

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

**Happy New Year!
We want to welcome and
wish everyone a
productive and prosperous
new school year in 2017.**

Applicant Information 2017-2018

Please refer to the attached
Magnet Information Letter.

When applying for a sibling, please make
sure to check off the sibling box and
contact Ms. Sanchez-Jimenez. All siblings
must apply during the process. Last day to
apply is Sunday, January 15, 2017.



Values Matter at Ada Merritt K-8 Center



The Values Matter Initiative focuses on our
school district's Student Code of Conduct and
nine core values. These values are important to
being a model student and having a positive
impact on others. We will be emphasizing and
celebrating positive behavior.

Students will be participating in classroom
lessons and watching videos that expand on the
nine core values. This quarter the focus will be
on the core values of Citizenship and Pursuit of
Excellence.

EESAC Parent Elections 2016-2017

Congratulations to the three parents that were
elected to serve on our Educational Excellence
Student Advisory Council (EESAC):

Dr. Nora Gonzalez, Ms. Amalia Rocheleau,
and Ms. Amy Crowley-Gonsoulin. Thank you
for your time, dedication and support.

Thank You!

We would like to recognize our wonderful
Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for their
kind donation of 12 computers for our students.

In addition, we would also like to commend
and honor Mr. Alexander and Elizabete Reus,
for their generous donation to assist with the
purchase of 16 school computers. We greatly
appreciate all of your support.

Save the Date

February 2, 2017 is "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day." A letter will be forthcoming. If your child will be participating in this event, please complete the form and return it to school.

Testing Calendar 2016-2017

Parents we have provided you with copies of the 2016-2017 Miami Dade County Public Schools Testing Calendar. A virtual calendar is available at www.dadeschools.net under the Calendars link.

International Education (IE) and International Studies (IS) Classes

International Education (IE) and International Studies (IS) classes will begin October 10, 2016. The times are listed as follows:

1 st Grade	1:50 p.m. – 3: 05 p.m.
2 nd – 5 th Grade	3:05 p.m. – 4: 20 p.m.

There are no IS classes on Wednesdays

After School Community Classes 2016-2017

The following Community Classes are available to all students from Kindergarten to Eighth Grade.

Ballet, Karate, Flamenco, Guitar, Hip Hop, Yoga and Chess. Tutoring is available for Portuguese, Reading Language Arts, Writing, and Math.

New Classes to be added include Art, Fitness/Gym, Musical Theater, and Capoeira. We encourage you to pass by the After School Care office to register for these activities.

Please visit the After School Care Page on the Ada Merritt K-8 Website at <http://adameritt.dadeschools.net> to reflect all new and existing community classes.

The collection of Before/After School Care and Community School Classes Payment Schedule is as follows for December:

- December 5-9, 2016
- December 19-23, 2016

***Please refer to the payment schedule attached to the Newsletter for additional dates.**

Media Center Hours



Please be informed that the Media Center will be available to parents from 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. daily and 3:10 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. daily; except for Wednesdays, 1:55 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

The Media Center hours were revised to make the Media Center more available to students and teachers during school hours.

We thank you for your cooperation.



Code of Student Conduct

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is committed to providing a safe teaching and learning environment for students, staff, and members of the community. On January 16, 2008, the School Board approved a newly revised Code of Student Conduct (COSC). The revised COSC identifies, recognizes, and rewards model student behavior within a framework of clearly established and enforceable rules and policies. It advocates a holistic approach to promoting and maintaining a safe learning environment and requires active participation from students, parents/guardians, and school staff. Students and parents/guardians can access the English and Haitian/Creole versions of the document on the M-DCPS Website located at:
<http://ehandbooks.dadeschools.net/policies/90/indes.htm> or you may request a copy from your child's school. The Spanish version of this document will be forthcoming.

The school district believes that standards for student behavior must be set cooperatively through interaction among the students, parents/legal guardians, staff, and community members creating an atmosphere that encourages students to grow in self-discipline. The development of this atmosphere requires respect for self and others, as well as for district and community property on the part of students, staff, and community members. Since students learn by example, school administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers will demonstrate appropriate behavior; treat others with civility and respect, and refuse to tolerate bullying or harassment (M-DCPS Code of Student Conduct).

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has an Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy. Please speak to your child about reporting any bullying or harassment to a school official. All allegations will be investigated.

Please ensure you review the Code of Student Conduct with your child.

Ada Merritt K-8 Center Science Fair **2016-2017**

TOP SUPERIORS

THIRD GRADE:

Rafael Murta
Christopher Sotomayor

*The following students are the **top superior recipients** who will be representing Ada Merritt K-8 Center at the **Elementary Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Invention Fair.***

Beatriz Colio (4th)
Sarah Franco-Vila (5th)
Gabriela Laihert (5th)
Patrick Gonsoulin (5th)

*The following seventh grade students are the **top superior recipients** who will represent Ada Merritt K-8 Center at the **63rd Annual South Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair***

Isabella Moreno
Sofia Alcaide
Dylan Uluc
Valeria Moura
Adriana Torres
Matheus Sousa Beckhauser

Date: Saturday, February 4, 2017
Miami Dade College, North Campus
Science Complex
11380 Northwest 27 Avenue
Miami, FL 33167

Reminders about Attendance



Parents,

Attendance continues to be a major component of your child's success in school.

