bus lane. Only M-DCPS buses may use the front of the school bus lane for the purpose of dropping-off and picking-up students.



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK



## Staying After-School

Students are permitted to remain in the building or on the school grounds after 3:50 PM for the following reasons:

- Students are involved with inter-scholastic or intramural athletics
- Students are involved with school-sponsored extra-curricular Club or activities
- Students have scheduled appointments with a teacher, counselor, or administrator
- Students have been assigned an after-school detention

Students involved in any of these activities are authorized to be on campus with supervision after 3:50 PM. All other students are required to go home after school under the supervision and care of their parents/guardians.

## EESAC

The Educational Excellence Advisory Council (EESAC) is the sole body responsible for final decision making at the school relating to the implementation of the components of the School Improvement Plan. The EESAC work together to accomplish the goals of the school by:

- Assisting in the preparation and evaluation of the schoolwide improvement plan (SIP)
- Approving the use of school improvement funds to support implementation of the SIP
- Assisting in the preparation of the school's annual budget.

Educational Excellence School Advisory Councils (EESACs) and other advisory meetings held by schools are listed in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Meeting Directory.

## Elevator

The school elevators are to be used by individuals who are disabled or injured and cannot use the stairs.



## Electronic Device Policy

While we recognize the importance of being connected and learning how to use technology appropriately in this rapidly changing, interconnected world, we also know that personal electronic devices can cause unnecessary distraction in the school environment. To this end, for safety purposes the use/possession of cell phones is discouraged in school. The phone must be silenced or turned off and remain in a backpack throughout the day. Land line phones are available for student use in the Main office. Cell phones may not be visible in the classrooms; they may not be used in the classrooms; they may not disrupt the classroom. In some cases, students may use their cellphones before or after instructional hours. Students must continue to adhere to our code of conduct during such instances. Students will be asked to put their phones or electronic



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devices away if seen in the hallways and classrooms, they will be confiscated and returned only to a parent/guardian thirty minutes before the school day begins and/or after the school day.

Students are strongly encouraged to use the phone in the main office or, in case of illness, the nurse's phone. The school will not be responsible for the damage, loss, or theft of cell phones.

### **Emergency Contact Information**

Emergency Student Data Forms are distributed during the first week of school. Students are expected to bring the forms home and present them to their parents/guardians. The form must be carefully completed and returned. The form should be completed by the registering parent. The information provided on the Emergency Student Data Forms will enable school staff to contact the parent/guardian immediately in the case of an emergency. Parent/Guardian(s) that provide a cell phone number will receive text messages should an emergency arise. Students may only be released from school to the persons listed on the form after presenting a picture identification. No persons, other than school staff, will have access to the information submitted.

The school shall abide by information provided by the registering parent who must sign the Emergency Student Data Form with regard to pick up and withdrawal of the student from school. Any person verified as a parent in the District's Student Information System is presumed to be authorized to pick up the student unless otherwise indicated. Anyone who knowingly makes a false statement in writing with the intent to mislead a public servant in the performance of his/her official duty is guilty of a second-degree misdemeanor under F.S. 837.06. In addition, anyone who knowingly makes a false verified declaration is guilty of perjury, a third-degree felony under F.S. 92.525. The registrar/attendance clerk will also be notified of any transfer or withdrawal so that the files may be purged as changes occur. In addition, changes of address must be reflected on student records.

Where parents are unmarried, divorced or separated, the parent who enrolled the student is responsible for completing the Emergency Student Data Form with truthful and accurate information that is consistent with the most recent court order governing their divorce, separation, or custody matters. Any parent contesting the information on the Emergency Student Data Form may seek assistance from the court governing their divorce, separation, or custody matters to compel the enrolling parent to revise the information on the form. School staff shall provide such persons with the website for the Family Court Self-Help Program at <http://www.jud11.flcourts.org/Family-Court-Self-Help-Program>.

### **Exceptional Student Education/Section 504**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida ensures that all students suspected of having a disability are identified, evaluated, and provided appropriate, specially designed instruction and related services, if it is determined that the student meets the state's eligibility criteria and the parent/guardian consents to initial placement.

Students who are not eligible for specially designed instruction and related services in accordance with state eligibility categories but have a disability that substantially affects a major life activity may be eligible for accommodations pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

As the parent/guardian of a child with disabilities, you are a very important member of the team that plans your child's education. Be informed and get involved. If you have any questions, please contact your child's school and/or the Office of Educational Services and ESE at [ESE@dadeschools.net](mailto:ESE@dadeschools.net). Staff from the Office of Educational Services and ESE and/or your child's school site administrative team will help to answer your questions. Additional information may also be found at <http://ese.dadeschools.net/>.

## **Fieldtrips**

All fieldtrips must be approved by the principal and Region Superintendent. Participation in fieldtrips requires that the student present a fieldtrip form signed by the parent/guardian to his/her teacher(s) in advance.

## **Homework**

Students, parents, and teachers generally believe homework to be helpful. Cooperation and communication between the home and the school are essential if educational assignments are to make a significant contribution to a student's total educational experience. Principals are encouraged to work with teachers and parents to implement guidelines found in Homework Policy 2330. Teachers are required to provide students with make-up assignments once the absence has been excused; however, it is the responsibility of the student to request the assignments from the teacher(s). Homework will be tied to current subject matter, assigned in amounts and levels of difficulty which students can complete successfully. It will be checked with feedback to students. Teachers will assign homework that has a clear purpose. Communication regarding homework should be directed to the assigning teacher. W.R. Thomas Middle School complies with district recommended minutes for all subject areas. In grades 6-8: a total of 75 minutes of home learning each night.

## **Instructional Materials**

Should a parent find Parents that would like to express concerns regarding any educational/library materials may file an objection regarding non-adopted instructional and library/media center and other educational materials by visiting the Instructional Materials link under the parent tab at their school's website or by clicking on the Instructional Materials link on the Dadeschools website.

## **Interscholastic Athletics/Intramurals**

The Division of Athletics, Activities and Accreditation works with M-DCPS school sites to provide students with opportunities to participate in athletics at various levels. Athletic programs are offered at K-8 Centers, middle schools and high schools. At the middle schools, athletics consists of intramural and interscholastic programs. At the high school level, interscholastic programs are offered at most senior high schools.

For participation in interscholastic athletics at the middle school level, a student must have a 2.00 GPA in conduct and academics to participate. His or her parent must sign the *M-DCPS Middle School Athletic Program Consent and Release from Liability Certificate*. For participation in interscholastic athletics at the high school level, students must have a GPA of 2.00 in conduct and academics is required except for incoming freshman. All participants must purchase athletic and/or football insurance to participate and must have a current physical form on file. A home education student must register his or her intent to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities as a representative of the school before participation.



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

The parents and student must also sign the *Contract for Student Participation in Interscholastic Competitions or Performances*. The District also has policies concerning transfer students and participation in athletics. If a parent has questions concerning these policies, he or she should contact the Division of Athletics, Activities and Accreditation.

## **LGBTQ Support**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County has adopted comprehensive anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policies that require all students be treated with respect regardless of their unique characteristics, including sexual orientation. Every student has the right to learn in a safe and accepting school environment and schools have a responsibility to provide a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for all students. M-DCPS has established the Students Allies for Equity (SAFE) Network with liaisons in every school who are trained to ensure that all students have access to all aspects of school life in ways that preserve and protect their dignity.

## **Mealtime Environment**

School lunchtime should be an opportunity to encourage healthy lifestyle, promote socialization that will affect early behaviors.

The Department of Food and Nutrition serves healthy meals daily. Please visit [nutrition.dadeschools.net](http://nutrition.dadeschools.net) for details on menus, programs, and services.

- **Free Student Meals**

All students enrolled in district managed sites will have access to school meals at no charge.

- **Meal Program Information**

All school meal program flyer with information for parents will be posted on the school's website and at [nutrition.dadeschools.net](http://nutrition.dadeschools.net).

- **Meal Prices**

Breakfast	Lunch
All Students No Charge	All Students No Charge
Adults \$ 3.00	Adults \$ 5.00

- **Peanut Allergies/Peanut-Free School**

Parents/Guardians should notify the school principal of any allergy or other medical condition their child has and request the appropriate forms for completion.

## **Mental Health Services**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools established The Department of Mental Health Services to expand school and community-based mental health services and resources to ensure ongoing coordination of services to further support the emotional and mental well-being of students. The programs in place provide prevention



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initiatives, intervention services for students and family support for students who may be experiencing a mental health challenge. Students in need of intensive services can receive support from contracted agencies at no cost to families. For assistance contact your child's school, the Parent Assistance Line at (305) 995-7100 or visit <https://mentalhealthservices.dadeschools.net/#!/fullWidth/3939>.

School principals shall make a reasonable attempt to notify a parent of a student before the student is removed from school, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity to be taken to a receiving facility for an involuntary examination and school or law enforcement personnel must make a reasonable attempt to contact a mental health professional prior to initiating an involuntary examination, except where there is an imminent danger to the student or others.

