

# CONNECTION

A Newsletter for Miami-Dade County Public Schools Parents

## ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM PILOTED AT SELECT SCHOOLS

**MDCPS Parents!**

Make payments for your child's School Activities **ONLINE with**

**ONLINE SCHOOL PAYMENTS**

Only Visa or Mastercard Debit and Credit Cards accepted

Available **NOW** through your Parent or Student Portal!

1. Login to the **MDCPS Parent Portal**.
2. Click on **Apps/Services/Sites**.
3. Click on the **OSP Parent link**.
4. Click on your **Child's School Level**.
5. Click on the **Name of your Child's School**.

This will display the **Activities** available for purchase.

Please visit **www.dadeschools.net/TV** and **SEARCH** for Online School Payments to watch a video on how to make a payment using the OSP system.



M-DCPS has implemented a pilot program at selected schools that will provide parents the flexibility to pay for students' fees and activities through the new Online School Payment (OSP) system, which offers the capability to make online credit card payments directly to the school.

Parents can now log into [www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net) using the Parent tab and their established credentials. After login please click the Apps/Service/Sites tab to reach the OSP link in order to access the online payment system. Once in the OSP system, parents can select the school from a drop down menu and be able to see all items available for online payment. Please note that if there are no sale items listed after selecting a school, then such school is not currently participating in the pilot program. For schools reflecting sale items, parents simply click on the activity and select the student for which the payment is being made from a drop down menu that only shows the students related to the parent or guardian and follow the prompts to enter the credit card number. Please a video tutorial visit [www.dadeschools.net/tv](http://www.dadeschools.net/tv).

The goal is to provide OSP capability to all senior high schools by the end of this school year.

*Keeping Parents Connected and Informed*

## ACCLAIMED SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED STUDIES OPENS NEW CAMPUS AT MIAMI DADE COLLEGE WEST IN DORAL

School for Advanced Studies (SAS), a nationally recognized collegiate high school, will be opening a new campus at Miami Dade College (MDC) West Campus for the 2016-2017 school year.

Current Miami-Dade County 10th-graders with a minimum unweighted 3.0 grade point average are invited to apply, and may become eligible for admission upon satisfying all program requirements, including earning minimum SAS college entrance exam scores. Enrollment is limited. If the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of seats available, a random selection process will be used to admit students.

SAS is a combined effort of M-DCPS and MDC. It was ranked as the Best High School in Florida for 2015 and 2016, according to Niche, a ranking and review site focused on schools, colleges, and neighborhoods. Students attending SAS complete their last two years of high school while attending MDC and, in most cases, simultaneously graduate with both a high school diploma and an Associate of Arts degree. Students are able to obtain a true college experience since both their college dual-enrollment courses and their Advanced Placement (AP) high school courses take place on the MDC campus. All high school courses are AP level except for Pre-calculus and Research. Students receive free tuition, fees, textbooks, and, within certain defined boundaries and eligibility criteria, bus transportation funded by M-DCPS.

The new SAS campus at MDC West in Doral will become the fifth SAS campus beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. For more information, please visit <http://www.mdc.edu/main/sas/>.

## 2016 NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR PROVIDES STUDENTS, PARENTS NUMEROUS COLLEGE CHOICES



Once again, M-DCPS hosted the ever-successful National College Fair. Close to 12,000 students and parents participated in the four-hour event where representatives from 200 colleges and universities provided answers to questions regarding admissions, financial aid, housing and testing requirements.

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

## MIAMI-DADE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS ALBERTO M. CARVALHO WINS PRESTIGIOUS EDUCATION PRIZE

Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, was named winner of the 2016 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. Carvalho will receive the U.S. K-12 prize for his "exemplary leadership in raising standards and improving graduation rates in a complex urban district, which is an outstanding model for others."

"The Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education is among our nation's most coveted awards for education leaders, and I am both humbled and honored to receive this recognition," said Superintendent Carvalho. "It's a testament to the unparalleled work and dedication of our teachers and education leaders, and the visionary leadership of our School Board. Miami-Dade County Public Schools continues to set the standard for high academic achievement, and with every recognition we receive, our district and students benefit from greater opportunities."

Carvalho has served as Miami-Dade's Superintendent since 2008, shepherding the nation's fourth largest school district with remarkable success in what has become known as "the Miami Miracle"--Significantly increased graduation rates, a narrowing of the achievement gap, and a return to fiscal health. Dozens of new programs, including Carvalho's own iPrep Academy, are offered to students each year. Carvalho has dedicated himself not only to ensuring student success in the classroom, but also to finding solutions to the community violence that has been claiming student lives. Carvalho was named National Superintendent of the Year in 2014. Born in Portugal, he was the first person in his family to graduate from high school, and arrived in the U.S. at age 17 speaking no English.

The Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education honors innovation and has become one of the most prestigious educational awards since its founding in 1988. The Prize recognizes outstanding individuals who have dedicated themselves to improving education through new approaches and whose accomplishments are making a difference today.