We need your support to ensure that students are in school on time every day.

Students in Kindergarten and First grade should be seated in class by 8: 20 a.m.
Second through Eighth grade students should be seated in class by 8: 35 a.m.

Students will not be dismissed 30 minutes before dismissal times.

I thank you for your cooperation and continue to count on your support.

Ada Merritt K-8 Center Cross Country Team

Ada Merritt K-8 Center offered a Cross Country Team. The commitment for the team was that your child be able to run two (2) miles in order to participate in various cross country invitational meets this semester.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Cross Country season. We thank the parents for their undivided support and the students for their ongoing commitment and dedication. A final thanks to our very own Coach Julie Weaver, for her guidance and constant encouragement.

The season has finished its Championship Meet and our Boys Varsity placed 5th out of 23 teams with runner (Marco Samuel Lund-Hansen with a time of 13:58.)

Our Girls Varsity placed 11th out of 19 teams with our top runner (Karina Leon with a time of 16:06 and Alicia Krasner coming in with a time of 17:16)

Our Boys JV placed 3rd out of 19 teams with (Santiago Carbone with a time of 13:58)

Our Girls JV placed 5th out of 13 teams with (Julia Denight with a time of 17:33 and Nabila Osman with a time of 17:43)

A Special Recognition to all our Student Athletes:

Karina Leon
Andres Arzola
Nikolas Lund-Hansen
Marco Samuel Lund Hansen

Lucas Serrano
Gabriel Castro
Sofia Cruz
Gianna De Gracia
Antonella Labrozzi
Antonella Hemmerde
Lucas Olin
Javier Coig
Nicolas Pereira
Dylan Uluc
Alicia Krasner
Mariana Leon-Pantin
Lizbeth Vera
Lys Bagaria-Siqueira
Andrea Paipa
Abraham Coriat
Mikel Marlins
Santiago Carbone
Erdwin Ochoa
Joshua Silva
Natalia Parras
Isabella Ferrandiz
Andrew Greig
Jonathan Hooks
Byron Carvajal
Santiago Guillamont
George Krasner
Julia Denight
Nabila Osman
Cristel Contarero
Micaela Montero
Daniela Rovira
Carolina Chinn
Matias Kojusner
Cristina Hope-Borges
Alex Garcia
Sebastian Silva
Hugo Monsalve
Emelly Minota
Thomas Cancino

Thomas Brulay
Javier Coig
Arianna Garcia
Max Gelber
David Kuper
Mariana Leon-Pantin
Valerie Moura
Andrea Paipa
Melanie Previsdomini
Brianna Ross
Bianca Silva
Maria Luiza Schuchovski
Sebastian Toole
Bryttnie Zepeda
Santiago Carbone
Abraham Coriat
Mar Garcia
Alicia Krasner
Talia Lazar
Isabella Moreno
Lina Ordonez
Isabel Perez
Mara Rodriguez
Hector Schmidt
Daniela Villatoro

**We would like to honor the
New Eighth Grade Members**

Liesel Alfonso
Annalie Arguello
Karim Dergal
Sharon Florez
Taynes Galindo
Alexandro Garces
Alex Garcia
Giovanna Key
Belle Kinney Winick
Kevin Kitsos
Lucas Mitraud
Larissa Pontes
Maria Segura
Isabel Valdes

**National Junior Honor Society
Induction Ceremony
October 27, 2016**

**We would like to honor the New
Seventh Grade**

Mauricio Alanis
Amanda Altieri
Sofia Benedetti
Sofia Alcaide
Lys Bagariasiquieda
Caroline Berthin

**Student Council
Results
2016-2017**

Congratulations to the following students
that will be representing the
Ada Merritt K-8 Center Student Body

President: Deborah Eusebio
Vice- President: Andres Arzola
Secretary: David Kuper
Historian: Max Gelber

ART Matters



Congratulations to the following students who have been selected as District Finalists for the Painting from the Heart Art show exhibit.

The students are: Angelina Urt (2nd Grade), Lucas Rovira (3rd Grade), Victoria Morfe (5th Grade), Evelio Diaz (6th Grade) and Karim Dergal (8th Grade).

In addition, we are very proud to announce that Angelina Urt was also awarded 1st prize in the Category 1 (1st-3rd grades).

Congratulations to five of our 4th grade students that have been accepted into the 31st Annual Impressions in Watercolor Exhibit. The students are: Carla Montenegro, Liat Lazar, Mariana Lugo, Nicole Macedo and Luiza Bell.

We also want to congratulate Marcos Colio in third grade for being selected as a District Finalist for the Superintendent's HolidayCard Design Competition. Also to our 5th graders Marina Cookson and Lucas Gutierrez, who have been accepted as District Finalists for the Small Works Art Exhibit.