### **Protocol for Addressing Parental Concerns**

Parents may generally address their complaints or concerns to the school administration, which may be followed by Region and District department review as deemed appropriate. For issues involving an individual teacher or class, parent/guardian should contact the following individuals starting at the school in the order below.

### **Lines of Communication: Grades**

Parents are encouraged to have open discussions with their children to develop a mutually acceptable approach to utilizing the Portal. Guidelines to consider:

- Talk with your child first. Direct communication with your child should be the first recourse if questions about grades arise. You are encouraged to ask your child clarifying questions.
- Refer to the grading philosophy of each teacher. This may answer questions regarding assignments and/or grading procedures. For example, an assignment handed in late may receive deductions.
- Keep in mind that grades are a *work in progress*.
- Parents should encourage their children to approach their teachers about patterns in performance. Seeking assignment clarification should be done in person.
- If a problem arises that cannot be resolved using the guidelines mentioned above, you may contact your child's teacher directly. They will be happy to help clarify the situation.

Some teachers work on a straight points system, while others weigh the scores according to assignment categories (tests, quizzes, etc). Teachers inform students at the beginning of the course about their expectations and grading policy and may have a variety of ways to communicate this policy to your child.

That communication may include any or all of the following:

- Information provided directly to the student during class time
- Syllabus



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

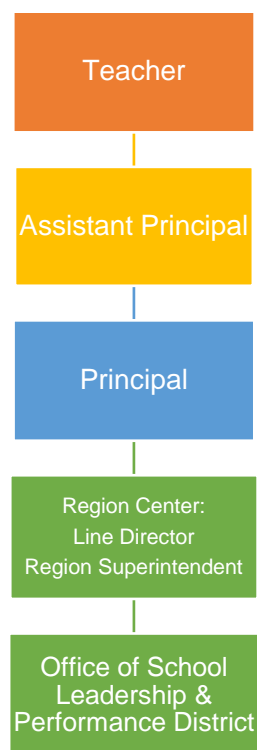
- Schoology

Grades can change dramatically over the course of a quarter. In the beginning of each report period, you may see a change in the class average of your child. This may be because when there are only one or two assignments in the grade book, a low or high score can make a dramatic change in the overall average. Often the largest, long term and cumulative assessments occur toward the end of a quarter or at the conclusion of a unit and may have a significant impact on the final grade.

Parents who have concerns regarding their child's progress, curriculum, homework, etc. should contact their child's teacher/team directly. Counselors may also be helpful as a liaison between parents and the teacher/team. The administration should only be contacted after there have been discussions with the teacher/team and/or counselor. Parents and students are encouraged to check Schoology for assignments and announcements.



You are an important part of your child's education! That is why we want to communicate with you, in your language, about your child's education. This often includes translated documents and a language interpreter for meetings and conversations. WR THOMAS provides free access to interpretation. For support related to these and other translation services, please contact the Main Office at (305) 995- 3800.





# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## Public-Private Collaboration

Requests for private instructional personnel to collaborate with public instructional personnel in the educational setting should be directed to the principal for application of District procedures.

## Restorative Practices Build Relationships & Create Community in Our School

WRT has carefully researched restorative practices through the work of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The framework focuses on developing community and managing conflict and tension by repairing harm and restoring relationships. The fundamental hypothesis of Restorative Practices is that human beings are happier, more cooperative, and productive, and more likely to make positive changes in their behavior when those in positions of authority do things with them, rather than to or for them. Whenever possible, a restorative approach is used to address student discipline issues. A restorative approach to discipline is a philosophy that, when conflict occurs, an attempt is made for students to fully understand what their role was in the conflict and how their actions affected themselves and others. Students then take ownership in the process by trying to “make it right” with others who were affected. Some restorative questions that are asked of students:

- What happened?
- What was your role in it?
- What were you thinking at the time?
- What have you thought about since?
- Who has been affected by what you have done? In what way have they been affected?
- What do you think you need to do to make things right?

Please note that restorative practices do not replace disciplinary consequences; rather, they work together to remediate harm to the community.



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## **Safety and Security**

### ***Emergency Drills***

Six emergency drills, to include active shooter, hostage situations, bomb threats, and other potential emergencies will take place during the school year in accordance with Florida Administrative Code 6A-1.0018(15). All occupants of building where an emergency drill is held are required to participate. The first emergency drill must take place within the first 10 days of the opening of schools, whereas all remaining drills must occur at least every 45 days that school is in session. All emergency drills shall be conducted in accordance with the appropriate corresponding situational response as outlined in the EOP and shall include developmentally appropriate and age-appropriate procedures.

- ***Emergency Operations Plan***

Student and employee safety is an utmost priority of the Miami-Dade County Public School (M-DCPS) System. The District Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) was created to provide District staff, school administration and personnel with the knowledge needed to respond to critical incidents or other related emergencies that may occur in our schools/community. All schools have a site-specific plan to address all types of critical incidents. These plans address the individual needs of the school and provide guidelines for devising methods for communicating with the staff, students, parents/guardians, and the media during a critical incident or an emergency. Some of the protective action procedures include emergency drills (active shooter, hostage, & bomb drills), the evacuation of students/staff from the building(s), evacuation of the disabled and if necessary, the relocation of students/staff from the school campus, lockdown procedures and holding/dismissing students during school and community emergencies. Some important tips for parents/guardians to remember during a Critical Incident are as follows:

- Remain calm;
- Monitor media outlets for updates and official messages from M-DCPS;
- Do not flood the school with telephone calls; and
- Students will not be released during a lockdown. If you need to pick up your child wait until the lockdown is lifted before going to the school.

All school administrators, Region Center Superintendents/Directors and all MDSPD Police officers have been provided the school EOP and are prepared to respond immediately during a critical incident or emergency to provide safety for all children.

BeSafe Anonymous Reporting System (Insert [Flyer](#))

FortifyFL (flyer in Appendix D)

- ***Fire Drills (Evacuation Drills)***

Evacuation drills will take place during the school year in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association 101 Life Safety Code. When the fire alarm activates, students must stop what they are doing and follow the teacher's instructions. Students must clear the building promptly by the prescribed route. Any student who is in the hallway or the restroom must proceed to the nearest exit and locate the teacher. Students, teachers, and staff must remain outside the building until permission is given to re-enter.



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

- **Lockdown Procedures**

Lockdowns are utilized in response to an immediate threat posed to students and staff. Schools have successfully performed lockdowns in response to police activity adjacent to a facility and potential armed intruders onsite. Students, faculty, and staff will comply with all the procedures outlined in the Miami-Dade Public Schools Critical Incident Response Plan and remain on lockdown until a school administrator and/or law enforcement makes an "All Clear" announcement. It is important that silence be kept during these drills or evacuations and that students follow their teacher's directions at all times.

- **Threat Assessments**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has a mandated set of procedures for threat assessments. Schools must establish a Threat Assessment Team comprised of an administrator, counselor, teacher, and law enforcement officer. The schools utilize a problem-solving approach to harm prevention that involves assessment and intervention with students who threaten violence or harm. When a preliminary determination is made, that a student poses a threat of violence the team shall further convene to determine the best course of action. Authorized members of the team may obtain criminal history record information, if applicable. Students determined to be at-risk for violence will be referred for mental health services as applicable. Threat assessments and disciplinary procedures are separate processes. Regardless of whether a threat is determined to be transient, serious substantive, or very serious substantive, appropriate disciplinary procedures shall be followed in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.

- **Team Conferences**

In order to cultivate a close-knit learning environment in our school and promote overall community, students in grades 6-8 are assigned to teaching teams (depending on grade level). Students will participate in their core content classes within the team: ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. They will have opportunities to be with other age group peers during electives and lunch. Parent conferences are an excellent opportunity to meet with your child's teachers and get feedback on their progress. We utilize the "TEAM" process for parent/teacher conferences unless your child is only having an issue with one class. Otherwise, when conferences are scheduled usually on Monday's and Thursday's from 8:30 am – 9:00 am all teachers on your child's team will be present.

- **Visitors**

Due to legal regulations, students are not permitted to have guests attend school with them at any time. Parents/guardians are always welcome, and tours may be arranged with the principal to view the school. Classroom visits require a request with 24-hour notice. All visitors must first register with security at the main entrance, sign-in, produce photo identification, and then proceed to register in the main office. Anyone who fails to follow these procedures will be considered a trespasser and is subject to arrest.



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## School Activities/Clubs

All School Activities, clubs, and organizations must be approved by the principal and conform to the School Board Policies 5845 - Student Activities, 5830 - Student Fundraising and 9211 – Parent Organization, Booster Clubs, and Other Fund-Raising Activities.

- **Clubs**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools' students may participate in a wide variety of activities, including student council, subject-area clubs, honor societies, service clubs, school publications and class activities. School-sponsored clubs may be curriculum-related or noncurricular-related.

Curriculum-related clubs are student groups whose goals are an extension of the activities and objectives in a particular subject area within the school's curriculum. Conversely, noncurricular-related clubs are student groups whose goals are special interest oriented and not directly related to the curriculum. Meetings of noncurricular-related clubs may be scheduled only at times when instruction is not taking place, either before or after school.

