CONNECTION

A NEWSLETTER FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARENTS

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May 2021

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COVID-19 VACCINATIONS AT M-DCPS

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and Miami-Dade County have partnered to offer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at public schools throughout the county, to provide school employees, students, their families, and anyone in the community wishing to get vaccinated with access to more convenient locations.

These locations will provide the Pfizer vaccine to all adults and eligible young people as per current federal authorization guidelines, including adolescents age 12-15 per recent CDC approval. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to receive the vaccine.

M-DCPS Vaccination Schedule and Sites

Saturday, May 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., for the general public.

Miami Jackson Senior High School	1751 NW 36th Street Miami, FL, 33142
Miami Sunset Senior High School	13125 SW 72nd Street Miami, FL, 33183
North Miami Senior High School	13110 NE 8th Avenue North Miami FL, 33161
Hialeah Gardens Senior High School	11700 Hialeah Gardens Blvd. Hialeah Gardens, FL, 33018
Homestead Senior High School	2351 SE 12th Avenue Homestead, FL, 33034
Robert Morgan Senior High School	18180 SW 122nd Avenue Miami FL, 33177

Appointments for Saturday vaccinations will be available through the Miami-Dade County website at http://www.miamidade.gov/vaccine.

IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION

May 31
Observance of Memorial Day

June 9
Last Day of School

June 10
Teacher Planning Day

August 23
First Day of the 2021-2022 School Year

M-DCPS GEARING UP TO LAUNCH "SUMMER 305 ADVENTURE"

The "Summer 305 Adventure" is the most expansive summer programming seen in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) in decades. This summer school experience will meet the unprecedented needs of our students, mitigate the learning loss caused by the pandemic and continue to address achievement/opportunity gaps. It will ensure that our students enter school in the fall prepared for learning.

"Summer 305 Adventure" runs from June 14 - August 20, 2021, and will provide stimulating and challenging courses, both in-person at 179 schools, and virtually for students in grades pre-Kindergarten through 12th.

This year, for the first time ever, M-DCPS is partnering with The Children's Trust, the largest funder/provider of summer camps in our community. It offers more than 300 camps across the community – some of which are located in our schools. M-DCPS certified educators will work with small groups of children on literacy and numeracy, to address unfinished learning and develop foundational skills in reading and math that will prepare them for the next grade level. While the camps run on different calendars, our teachers will be providing services for a five-week period from June 28 through July 30. Materials will also be provided by the District.

Schools and camps will adhere to health, safety and sanitization protocols. Transportation will be provided to students who meet standard eligibility requirements, and breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge. Additionally, social emotional support and mental health services will be provided.

Registration for the M-DCPS "Summer 305 Adventure" will take place at the school site that is hosting the summer program. Families can visit summer305.dadeschools.net to complete a Program Selection Form. This will allow the hosting school to contact the family to finalize registration.

For more information about The Children's Trust Summer Camps and to register for their camps, please visit: https://www.thechildrenstrust.org/.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS IN PLACE FOR M-DCPS' CLASS OF '21 GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will host in-person graduation ceremonies, from June 1-9. This will allow families the opportunity to celebrate this resilient class of future leaders.

The graduations will range in size from 20 to 958 graduates. Modifications have been made to the traditional graduation ceremony to ensure social distancing:

- Each graduate will be allotted two tickets for their parents/guardians
- Parents/Guardians will sit in pods of two and be socially distanced from others
- Each venue will have a dedicated entrance just for the graduates
- Staggered graduation schedule will reduce traffic and allow ample time for cleaning and sanitizing each venue between sessions
- Graduates will be socially distanced from principal for photos
- Diplomas will be handed out upon return of the cap and gown

Extensive health and safety protocols will be used for our graduates and dignitaries participating in the ceremonies, including:

- Graduates will be socially distanced in front of stage area
- Face coverings will be mandatory for all participants
- Platform guests will be socially distanced
- Microphone(s) will be sanitized after each speaker
- Platform guests will create a socially distanced receiving line
- There will be no handshaking after graduates receive diploma cover
- Only ticketed guests and graduates will be allowed into venue
- Hand sanitizer will be provided

Parents/Guardians or guests will be required to adhere to the health safety protocols previously outlined. In addition to wearing a mask or facial covering, they will be required to complete a health screening prior to entry.

Graduations will take place at three venues: Miami-Dade Fair & Expo Center, FIU's Ocean Bank Convocation Center, and the Miami Senior High Auditorium. Graduations will also be streamed for families and friends who may be unable to attend physically.

For the in-person and virtual graduation schedule, visit classof2021.dadeschools.net.

M-DCPS LOOKING TO PAIR HIGH SCHOOL INTERNS WITH BUSINESSES FOR 5TH ANNUAL SUMMER YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and the Foundation for New Education Initiatives are collaborating with Miami-Dade County and The Children's Trust to operate the 2021 Summer Youth Internship Program (SYIP). This initiative provides 10th-12th grade M-DCPS students with valuable internships.

Last summer's internship program adapted its procedures due to COVID-19. This year's program will be held in-person, (following health guidelines) remotely and through a hybrid model.

High school students must complete 150 internship hours during the five-week period of July 1 – August 5, 2021, with registered businesses and organizations throughout the county. This initiative will provide youth with meaningful educational knowledge, work experience and training opportunities. Along with receiving stipends, paid for by the sponsoring organizations, program participants also will earn high school credit and may earn dual enrollment credit through Miami Dade College.