## TESTING AT M-DCPS

A reminder that student testing is underway at Miami-Dade County Public Schools and will continue after Spring Recess. To view a list of planned assessments for each grade level, please visit <http://oada.dadeschools.net/TestingCalendar/TestingCalendar.asp>.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

March 21 - 25 -	Spring Recess
April 2 -	Superintendent's 5K - Race for Education
April 8 -	Teacher Planning Day

### UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

April 13	10:00 a.m.	Conference Session: Attendance Zones for 2016-2017
	11:00 a.m.	Regular Meeting (Initial Reading - Attendance Zones for 2016-2017)
May 11	11:00 a.m.	Regular Meeting

## OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR HEAD START, EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS UNDERWAY

Open enrollment for the 2016-2017 Head Start & Early Head Start programs has begun. Applications will be accepted through May 10, 2016. Families are urged to apply early. Early Head Start is accepting children ages two months to three years. Head Start is accepting children between the ages of three and five. Children must be three years old by September 1, 2016. The Head Start/Early Head Start programs are federally funded, comprehensive child development programs serving low-income children and families. Head Start serves preschool-age children and Early Head Start serves infants and toddlers. Children with disabilities are included in the program and receive a full range of developmental services.

Eligibility for the programs is based on family income at or below the Federal poverty level. Children in foster care and families in other situations, including but not limited to those receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or experiencing homelessness, are also eligible. Income eligibility requirements for Head Start/Early Head Start may be waived for children with a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) or a current Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP).

Apply by visiting any one of the District's 34 Head Start/Early Head Start sites. For participating schools visit: [headstart.dadeschools.net/pdfs/HS\\_participating\\_schools.pdf](http://headstart.dadeschools.net/pdfs/HS_participating_schools.pdf). For more information visit [earlychildhood.dadeschools.net](http://earlychildhood.dadeschools.net) or call 305-995-7632.

**Your child deserves a Head Start.**



**HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START**

APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR ARE NOW AVAILABLE

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS  
where learning begins.

## The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair  
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Vice Chair  
Susie V. Castillo  
Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman  
Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway  
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Raquel A. Regalado  
Dr. Marta Pérez Wurtz

Alberto M. Carvalho  
Superintendent of Schools

Logan Schroeder-Stephens  
Student Advisor to the School Board

*Produced by the Office of Communications*  
Daisy Gonzalez-Diego  
Chief Communications Officer





# Sunset's Got Talent!



Attention all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students and families:

Please join us in supporting

Sunset Elementary's 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class of 2016

and their

## **Talent Showcase**

of singers, dancers, musicians, gymnasts, and more

**Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**

**in the cafeteria**

There will be food and desserts for purchase

We are asking for a \$5.00 donation at the door to support the

5<sup>th</sup> Grade End-of-Year Events

**Sponsored by the P.T.A.**

Sunset Elementary School

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>

*everychild.onevoice.®*

Hope to see you all there!



Sunset Elementary School



*everychild.one voice.*



# MEETING NOTICE!

**PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING**

**When: Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at  
9:00am**

**Where: Sunset Elementary  
Cafeteria**



*Join us for*

# *Diamonds & Denim Party*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2016 | 7:30 PM**

NEWMAN ALUMNI CENTER  
AT UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
6200 San Amaro Drive  
Coral Gables, FL 33146  
Attire: Diamonds and Denim

**ENJOY A  
SPECIAL NIGHT  
FEATURING:**

GAMES  
SILENT AUCTION  
DINNER  
DANCING

BY



Student Educational Enrichment Drive  
to support Sunset Elementary

**SEED**

Building the future, bit by bit.

All proceeds will benefit the ongoing technological needs of Sunset Elementary School.



Donate Your Gently  
**Used (or New!) Books**  
on behalf of **Sunset Elementary!**

Did you know that nearly half of Miami-Dade third graders fail to read at grade level?

Help **Read to Learn Books for Free** fill bookshelves with free books for children and families in need. With your support, we can get kids reading and succeeding! **This book drive is sponsored by Sunset Elementary School.**

**Donation Bin Location:**  
5120 Sunset Drive  
Miami, FL 33143

**For more information, please contact**  
Raquel Portela  
Media Specialist  
rportela@dadeschools.net

We have a special need for picture books, baby books, and first readers.  
Please no textbooks, reference or adult books.



The Children's Trust  
**Read to Learn**  
Books for Free

[thechildrenstrust.org](http://thechildrenstrust.org) ★ [thecenteratmdc.org](http://thecenteratmdc.org)



## World Autism Awareness Day

Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016

### What is Autism?

Autism is a spectrum disorder – this means it affects people in different ways and to varying degrees.

However, some of the ways that autism can affect a person include:

- Difficulty with social relationships
- Difficulty with verbal communication
- Difficulty with non-verbal communication
- Difficulty with play and imagination
- Resistance to change in routine

### *Something to think about...*

If a person uses a wheelchair, you know they have difficulty walking. If someone is blind, you know they cannot see. These people have disabilities. Autism is a special kind of disability – you cannot always tell a person has it just by looking at them.

**People with autism find it hard to know what to talk about or what to do when they are with people. They can find it hard to play games or pretend.**

A person with autism may not talk in the same way as you. They may say very little or repeat what you say. A person with autism may talk over and over about the same thing, like dinosaurs. Or, they may not say anything at all.

**A person with autism often finds it extra hard to tell when someone is joking or teasing.**

People with autism find understanding faces very difficult. If you smile at someone with autism, they might not smile back. This doesn't mean they are being rude, they just don't understand that you are being friendly.