### School Club List

Moderator/ Club Sponsor	Club
Amaro	Tigerette Dancers
Gross	Jazz Band/Chamber Orchestra/Music
S. Rodriguez	Eco Tigers
Morales	FEA
Carrett	Spanish/Culinary
Hernandez	NJHS
Hernandez	Student Council
Quincosa	TV Production
Sotomayor	Technology/Robotics

## School Center for Special Instructions (SCSI)

School administrators may elect to assign students to the School Center for Special Instruction (SCSI) as an interim alternative educational setting to suspension from school. SCSI is designed to provide strategies and resources to students focused on learning new behavior skills. When misconduct in a class result in an assignment to SCSI, the student should be reassigned from only the class in which the misconduct occurred. Continued misconduct can result in the reassignment from all classes.



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## **School Class Picture Process**

The school class picture monies will no longer be collected by school staff for this activity. Collection of monies will be conducted by the photographer and/or photographer's staff.

At no time, shall a staff member, parent, volunteer, or member of a school-allied organization such as the PTA handle school class picture monies.

## **School Transportation**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools will transport approximately 35,000 students a day this school year, using a fleet of 999 buses on 800 school-bus routes. The service is for students who live more than two (2) miles from their assigned school and for students with special needs in some instances.

Before school begins, parents/guardians of all students eligible for bus transportation should log on the BusPlannerWeb and view the bus assignment. The information is updated nightly, and a link is provided on the parent portal. Parents/guardians are encouraged to check the BusPlannerWeb throughout the school year to obtain the most current information on their children's bus assignment.

Parents interested in determining their child's transportation eligibility should contact their child's school for information.

## **Student Records**

The education records and personally identifiable information of students are protected by The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Florida Statutes. These laws provide that without the prior consent of the parent, guardian or eligible student, a student's records may not be released, except in accordance with the provisions listed in the above-cited laws. The laws provide certain exceptions to the prior consent requirement to the release of student records, which include, but are not limited to, school officials with a legitimate educational interest and lawfully issued subpoenas and court orders with notice prior to disclosure. Parents and eligible students are also provided the right to challenge the accuracy of their education records in accordance with the procedures outlined in School Board Policy 8330.

Each school must provide to the parent(s), guardian(s) or eligible student(s) an annual notice in writing of their right to inspect and review student records. Once a student reaches 18 years of age or is attending an institution of post-secondary education, the consent is required from the student only, unless the student qualifies as a dependent under the law.

## **School Volunteer Program**

The School Volunteer Program matches the resources of members of the community with the needs of our schools to support the District's goal of student achievement. School Volunteers bring with them many diverse skills and talents that are tailored to the needs of the students and the community. Each year, more than 30,000 volunteers share their time and talents enriching the lives of students in our schools.

To Become a School Volunteer:

1. Visit <https://www.engagemiamidade.net/volunteers>
2. Complete the online volunteer registration (Raptor).
3. Receive email approval from the School Volunteer Office.



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

Once you're approved, *CHECK-IN* at your school as a *VOLUNTEER* to track your time and school volunteer activity.

## Steps to Managing Your Volunteer Hours

### **Who Can Volunteer?**

- Students- M-DCPS students; college/university students charter/private school students
- Parents - Guardians, primary caregivers
- Employees - Administrators, teachers, and staff of M-DCPS;
- Community Members and Organizations - businesses, retirees, local organizers, community and faith-based organizations, alumni, and college students

### **The M-DCPS Parent Academy**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools created the Parent Academy to bridge the gap between home and school by connecting parents to valuable resources and information on topics that impact children's lives, including helping children learn, parenting skills, financial management, and health and wellness.

The M-DCPS Parent Academy supports parents in becoming more involved in their children's education and empowers them to set and achieve personal empowerment goals for higher education and career advancement by providing free, year-round workshops, classes and events at schools, neighborhood centers, and community agencies across the county.

Parents can participate in virtual and in-person sessions that are aligned to their needs and convenient to their homes and workplaces. Upcoming events and workshop offerings are listed on the M-DCPS Parent Academy website at [parentacademymiami.com](http://parentacademymiami.com). For additional information, please call the M-DCPS Parent Academy at 305-271-8257 and follow them on Facebook and Instagram "Parent Academy Miami" and on Twitter "@ParentAcadMiami".

### **Verifications of Residency**

If verification is not provided or acceptable, the Superintendent may verify the student's residence.

Anyone who knowingly makes a false statement in writing with the intent to mislead a public servant in the performance of his/her official duty is guilty of a second-degree misdemeanor of the second degree under Florida Statute 837.06. In addition, anyone who knowingly makes a false verified declaration is guilty of perjury, a third-degree felony under Florida Statute 95.525.



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**APPENDIX A – School Calendars**



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK



## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY



JULY 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
3	<del>4</del>	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

AUGUST 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
<del>7</del>	<del>8</del>	<del>9</del>	<del>10</del>	<del>11</del>
(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

SEPTEMBER 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
<del>4</del>	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
(25)	26	27	28	29

OCTOBER 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	(26)	(27)
(30)	31			

NOVEMBER 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	<del>10</del>
13	14	15	16	17
<del>20</del>	<del>21</del>	<del>22</del>	<del>23</del>	<del>24</del>
27	28	29	30	

DECEMBER 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	(22) <sup>d</sup>
<del>25</del>	<del>26</del>	<del>27</del>	<del>28</del>	<del>29</del>

JANUARY 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
<del>1</del>	<del>2</del>	<del>3</del>	<del>4</del>	<del>5</del>
8	9	10	11	12
<del>15</del>	16	17	(18)	(19) <sup>d</sup>
(22)	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

FEBRUARY 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
<del>19</del>	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	

MARCH 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	(22) <sup>d</sup>
<del>25</del>	<del>26</del>	<del>27</del>	<del>28</del>	<del>29</del>

APRIL 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	(9)	(10) <sup>d</sup>	(11)	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

MAY 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
<del>27</del>	28	29	30	31

JUNE 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	(6)	(7)
<sup>d</sup> 10	<sup>d</sup> 11	12	13	14
17	18	<del>19</del>	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

	New Teachers Report
	Teacher Planning Day
	District-wide Professional Development Day
	Legal Holiday (12 month)
	Recess Day (10 month)

	Recess Day
	Beg/End of Grading Period
	Legal Holiday
	Available to opt
	Teacher Planning Day available to opt

DAYS IN GRADING PERIOD	
1 - 49	
2 - 41	
3 - 50	
4 - 40	





# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY MIAMI, FLORIDA (Revised – 06/26/23)

August 14, 2023	Teacher planning day; not available to opt; no students in school
August 15	Teacher planning day; District-wide Professional Development Day - not available to opt; no students in school
August 16	Teacher planning day; not available to opt; no students in school
August 17	First Day of School; begin first semester
September 4	Labor Day; holiday for students and employees
September 25*+ #	Teacher planning day; no students in school
October 26	End first grading period; first semester
October 27	Teacher planning day; District-wide Professional Development Day - not available to opt; no students in school
October 30	Begin second grading period; first semester
November 10	Observance of Veterans' Day; holiday for students and employees
November 20-22	Recess Days
November 23	Thanksgiving; Board-approved holiday for students and employees
November 24	Recess Day
December 22*+ #	Teacher planning day; no students in school
December 25 – January 5	Winter recess for students and employees with the exception of Fraternal Order of Police and select 12-month employees
January 5, 2024	Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday; holiday for students and employees
January 15	End first semester and second grading period
January 18	Teacher planning day; no students in school
January 19*+ #	Begin third grading period; second semester
January 22	All Presidents Day; holiday for students and employees
February 19	Teacher planning day; no students in school
March 22*+ #	Spring recess for students and employees with the exception of Fraternal Order of Police and select 12-month employees
March 25-29	End third grading period; second semester
April 9	Teacher planning day; no students in school
April 10*+ #	Begin fourth grading period; second semester
April 11	Observance of Memorial Day; holiday for students and employees
May 27	Last Day of School; end fourth grading period; second semester
June 6	Teacher planning day; not available to opt; no students in school
June 7	

NOTE: Every Wednesday students in elementary schools (Grades 2-5) and K-8 Centers (Grades 2-8) are released one (1) hour early

Job Category	Beginning Date	Ending Date
Teachers new to the system	August 7, 2023	June 7, 2024
Assistant Principals and 10-month clerical	August 7, 2023	June 14, 2024
Cafeteria Managers	August 9, 2023	June 7, 2024
Satellite Assistants	August 11, 2023	June 6, 2024
All Instructional Staff, Paraprofessionals & Security	August 14, 2023	June 7, 2024
Assistant to Cafeteria Managers/MAT Specialists	August 15, 2023	June 6, 2024
Cafeteria Workers (part-time)	August 17, 2023	June 6, 2024

**\*Teachers/paraprofessionals and school support personnel** may opt to work one or two days, August 10, 11, 2023, or June 10, 11, 2024, in lieu of any one or two of the following days: September 25, 2023, December 22, 2023, January 19, 2024, March 22, 2024, and April 10, 2024. August 15, 2023, and October 27, 2023, are District-wide Professional Development Days and are not available to opt.