Eligible students must meet the following requirements:

- Be eligible to work in the U.S. and a resident of Miami-Dade County
- Be currently enrolled in a M-DCPS high school
- Open an account with EdFed - The Educational Federal Credit Union
- Complete the online pre-internship course, submit ALL documents, and register for the internship hiring process through miami.getmyinterns.org
- Priority will be given to at-risk students who meet one of the following criteria: enrolled in free/reduced-price lunch; are English Language Learners (ELL) or are truant with 15 or more unexcused absences.

CareerSource South Florida, The Children's Trust, Miami-Dade County, and EdFed - The Educational Federal Credit Union are key sponsoring organizations for this initiative. To register a business or organization as an internship provider, visit miami.getmyinterns.org.

WATER SAFETY BEGINS ON LAND AT M-DCPS

Water safety skills are one of the most important lessons you can teach a child, especially in the Sunshine State. Every day, 10 people die by drowning and most of them are children. From 2017-2019 combined, Florida had the highest unintentional drowning death rate among children 0 to 9 years of age.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) Learn-to-Swim Program, also known as iSwim, is currently in its 47th year of operation. This innovative initiative – part of the Division of Academics, Office of Life Skills and Special Programs – has taught thousands of young students how to swim and eliminate their fear of water-related activities. iSwim teaches primary-age students – the most vulnerable and at risk of drowning - the required skills to be safe in and around the water. Students in Pre-K to 2nd grade receive beginning swimming skills and water safety education.

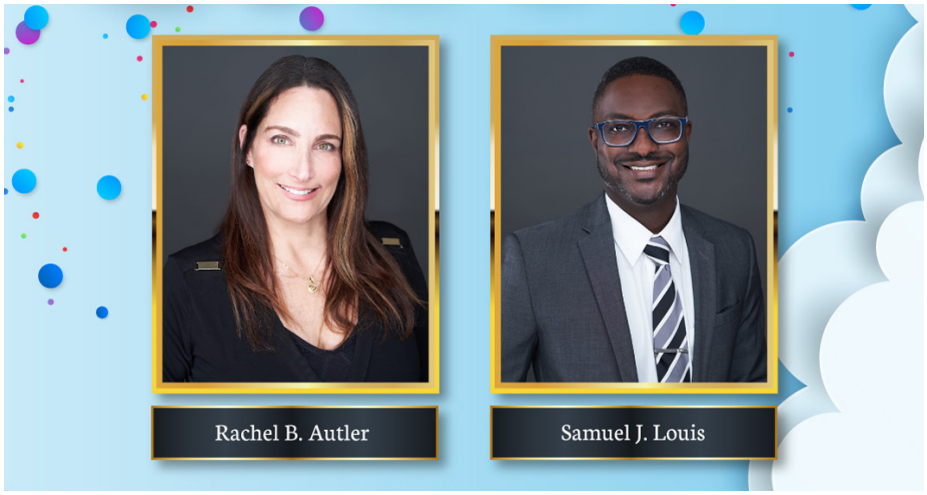
All iSwim instructors are state-certified teachers who have undergone extensive training in water safety and proper swimming techniques. They are also certified as both American Red Cross Water Safety instructors and lifeguards.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, each M-DCPS school participating in the iSwim program was provided with an above-ground, indoor swimming pool containing a state-of-the-art pump, heater and a sophisticated alarm system programmed to both the main office at each individual school and the District's alarm monitoring system.

This school year, M-DCPS switched to "dryland" instruction, which involves lessons and activities that teach swimming skills and water safety knowledge in a classroom or virtually. There are many benefits to "dryland" instruction, including developing muscle memory and reducing anxiety. M-DCPS utilizes the American Red Cross' W.H.A.L.E. (Water Habits Are Learned Early) Tales curriculum, that teaches children about water safety and how to respond to water emergencies in different environments such as pools, waterparks, oceans, lakes and rivers. W.H.A.L.E. Tales also discusses hazards around the home and neighborhood and covers sun safety and boating safety. Water safety education lessons are found at https://lifeskills.dadeschools.net for grades K-12 and are taught throughout the year.

As we celebrate Water Safety Awareness Month this May, and as many parks and beaches begin to reopen, learning how to swim is more important than ever. Let's all learn about water safety and staying safe while enjoying all of the fun and relaxation that water can provide.

RACHEL B. AUTLER NAMED 2021 PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR, SAMUEL J. LOUIS IS 2021 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR



Rachel B. Autler of Hialeah Gardens Elementary has been named the 2021 Principal of the Year. A product of South Florida public schools, Autler credits her success to teachers and staff embracing her belief that each of her students is an individual who has the right to an education that exceeds expectations.

Her overriding goal of improving the lives of students has led to increased test scores since her career as principal began at Hialeah Gardens Elementary in 2015. Autler, known as a well-rounded and respected principal throughout her community, was recently promoted to Region Director. She will receive a $2,000 cash prize and a three-year car lease sponsored by Toyota of North Miami.

The runner up is Franklyn J. Glasford, principal of North Miami Adult Education Center.

Samuel J. Louis of John A. Ferguson Senior High was named Assistant Principal of the Year. A strong leader with an energetic work ethic, Louis has been Ferguson High's assistant principal for three years. He works alongside the 2020 Principal of the Year, Rafael Villalobos. He will take home a $1,500 cash prize and a 65-inch TV from Toyota of North Miami.

The runner up is Dr. Selena Volcy of North Miami Beach Senior High.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

June 23
11:00 a.m.
Regular Meeting

July 14
11:00 a.m.
Regular Meeting

July 28
5:00 p.m.
Budget Workshop

August 18
11:00 a.m.
Regular Meeting

PARENT E-TIPS

Encouraging Physical Activity
https://bit.ly/33EZfDY

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www.dadeschools.net

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#MDCPSConnects

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