**+Teachers new to Miami-Dade County Public Schools** may opt to work one or two days, August 10, 11, 2023, in lieu of any one or two of the following days: September 25, 2023, December 22, 2023, January 19, 2024, March 22, 2024, and April 10, 2024. August 15, 2023, and October 27, 2023, are District-wide Professional Development Days and are not available to opt.

**#Ten-month secretarial and clerical employees** may opt to work one or two days, August 3, 4, 2023 or June 10, 11, 2024, in lieu of any one or two of the following days: September 25, 2023, December 22, 2023, January 19, 2024, March 22, 2024, and April 10, 2024. August 15, 2023, and October 27, 2023, are District-wide Professional Development Days and are not available to opt.



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## W.R. THOMAS BLOCK A/B CALENDAR

### 2023-2024 A/B CALENDAR

August 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

September 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
⊗	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

October 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

November 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	⊗
13	14	15	16	17
⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
27	28	29	30	

December 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗

January 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
8	9	10	11	12
⊗	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

February 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
⊗	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	

March 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗

April 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

May 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
⊗	28	29	30	31

June 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7

A/B SCHEDULE	
A	B

Light Shade/ Dark Shade

○ Teacher Planning Day

⊗ Recess Day

⊗ Legal Holiday



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## **APPENDIX B – Florida Statutes and School Board Policies**

**View all School Board Policies at: [School Board Bylaws & Policies](#)**

### **Academics**

- **2235 - MUSIC, ART, AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
  - Music, art, and physical education are fundamental subjects in the school's curriculum because they contribute to every child's academic and social development. Art and Music education helps level the "learning field" across socio-economic boundaries while strengthening student problem-solving and critical thinking skills and contributing to the overall academic achievement of students.
- **2240 - CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES AND STUDENT EXPRESSION**
  - Students are encouraged to participate in discussions, speeches, and other expressions in which many points of view, including those that are controversial, are freely explored. A controversial issue is a topic on which opposing points of view have been promulgated by responsible opinion or likely to arouse both support and opposition in the community.
- **2370.01 – VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION**
  - The enrollment period for the District-operated full-time virtual instruction program, Miami-Dade Online Academy, opens in the spring of each school year for a minimum of ninety days and closes thirty days before the first day of the school year.
- **2416 – STUDENT PRIVACY AND PARENTAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION**
  - No student shall be required, as a part of the school program or the District's curriculum, without prior written consent of the student (if an adult, or an emancipated minor) or, if an unemancipated minor, his/her parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information.
  - Parents have the right to inspect, upon request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum of the student and within a reasonable period of time after the request is received by the building principal. "Instructional material" means instructional content that is provided to a student, regardless of its format, including printed and representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet). The term does not include academic tests or assessments.
- **2417 – REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND DISEASE EDUCATION**
  - The School Board shall provide comprehensive reproductive health and disease education to secondary students.
  - Parents will be notified in advance when the reproductive health and disease lessons will be taught in the classroom and encouraged to review the program content and instructional materials.
  - Parents may request that a student be exempted from the teaching of reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, its symptoms, development, and treatment; and the



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

process for requesting such exemption. An appropriate alternative educational assignment will be provided for any student who receives an exemption.

- 2421 - K-12 CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
  - Career-technical education is designed to provide career and technical education experiences. These experiences will complement and reinforce academic concepts that are particularly amenable to contextualized learning in a distinct career area and provide occupationally specific skills.
- 2440 - SUMMER SCHOOL
  - The School Board may conduct a summer program of academic instruction for students in grades K-12 and Special Education (SPED) students needing extended school year services as identified in their Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.). The School Board may also choose to implement summer enhancement programs, contingent upon available funding. The School Board shall provide transportation for full-time SPED students and other students as appropriate.
- 2510 - INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER, AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS
  - Meetings of committees convened for the purpose of ranking, eliminating, or selecting instructional materials for recommendation to the district school board must be noticed and open to the public and committees convened for such purposes must include parents of district students.
  - The District shall maintain on its website a current list of instructional materials, by grade level, purchased by the District. This list can be accessed at <http://im.dadeschools.net/>. Elementary schools shall maintain a list of materials available at the school on the school website. Parents may object to instructional materials in accordance with District procedures.
- 2623 - STUDENT ASSESSMENT
  - Student assessment shall comply with the law and State Board of Education rules to determine the progress of students and to assist them in attaining student performance objectives and the educational achievement goals of the District.
  - State-mandated tests (e.g., diagnostic assessments and achievement tests) shall be administered to all eligible students at the times designated by the State Board of Education.
  - Administrative procedures for test security and confidentiality of student results are in place to maintain the integrity of District and State assessments.
- 5410 - STUDENT PROGRESSION PLAN
  - Provides guidance to teachers, school and district administrators, parents and other stakeholders regarding the requirements and procedures for students to progress from one grade to the next, Kindergarten through grade 12 and Adult Education. The information presented in the document is derived from requirements set forth by Florida Statutes, State



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

Board of Education Rules and policies established by The School Board of Miami-Dade County.

## **Accident Reports/Incident Reports/School Safety**

- 1139 – EDUCATOR MISCONDUCT

- Within 24 hours after notification to the Superintendent or governing board chair of a charter school by a law enforcement agency that an employee has been arrested for a felony or misdemeanor involving the abuse of a minor child or the sale or possession of a controlled substance, the school principal or designee shall notify parents of enrolled students who had direct contact with the employee and include, at a minimum, the name and specific charges against the employee.

- 3213 - STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE

- Protecting the physical and emotional well-being of students is of paramount importance. Each instructional staff member shall maintain the highest professional, moral, and ethical standards in dealing with the supervision, control, and protection of students on or off school property.
- Staff members shall report immediately to a building administrator any accident, safety hazard, or other potentially harmful condition or situation s/he detects.
- Staff members shall provide proper instruction in safety matters.
- Any parent with a concern regarding the implementation of the provisions of F.S. 1001.42(8)(c) may file a written complaint with the principal of their child's school.

- 5540 - INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING STUDENTS

- School administrators shall respond to incidents involving students occurring on school grounds or at school-sponsored events. When conducting an initial fact inquiry, if an administrator suspects that a crime has been committed, they must report the matter to School Police or another appropriate law enforcement agency to assume the investigative responsibilities.

- 5772 - WEAPONS

- Students are prohibited from possessing, storing, making, or using a weapon, including a concealed weapon, in a school safety zone and any setting that is under the control and supervision of the School Board for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the School Board including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the School Board, a school-sponsored event, or in a School Board-owned or private vehicle.

- 7217 - WEAPONS

- Visitors are prohibited from possessing, storing, making, or using a weapon, including a concealed weapon, in a school safety zone and any setting that is under the control and supervision of the School Board for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the School Board including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for



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by the School Board, a school-sponsored event, or in a School Board-owned or private vehicle.

- 8405 - SCHOOL SAFETY

- The School Board is committed to maintaining a safe and drug-free environment in all of the District's schools. School crime and violence are multifaceted problems that need to be addressed in a manner that utilizes all available resources in the community through a coordinated effort of School District personnel, law enforcement agencies, and families. School administrators and local law enforcement officials must work together to provide for the safety and welfare of students while they are at school or a school-related event or are on their way to and from school. Parents have the right to access SESIR data and to receive timely notification of threats, unlawful acts, and significant emergencies, certain arrests of employees. Student identification cards issued by the District to students in grades 6 through 12 include the telephone numbers for national or statewide crisis and suicide hotlines and text lines. Drills for active assailant and hostage situations shall be conducted at least as often as emergency drills and fire drills.

- 8410 – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, PREPAREDNESS, AND RESPONSE

- The School Board recognizes that its responsibility for the safety of students and staff requires that it formulate and prescribe emergency management and emergency preparedness procedures for District schools, in consultations with appropriate public safety agencies, including emergency notification procedures for life-threatening emergencies, including, but not limited to, fires; natural disasters; bomb threats, weapon-use, hostage, and active assailant situations; hazardous materials or toxic chemical spills; weather emergencies, including hurricanes, tornadoes, and severe storms (see Policy 8420.01); and exposure as a result of a manmade emergency; and that such emergencies are best met by preparedness and planning.
- The District Critical Incident Response Team (DCIRT) is responsible for assisting schools with emergencies/critical incidents as needed and coordinate District resources.

- FLORIDA STATUTES, SECTION 943.082 – SCHOOL SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM

- FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows users to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. FortifyFL was created and funded by the 2018 Florida Legislature as part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. It is available for free download from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. It may also be accessed from the Dadeschools.net homepage, as well as the student, parent, and employee portal pages. A link to FortifyFL has also been placed on each school site information page.

## **Admission, Registration and Immunization Requirements**

- 5112 - ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Establishes the admission and registration requirements for students entering school. The following documents and forms are to be provided upon initial registration:



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- Original birth certificate
- Verification of age and legal name
- Proof of a physical examination by an approved health care provider including a tuberculosis health clinical screening, appropriate follow-up, and a Florida Certificate of Immunization-680 Form
- Verification of parent/legal current residence (address)
- Requires the registering parent to submit truthful and accurate information in accordance with current court orders related to parenting matters.
- The school shall abide by information provided by the parent who completes the initial registration documents or “registering parent”. Any person verified as a parent in the District’s Student Information System is presumed to be authorized to pick up the student unless otherwise indicated. Parents have the right to change the registering parent by agreement. Any subsequent change to the registering parent listed in the District’s student information system must be verified by both parents in accordance with District procedures. Only the registering parent will be permitted to withdraw the student from the school and enroll the student in another District school. Any parent contesting the information on the initial registration forms may seek assistance from the court to compel the registering parent to revise the information on the forms. School staff shall provide such persons with the website for the Family Court Self-Help Program at <http://www.jud11.flcourts.org/Family-Court-Self-Help-Program>. Parents may agree to change the registering parent and submit an *Agreement to Change of Registering Parent Form* (FM-7600) at any time.
- 5114 - FOREIGN STUDENTS
  - Entry requirements into schools are the same for all students, regardless of country of birth and immigration status. All students will register at the school of the actual residence of the parent in the attendance area as approved by the School Board.
- 5320 – IMMUNIZATION
  - All students shall be immunized against polio, measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) diphtheria, pertussis tetanus (DTaP), hepatitis B, and varicella (chicken pox). Student’s with a documented history of the varicella (chicken pox) disease are not required to receive the varicella vaccine. This policy applies to students who currently attend school in the District and those eligible to attend.
  - A student who has not completed the required immunization will not be admitted to school.
  - The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) also recommends students should receive an annual flu vaccine by the end of October, and all eligible students are encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine including COVID-19 vaccine booster shots to help protect against the virus.

## **Animals on District Property**

- 8390 - ANIMALS ON DISTRICT PROPERTY
  - Service animals as required by law are permitted in schools. “Service animals” pursuant to 28 C.F.R. 35.104, means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.





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- All animals, including service animals, housed on District property or brought on District property on a regular basis must meet every State and County veterinary requirement, including but not limited to, rabies vaccination or other inoculations required to be properly licensed.
- Students are not allowed to bring pets to school.

## **Anti-Discrimination Policy**

- 5517 – PROHIBITION ON DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT AGAINST STUDENTS BASED ON PROTECTED CATEGORIES
  - The School Board shall comply with all Federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and all requirements and regulations of the U.S. Department of Education. The Board will enforce its prohibition against discrimination and harassment based on sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, age, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, gender identification, social and family background, linguistic preference, pregnancy, and any other basis prohibited by law. The Board shall maintain an educational and work environment free from all forms of discrimination and harassment, which includes Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.
  - This policy prohibits discrimination and harassment at locations, events, or circumstances over which the Board exercises substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the prohibited conduct occurs, including but not limited to such events occurring on school property, during any school-related or school-sponsored program or activity, and on school-sponsored transportation. This policy also prohibits retaliation against a person who has made a report or filed a formal complaint alleging unlawful discrimination or harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a discrimination or harassment investigation.
- 5517.01 – BULLYING AND HARASSMENT
  - The School Board is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and shall strive to eradicate bullying and harassment in its schools by providing awareness, prevention, and education in promoting a school atmosphere in which bullying, harassment, and intimidation will not be tolerated by students, Board employees, visitors, or volunteers.
  - This policy is also incorporated by reference into the *Code of Student Conduct*, and supersedes any existing policy, guideline, or Board policy regarding bullying and harassment that may be inconsistent with this policy. These policies apply to all students in the District.
  - This policy does not replace the District's current policy prohibiting harassment on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, age, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, gender identification, social and family background, linguistic preference, and pregnancy.
- 5517.02 - DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT COMPLAINT PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS
  - Students and parents are encouraged to promptly report complaints of discriminatory or harassing conduct to their principal. Additionally, they may file the complaint directly with the Region Office or the District's Office of Civil Rights Compliance (CRC).





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- All complaints involving student to student harassment, except sexual harassment, will be first investigated at the school site. If such complaints are made directly to the District Office, the Region Office or the CRC Office, they will be referred to the school site for the initial investigation. Complaints of sexual harassment of a student will be investigated by the CRC Office with support from the school in accordance with the District's Title IX Sexual Harassment Manual. For more information, please contact CRC at (305) 995-1580 or visit <http://hrdadeschools.net/civilrights>.
- This policy provides the steps to individual complaints of discrimination and harassment based on protected categories and the process for addressing the complaints.

## Attendance Policy/School Hours

### • 5200 – ATTENDANCE

- Student attendance is a means of improving student performance and critical in raising student achievement. Together, the staff of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, students, parents and the community must make every effort to lessen the loss of instructional time to students.
- Absences shall be reported to the school attendance office by the parent or adult student as soon as practicable. The Superintendent shall require, from the parent of each student of compulsory school age or from an adult student who has been absent from school or from class for any reason, a statement of the cause for such absence. The District reserves the right to verify such statements and to investigate the cause of each single absence.
- Educators shall encourage regular attendance of students, maintain accurate attendance records, and follow reporting procedures prescribed by the Superintendent.

### • 5225 - ABSENCES FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

- Student absences for religious purposes, as identified on the approved holidays listed in the Student Attendance Reporting Procedures PK-12 Handbook, may not prohibit students from receiving attendance awards or other attendance incentives at the school level, region level, or District level.

### • 5230 - LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY DISMISSAL

- Students shall be in attendance throughout the school day. If a student will be late to school or dismissed before the end of the school day, the parent shall notify the school in advance and state the reason for the tardiness or early dismissal. Justifiable reasons shall be determined by the principal. Students will be counted absent if they are not present in class for at least half of the class period. To be counted "present" for the day, the student must be in attendance for a minimum of two hours of the day unless extenuating circumstances exist.
- The registering parent –shall indicate on the Emergency Student Data Form the individual(s) to whom the student may be released during the school day. The registering parent who completes the Emergency Student Data Form is responsible for providing information that is truthful and accurate – and in the case of unmarried, divorced, or separated parents, consistent with any court order in effect governing their divorce, separation, or parenting matters.



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- 8220 - SCHOOL DAY

- The Superintendent shall annually establish the hours of the school day. The Superintendent may authorize exceptions from the regular school day.
- The Superintendent may close the schools, delay the opening of school, or dismiss school early when such alteration in the regular session is required for the protection of the health and safety of students and staff members.

## **Ceremonies & Observances**

- 8800 - RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES/OBSERVANCES AND MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTION

- Acknowledgement of, explanation of, and teaching about religious holidays of various religions is permitted. Celebration activities involving nonreligious decorations and use of secular works are permitted, but it is the responsibility of all faculty members to ensure that such activities are strictly voluntary, do not place an atmosphere of social compulsion or ostracism on minority groups or individuals, and do not interfere with the regular school program. The principal of each school shall require teachers in the first class period of the school day in all grades to set aside at least one (1) minute, but not more than two (2) minutes, daily, for moment of silence, during which time students may not interfere with other students' participation. The amendments prohibit a teacher from making suggestions as to the nature of any reflection that a student may engage in during the moment of silence and require each teacher in the first class period of the day to encourage parents and guardians to discuss the moment of silence with their children and make suggestions as to how their children can best use this time.

## **Class Size**

- CLASS SIZE STATE STATUTE

- Florida citizens approved an amendment that set limits on the number of students in core academic classes in public schools. The amendment requires classes to be in compliance at the class level. However, pursuant to language passed by the 2013 Florida Legislature in HB 7009 and subsequently approved by the Governor, amending Florida Statute 1002.31, Public School Parental Choice, the calculation for compliance with class size limits pursuant to Florida Statute 1003.03 for a school or program that is a public school of choice is measured by the average number of students at the school level.

## **Clinic**

- 5330 – STUDENT USE OF MEDICATIONS

- The School Board shall not be responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of student illness. The administration of prescribed medication and/or medically-prescribed treatments to a student during school hours will be permitted only when failure to do so would jeopardize the health of the student, the student would not be able to attend school if the medication or treatment were not made available during school hours, or the child is disabled and requires medication to benefit from his/her educational program.



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## Code of Student Conduct

- 2451 - ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PROGRAMS
  - The Superintendent may provide alternative education programs for students who, in the opinion of the Superintendent, will benefit from this educational option. Participation in an alternative program does not exempt the student from complying with school attendance rules or the Code of Conduct.
- 5136.02 - SEXTING
  - Sexting is the act of sending or forwarding through cellular telephones and other electronic media sexually explicit, nude, or partially nude photographs/images. It is the District's mission to ensure the social, physical, psychological, and academic well-being of all students. The educational purposes of the schools are best accomplished in a climate of student behavior that is socially acceptable and conducive to the learning and teaching process.
- 5500 - STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE
  - Schools shall promote a positive school climate that supports academic achievement and emphasizes civility, fairness, mutual respect, and acceptance of diversity. The *Code of Student Conduct Elementary*, *Code of Student Conduct Secondary*, and the *Post-Secondary Code of Student Conduct*, incorporated by reference, apply to all students in the District. Copies of these documents are on file in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, and the Citizen Information Center, and shall be available in each school and special center.
  - The Superintendent, principals, and other administrators shall assign discipline/corrective strategies to students pursuant to the Code of Student Conduct and, where required by law, protect the student's due process rights to notice, hearing, and appeal. Additional guidelines for the maintenance of appropriate student behavior are issued by memorandum from District administration.
  - The Superintendent shall make the Code of Student Conduct available to all students and their parents.
- 5511 - DRESS CODE AND SCHOOL UNIFORMS
  - Students are expected to come to school with proper attention having been given to personal cleanliness, grooming, and neatness of dress. Students whose personal attire or grooming distracts the attention of other students or teachers from their schoolwork shall be required to make the necessary alterations to such attire or grooming before entering the classroom or be sent home by the principal to be properly prepared for school. Students who fail to meet the minimum acceptable standards of cleanliness and neatness as determined by the principal and as specified in this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures.

## Digital Conversion/Social Media

- 7540.03 - STUDENT RESPONSIBLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND DISTRICT NETWORK SYSTEMS
  - The School Board provides students access to a large variety of technology and network resources which provide multiple opportunities to enhance learning and improve



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communication within the school district and the community. All users must, however, exercise appropriate and responsible use of school and District technology and information systems. Users include anyone authorized by administration to use the network. This policy is intended to promote the most effective, safe, productive, and instructionally sound uses of network information and communication tools.

## **Equal Opportunity**

- 2260 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
  - The School Board shall provide equal opportunity for all students and will not discriminate or tolerate harassment in its educational programs or activities on any basis prohibited by law or School Board Policy.
- 5111.01 - HOMELESS STUDENTS
  - The District Project UP-START program serves children and youth who are identified as meeting the Federal definition of "homeless". Homeless children and youth, including those who are not currently enrolled in school due to homelessness, shall have equal access to the same free appropriate public education (FAPE) in public schools and preschool education programs in the same manner as all other District students.
  - Additionally, homeless students shall have access to other services needed to ensure an opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic standards to which all students are held and to fully participate in the District's academic and extra-curricular activities for which they meet relevant eligibility criteria. To that end, homeless students shall not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. The District shall establish safeguards that protect homeless students from discrimination on the basis of their homelessness and shall remove barriers identifying homeless children and youth.

## **Fieldtrips/School Social Events**

- 2340 - FIELD AND OTHER DISTRICT-SPONSORED TRIPS
  - Field trips should supplement and enrich classroom procedures by providing learning experiences in an environment outside the schools, arouse new interests among students, help students relate school experiences to the reality of the world outside of school, bring the resources of the community - natural, artistic, industrial, commercial, governmental, educational - within the student's learning experience, and afford students the opportunity to study real things and real processes in their actual environment.
  - Other District-sponsored trips are defined as any planned, student-travel activity approved as part of the District's total educational program and is under the direct supervision and control of an instructional staff member or any advisor designated by the Superintendent.
- 5850 - SCHOOL SOCIAL EVENTS
  - School facilities and appropriate staff will be made available for social events approved by the principal within and outside school facilities.



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

- 8640 - TRANSPORTATION FOR FIELD AND OTHER DISTRICT-SPONSORED TRIPS
  - Regular or special-purpose school vehicles shall be used for transportation on field and other District-sponsored trips. These vehicles shall be owned or approved by the District and driven by approved drivers.

## **Financial Obligations**

- 6152 - STUDENT FEES
  - The School Board may levy certain charges to students to facilitate the utilization of adequate, appropriate learning materials used in the course of instruction.

## **Food & Nutrition/Wellness Policy**

- 8500 - FOOD SERVICES
  - The Food and Nutrition service program strives to provide school food services consistent with the nutritional needs of students and provide school food services that contribute to the student's educational experiences and the development of desirable eating habits.
- 8510 - WELLNESS POLICY
  - The District is committed to providing a healthy environment for students and staff within the school environment, recognizing that individuals must be physically, mentally, and socially healthy in order to promote wellness and academic performance.
  - The District focuses on achieving five goals: nutrition, physical education, physical activity: recess, health & nutrition literacy and preventive healthcare.
  - The District Wellness Policy provides guidelines for food sold on campus for fund raising activities.
- 8531 - STUDENT MEALS
  - All students will receive school meals (breakfast and lunch) at no charge during School Year 2023-2024 as the district will continue with the United States Department of Agriculture's Community Eligibility Provision.

## **Fundraising**

- 5830 – STUDENT FUNDRAISING
  - Student fundraising by students is limited in order to prevent disruption and includes student solicitation and collection of money for any purpose including collection of money in exchange for tickets, papers, or any other goods or services. Student fundraising in school, on school property, or at any school-sponsored event is permitted only when the profit is to be used for school purposes or for an activity connected with the schools.
  - No student, school organization, or member of the school staff may solicit funds in the name of the school from the public for any purpose without prior approval of the school principal and the Region Superintendent or his/her designee. All approvals must be in writing using the approved District forms and must be retained at the school for audit purposes.



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

- 6605 – CROWDFUNDING

- Crowdfunding activities aimed at raising funds for a specific classroom or school activity, including extra-curricular activity, or to obtain supplemental resources (e.g., supplies or equipment) that are not required to provide a free appropriate public education to any students in the classroom may be permitted, but only with the specific approval by the principal and the region administrator. Crowdfunding for specific causes requires the approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

- 9211 – SCHOOL – ALLIED AND OTHER OUTSIDE SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

- The School Board appreciates the efforts of all organizations whose objectives are to enhance the educational experiences of District students, to help meet educational needs of students and/or provide extra educational benefits.

## Health Screening

- 2410 - SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM

- The health services provided by the District shall supplement, not replace, parental responsibility, and shall appraise, protect, and promote student health. These services shall be designed to encourage parents to devote attention to child health, to discover health problems, and to encourage the use of the services of physicians, dentists, and community health agencies as needed.
- Vision, hearing, scoliosis, and growth and development screenings are conducted based on mandated grade levels. Screenings do not substitute a thorough examination in a medical providers office. Parents/guardians must provide the school with **written notification** if you **do not** want your child to participate in the screening program.

## Homework

- 2330 - HOMEWORK

- Homework is an essential component of the learning process for students with the assignment of meaningful learning activities. While homework should provide opportunities for students to reinforce what is taught in the classroom, the assignments should be based on learning outcomes that build students' conceptual understanding, develop thinking skills, and focus on the application of knowledge. Homework assignments should engage students in purposeful, relevant learning that meets their academic needs, with assignments emphasizing quality and depth over length and repetition. Homework is not to be assigned as punishment.

## Internship

- 2424 - STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

- Student participation in an internship program authorized by the High School to Business Career Enhancement Act may serve as a positive educational experience and provide a foundation for future employment opportunities.

## Parent Choice Student Transfers

- 2431 - INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS



## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

- The District's program of interscholastic athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, games, or events involving individual students or teams of students from high schools in this District with those from a high school in another district. Middle school/K-8 center athletic teams may not play out-of-county or against out-of-county teams within the county. All students shall be permitted to select their own school team sports activities without duress or interference by any employee.
- All high schools may become members of and be governed by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) rules and regulations.
- 5120 - STUDENT SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT AND ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE
  - The assignment of students to District schools shall be consistent with the best interests of students and the best use of District resources.
- 5131 – STUDENT TRANSFERS AND CONTROLLED OPEN ENROLLMENT
  - This policy governs all regular school transfers from one (1) school to another, except for transfers to Magnet programs/schools that are subject to specific admissions requirements and governed by School Board Policy 2370, Magnet Programs/Schools.
  - Controlled Open Enrollment allows the School District to make K-12 school assignments using parents indicated preferential educational choice in-county and out-of-county. This section of the policy does not apply to charter schools. Charter schools must adopt their own controlled open enrollment plan.
  - Controlled Open Enrollment is active during a specific window period between end of year and the subsequent school year. Controlled open enrollment transfers are subject to approval by the Region Superintendent.

### Parent Involvement

- 2111 - PARENT INVOLVEMENT– A HOME-SCHOOL-DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP
  - A collaborative environment is encouraged in which the parents and families of District students are invited and encouraged to be involved stakeholders in the school community. This policy establishes the framework and responsibilities for implementation of strategies to increase family and community involvement. A copy of this policy must be distributed to all parents.
- 5780 – PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS
  - The Parents' Bill of Rights contains information about School Board policies to support strong, continuing family and community involvement in all aspects of school programs and activities provides support for measurable improvement in student achievement. See also <https://parentsbillofrights.dadeschools.net/>.
- 9210 - PARENT ORGANIZATIONS
  - The Parent-Teacher/Parent-Teacher-Student Associations (PTA/PTSA) in the District are acknowledged as sincerely interested in, and staunch supporters of public education in Miami-Dade County.



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

- 8810 - THE AMERICAN FLAG AND OFFICIAL MOTTO OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
  - The Pledge of Allegiance shall be recited at the beginning of the day in every school.
  - A student has the right not to participate in reciting the pledge. Upon written request by his/her parent, the student must be excused from reciting the pledge, including standing and placing the right hand over his/her heart.

## **Privacy**

- 2416 - STUDENT PRIVACY AND PARENTAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION
  - Parents have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey or evaluation created by a third party, or any instrument used in the collection of personal information before the survey/evaluation is administered or distributed by the school to the student. The parent will have access to the survey/evaluation or instrument within a reasonable period of time after the request is received by the principal.

## **Schools of Choice/Magnet Schools**

- 2370 - MAGNET PROGRAMS/SCHOOLS
  - Magnet programs/schools expand school choice, address declining enrollment, reduce overcrowding, comply with Federal and State mandates, meet parent/student interests, enhance education quality, and foster diverse student enrollments. These unique educational programs operate within the District, with extra resources and services offered to students beyond a single attendance boundary area.

## **School Transportation/Bus Safety Conduct**

- 8600 – TRANSPORTATION
  - Students living more than two miles from their home school will be eligible for District-provided bus transportation. Students who attend school out of their home school zone will not be eligible for District-provided transportation.

## **Exceptional Student Education/Section 504**

- 2260.01 SECTION 504 PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
  - A student is entitled to a free appropriate public education FAPE and may be entitled to Section 504 accommodations if s/he has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one (1) or more major life activities.
- 2460 – EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION
  - The School Board shall provide a free, appropriate, public education for students with disabilities according to State and Federal laws, rules, and regulations and shall implement the procedures document entitled Exceptional Student Education Policies and Procedures (SP &P).





# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

- FLORIDA STATUTES, SECTION 1003.572 - PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION

- Parents who wish to request public-private collaboration in the educational setting should direct requests to the principal for application of District procedures. Requests should be made in writing on District forms and specify the purpose of the collaboration. The principal will review requests and provide approval in accordance with statutory guidelines.

## **Student Activities**

- 5845 - STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- All clubs and organizations approved by the principal to operate within the school must comply with this district policy. A student who wishes to represent the school through interscholastic competitions or performance must comply with the criteria set forth in policy.

## **Student Records/Access to Student Records**

- 8330 - STUDENT INFORMATION, RECORDS, AND PRIVACY RIGHTS

- In order to provide appropriate educational services and programming, the School Board has the authority to create student educational records and is responsible for maintaining, reviewing for accuracy, and restricting access to the records. Continued efforts will be made to protect the accuracy and privacy of the information contained in student educational records.
- Parents and eligible students have the right to access education records, including the right to inspect and review those records, and have the right to waive their access to their education records in certain circumstances. Prior written consent of the parent, guardian, or eligible student shall be obtained prior to disclosing personally identifiable student information, except under certain circumstances.

- 8350 - CONFIDENTIALITY

- A student's educational record and all personally identifiable information shall not be properly released except on the condition that the information being transferred will not be subsequently released to any other party without first obtaining the consent of the parent or adult/eligible student.

## **Student Services**

- 2290 - CHARACTER EDUCATION

- The School Board shall assist all students in developing the core values and strength of character needed for them to become caring, responsible citizens at home, school, and in the community. There are nine core values that form the basis for the character education program. These values are Citizenship, Cooperation, Fairness, Honesty, Kindness, Integrity, Pursuit of Excellence, Respect, and Responsibility.

- 5530 - DRUG PREVENTION

- Schools shall strive to prevent drug abuse and help drug abusers through educational means.
- The use, possession, concealment, or distribution of any drug or any drug-related paraphernalia, or the misuse of a product containing a substance that can provide an



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

intoxicating or mood-altering effect or the misuse of any "over-the-counter" medications or substances are prohibited on school grounds, on school vehicles, and at any school-sponsored event.

## **Title I – Schoolwide Program**

- 2261 - TITLE I SERVICES

- The School Board elects to augment the educational program of disadvantaged students through the use of Federal funds, in accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as reauthorized under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. The ESEA is based on four (4) basic principles: stronger accountability for results, increased flexibility and local control, expanded options for parents, and an emphasis on proven educational methods. Parents of participating students are encouraged to be involved in programs, activities, and procedures that are planned and implemented to support children's academic growth.

## **Technology**

- 7540 – COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND NETWORKS

- The School Board is committed to the effective use of technology to both enhance the quality of student learning and the efficiency of Board operations. The School Board prohibits any access and use of social media by students and staff members from the District's network, except to the District's collaboration sites and/or approved sites as directed by the Superintendent.

- 7540.01 – TECHNOLOGY PRIVACY

- All computers, telephone systems, electronic mail systems, and voice mail systems are the District's property and are to be used primarily for business purposes. The District has the right to access and review all electronic and voice mail, computer files, data bases, and any other electronic transmissions contained in or used in conjunction with the District's computer system, telephone system, electronic mail system, and voice mail system.

- 7540.06 – STUDENT ELECTRONIC MAIL

- This policy establishes the use of District student electronic mail (e-mail) system by students, their parents and others and applies to any and all electronic messages composed, sent or received by anyone using the District's student e-mail system. Authorized users of e-mail are students, their parents and any other individuals or groups issued District student e-mail accounts

## **Threat Assessments**

- FLORIDA STATUTES, SECTION 1006.07(7)

- The Marjory Stoneman Douglas Act, among other things, requires the school district to form Threat Assessment Teams at each school to coordinate resources and assessment and intervention with individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff and students.



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## Visitors

- 9150 - SCHOOL VISITORS

- Parents, other adult residents of the community, and interested educators are encouraged to visit schools. All visitors must present identification that will be processed through the District's RAPTOR system prior to being permitted entry into the school grounds.
- The principal has the authority, however, to prohibit the entry of any person to a school or expel any person when there is reason to believe the presence of such person would be detrimental. If an individual refuses to leave the school grounds or creates a disturbance, the principal is authorized to request assistance from School Police or the local law enforcement agency to remove the individual. A visitor's refusal to adhere to the school principal's directive to leave the school grounds, will subject the visitor to arrest.

## Volunteer Program

- 2430.01 - SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

- The School Board recognizes that certain programs and activities can be enhanced through the use of volunteers who have knowledge or skills that will be helpful to members of the school staff who are responsible for the conduct of those programs and activities. A school volunteer is any non-compensated person who may be appointed by the Superintendent or his/her designee. School volunteers may include, but are not limited to, parents, senior citizens, students, and others who assist the teacher or other members of the school staff.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL  
DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

**APPENDIX C – Parents' Bill of Rights**



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK



## PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

### P Parent Rights and Responsibilities Under Florida Statutes:

1. Pursuant to s. 1002.20(3)(d) and Board Policy 2417, *Reproductive Health and Disease Education*, a parent has the right to opt his or her minor child out of any portion of the school district's comprehensive health education required under s. 1003.42(2)(n) that relates to sex education instruction in acquired immune deficiency syndrome education or any instruction regarding sexuality. The exemption forms for parents to opt-out can be accessed here for [grades 6-8](#) and for [grades 9-12](#).

2. Pursuant to s. 1002.20(6) and Board Policies 2370, *Magnet Schools* 5131, *Student Transfers and Controlled Open Enrollment*, and 9800, *Charter Schools*, parents are provided with school choice options, including open enrollment.

3. In accordance with s. 1002.20(3)(b) and Board Policy 5320, *Immunization*, a parent has the right to exempt his or her minor child from immunizations.

4. In accordance with s. 1008.22 and Board Policy 2623, *Student Assessment*, a parent has the right to review statewide, standardized assessment results.

5. In accordance with s. 1003.57 and Board Policy 2460, *Exceptional Student Education* and *Exceptional Student Education Policies and Procedures* (SP&P), incorporated by reference, a parent has the right to enroll his or her minor child in gifted or special education programs.

6. In accordance with s. 1006.28(2)(a)1. and Board Policies 2510, *Instructional Materials* and 2540, *Instructional Use of Audiovisual Materials*, a parent has the right to inspect school district instructional materials.

7. In accordance with s. 1008.25 and Board Policy 5410, *Student Progression Plan*, a parent has the right to access information relating to the school district's policies for promotion or retention, including high school graduation requirements.

8. In accordance with s. 1002.20(14) and Board Policies 5410, *Student Progression Plan* and 5200, *Attendance*, a parent has the right to receive a school report card and be informed of his or her minor child's attendance requirements.

9. In accordance with s. 1002.23 and Board Policies 2215, *Program of Instruction*, 2510, *Instructional Materials and Resources*, 2540, *Instructional Use of Audiovisual Materials*, 5410, *Student Progression Plan*, and 5200, *Attendance*, a parent has the right to access information relating to the state public education system, state standards, report card requirements, attendance requirements, and instructional materials requirements.

10. In accordance with s. 1002.23(4) and Board Policy 2125, *Educational Excellence School Advisory Council* and Board Policy 9210, *Parent Organizations*, a parent has the right to participate in parent-teacher associations and organizations that are sanctioned by a district school board or the Department of Education.

11. In accordance with s. 1002.222(1)(a) and Board Policy 2416, *Student Privacy and Parental Access to Information*, a parent has the right to opt out of any district-level data collection relating to his or her minor child not required by law.

Parental rights do not authorize a parent of a minor child to engage in conduct that is unlawful or to abuse or neglect their minor child in violation of general law. The parental rights listed above do not prohibit or impede child welfare activities, or any other statutory or legal duties or rights, when performed by a court of competent jurisdiction, law enforcement officer or employees of a government agency.



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APPENDIX D – FortifyFL



# FORTIFYFL

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

## QUICKLY AND EASILY SUBMIT A TIP

By accessing FortifyFL, students can provide a description of the threat, share pics and videos and optionally submit their contact information.

**Anonymous or Non-Anonymous**

You decide whether you want to include your name and contact information.

**Convenient**

Submitting a tip is quick and easy using our mobile app or website.

**Include Photos and Video**

You can also include photos or video with your tip report.

## QUICKLY SEND TO AUTHORITIES

FortifyFL automatically routes your tip report to the appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.



**Your School Officials**

The tip report goes to your local school officials when submitted.

**Local Law Enforcement**

Your local police department or sheriff office receive copies of your tips automatically.

**State-Level Officials**

State-level officials also have access to your tips to make sure proper steps are taken.

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. FortifyFL was created and funded by the 2018 Florida Legislature as part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act.

## #FORTIFYFL GETFORTIFYFL.COM





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION  
fldoe.org





# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## APPENDIX E – Discrimination/Harassment Poster and Policy

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
ADHERES TO A POLICY OF NONDISCRIMINATION IN THE EDUCATIONAL AND WORK ENVIRONMENT**

### DISCRIMINATION / HARASSMENT

It is the policy of the School Board that all students and employees be treated with respect. The School Board affirmatively strives to provide a workplace and educational environment free from discrimination and harassment (including sexual harassment), as required by law. Through this policy, the School Board establishes its intent to provide equal access, opportunity, and treatment to students in the provision of educational programs and activities and to applicants and employees in all aspects of employment. Slurs, innuendos, hostile treatment, violence, or verbal or physical conduct against a student or employee reflecting on his/her race, ethnic or national origin, gender or any other of the categories described below, will NOT be tolerated by the School Board.

**The School Board Policy Covers the Following Protected Categories:**

<b>AGE</b> - This category prevents denial of employment and/or educational opportunities because of a person's age.	<b>MARITAL STATUS</b> - This category prevents denial of employment and/or educational opportunities because of a person's marital status, i.e. single, married, widowed, or divorced.
<b>CITIZENSHIP STATUS</b> - This category prevents denial of employment and/or educational opportunities because of a person's citizenship or immigration status.	<b>POLITICAL BELIEFS</b> - This category prevents denial of employment and/or educational opportunities because of a person's support and/or affiliation or lack thereof with a particular political party.
<b>COLOR</b> - This category prevents denial and/or educational opportunities because of a person's skin tone. Color discrimination can occur within the same race; for example someone who has a darker complexion may discriminate against someone that has a lighter complexion.	<b>PREGNANCY</b> - This category prevents denial of employment and/or educational opportunities for women who are pregnant.
<b>DISABILITY</b> - This category prevents denial of employment and/or educational opportunities because of a person has, or is perceived to have a permanent impairment that substantially limits or prevents a major life activity; for example: walking, seeing, hearing, talking, sitting, or standing.	<b>RACE</b> - This category prevents denial of employment and/or educational opportunities because of a person's race. The five federally recognized racial categories are American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Black or African American, Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and White. Persons from a mixed racial background do not need to prove their exact heritage in order to assert that they have been discriminated against based on race. Likewise, this category covers persons being discriminated against because they are married to persons of a different race other than their own.
<b>ETHNIC/NATIONAL ORIGIN</b> - This category prevents denial of employment and/or educational opportunities because of a person's ancestral place of origin; or because an individual has the physical, cultural or linguistic characteristics of a particular group.	<b>RELIGION</b> - This category prevents denial of employment and/or educational opportunities because of a person's sincerely held religious beliefs.
<b>GENDER</b> - This category prevents denial of employment and/or educational opportunities because of a person's gender or sex.	<b>SEX</b> - This category prevents denial of equal employment and/or educational opportunities because of a person's male or female gender.
<b>GENDER IDENTITY</b> - This category prevents denial of employment and/or educational opportunities because of a person's gender-related identity, appearance, expression or behavior, regardless of the individual's assigned sex at birth.	<b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION</b> - This category prevents denial of equal employment and/or educational opportunities because a person is, or is perceived to be, lesbian, gay, bisexual, or heterosexual.
<b>GENETIC INFORMATION (GINA)</b> - This category prevents denial of equal employment and/or harassment because of a person's genetic information; it ensures that individuals are not treated differently because of genetic information.	<b>SOCIAL AND FAMILY BACKGROUND</b> - This category prevents denial of employment and/or educational opportunities because of a person's socio-economic, family and/or educational background.
<b>LINGUISTIC PREFERENCE</b> - This category prevents denial of employment and/or educational opportunities because of the language a person speaks.	

**Sexual Harassment will NOT be tolerated.**

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS) DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF SEX IN ANY EDUCATION PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY THAT IT OPERATES AS REQUIRED BY TITLE IX. M-DCPS ALSO DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF SEX IN ADMISSIONS OR EMPLOYMENT.**

**RETALIATION AGAINST A STUDENT OR EMPLOYEE WHO FILES A COMPLAINT IS PROHIBITED BY LAW**

Retaliation is an adverse action taken against an individual because they engaged in a protected activity, such as complaining about discrimination, threatening to file a charge of discrimination, or participating in investigative proceedings.

For additional information about Title IX or any other discrimination/harassment concerns, contact the U.S. Department of Education Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights and/or:	For information on Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or any other student disability concerns contact:
<b>Office of Civil Rights Compliance (CRC)</b> Executive Director/Title IX Coordinator 155 N.E. 15th Street, Suite P104E Miami, Florida 33132 Phone: (305) 995-1580 TDD: (305) 995-2400 Email: <a href="mailto:crc@dadeschools.net">crc@dadeschools.net</a> Website: <a href="https://www.hrdadeschools.net/civilrights/">https://www.hrdadeschools.net/civilrights/</a>	<b>Division of Special Education</b> 504 Coordinator 1501 N.E. 2nd Avenue, Suite 409 Miami, Florida 33132 Phone: (305) 995-2037 TDD: (305) 995-2400 Email: <a href="mailto:ese@dadeschools.net">ese@dadeschools.net</a> Website: <a href="http://ese.dadeschools.net">http://ese.dadeschools.net</a>

Rev: 07/2020



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIVERSAL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

## Anti-Discrimination Policy

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and educational programs/activities and strives affirmatively to provide equal opportunity for all as required by:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender. M-DCPS does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that it operates as required by Title IX. M-DCPS also does not discriminate on the basis of sex in admissions or employment.

Age Discrimination Act of 1975 - prohibits discrimination based on age in programs or activities.

Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) as amended - prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40 years old.

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 as amended - prohibits gender discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - prohibits discrimination against the disabled.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) - prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications.

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) - requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to eligible employees for certain family and medical reasons.

The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

Florida Educational Equity Act (FEEA) - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin, marital status, or handicap against a student or employee.

Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992 - secures for all individuals within the state freedom from discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status.

Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) - prohibits discrimination against employees or applicants because of genetic information.

Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act of 2002 - No public school shall deny equal access to, or a fair opportunity for groups to meet on school premises or in school facilities before or after school hours, or discriminate against any group officially affiliated with Boy Scouts of America or any other youth or community group listed in Title 36 (as a patriotic society).

Veterans are provided re-employment rights in accordance with P.L. 93-508 (Federal Law) and Section 295.07 (Florida Statutes), which stipulate categorical preferences for employment.

### In Addition:

School Board Policies 1362, 3362, 4362, and 5517 - Prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against students, employees, or applicants on the basis of race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, political beliefs, sexual orientation, sex/gender, gender identification, social and family background, linguistic preference, pregnancy, citizenship status, and any other legally prohibited basis. Retaliation for engaging in a protected activity is also prohibited.

For additional information about Title IX or any other discrimination/harassment concerns, contact the U.S. Department of Education Asst. Secretary for Civil Rights or:

Office of Civil Rights Compliance (CRC)  
Executive Director/Title IX Coordinator  
155 N.E. 15th Street, Suite P104E  
Miami, Florida 33132  
Phone: (305) 995-1580 TDD: (305) 995-2400  
Email: [crc@dadeschools.net](mailto:crc@dadeschools.net) Website: <https://dadeschools.net/civilrights>

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