In addition, we would like to congratulate four of our 8th grade students, Candela Perez, Benjamin Ciener, Karina Leon, and Natalie Abrahantes, have been selected as district finalists for the Cartographies:

Mapping the Contemporary student art exhibit organized by M-DCPS and on view starting next month, at the Miami International Airport, Concourse E-Gallery.

FREE Breakfast!



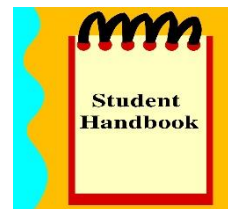
Breakfast is free for all students. Please encourage your child to come by the Cafeteria in the morning and to take advantage of the free breakfast provided for every student.

Breakfast is served until 7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.

School breakfast improves student behavior and learning environments.

- Schools that provide breakfast in the classroom to all students show decreases in tardiness and suspensions as well as improved student behavior and attentiveness.
- Providing students with breakfast in the classroom setting is associated with lower tardy rates and fewer disciplinary office referrals.
- School breakfast programs can lower absence and tardiness rates and improve standardized achievement test scores.

Parent and Student Handbook

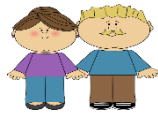


The Parent and Student Handbook is available on the Ada Merritt K-8 Center website. The Parent and Student Handbook outlines district and school policies on attendance, conduct, grading, arrival/dismissal, lunch, peanut/nut free practice and many more important topics.

We encourage you to take the time to review the Parent and Student Handbook with your child.

All students should return the Parent and Student Handbook Acknowledgement Form to their teacher.

Parent Volunteers/Visitors



Effective immediately, parents, students, employees and community members who wish to volunteer at your school should register on-line through the M-DCPS portal(s).

Parents, please remember to sign-in if you plan to be in school after 8:35 a.m. A Volunteer / Visitor's Badge can be obtained from the Main Office. Please use the same procedure when visiting the park while physical education classes are in session. Please assist us in keeping our students safe.

STUDENT ABSENCES

Please be reminded that if your child is absent from school; he/she must bring a written note, within three school days, explaining the absence(s) in order to be excused. The following are considered excused absences:

- a. student illness
- b. medical appointment
- c. death in family
- d. observance of a religious holiday or service when mandated for all members of a faith that such a holiday or service be observed
- e. school-sponsored event or activity previously approved
- f. other individual student absences approved by the principal

Parents, we appreciate the great effort being made thus far to have students in school on time. Please continue supporting us as we encourage students to be on time to school every day.

If you do not provide a written note explaining the absence(s) it will be considered unexcused.

Please review the attached letter regarding the Attendance Plan.

Please note that parents will automatically receive a Connect Ed message once the student has three absences.

Media Center Etiquette



Remember that there is no eating or drinking in the Media Center. We need to keep the computers clean and in working condition. It is important that we follow the Media Center rules so that the Media Center can be maintained in the best condition for our students. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

"Keep It Neat!" Campaign



*Keep it neat,
Stay in your seat!*

*Don't eat or touch,
Your neighbor's lunch!*

*Check the table and floor,
Before you walk out the door.*

*It's the cool scene,
To keep our school clean!*

Parents, to promote balanced, caring, cooperative, and respectful citizenship, we have initiated the "Keep it Neat!" Campaign. During breakfast and lunch the students are encouraged to make sure they don't drop wrappers, utensils, napkins or other items on the cafeteria floor. In addition, students are encouraged to talk with friends, read or just enjoy a quiet meal. Students may not walk around the cafeteria. Instead, they are to wait for their teacher during lunchtime to arrive before they throw their tray and/or other items away.

Peanut/Nut Free School



Let's be mindful that Ada Merritt K-8 Center is a peanut/nut free school. Please refrain from sending to school any peanut or nut containing products. In order to avoid accidental contact I am urging all parents to discourage their children from sharing foods, utensils, and containers.

Traffic Safety



Please assist us in respecting all crosswalks and speed limits around our school. Miami-Dade County ranks #1 in the State of Florida and 3rd in the nation for pedestrian injuries and fatalities. Our students will participate in the WalkSafe Program in our continued efforts to reduce the number of pedestrian injuries and fatalities.

Parents, please keep in mind that the "walkers" dismissal area is for parents who stand and wait for their child's class to be dismissed. The teacher acknowledges the parent(s) and the child then walks to where you are.

Please note that if you want to have your child come to your car you must use the **circular driveway** located at the opposite side of the school (4th Street). We need your support and cooperation to ensure the safety of our students during arrival and dismissal.

Additionally, please use caution when dropping off and picking up your child. For safety and convenience, we are recommending that you please use the circular driveway area.

Morning Drop-off



This is a reminder that students whose homeroom classroom is in Building One should wait for their teacher to pick them up at 8:20 a.m. Students whose homeroom class is located in Building Two should wait for their teachers sitting outside their assigned classroom. Security monitors will be

supervising the students. Parents are not allowed in classrooms during the morning drop-off. Please understand that school must begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. and we need your support in maximizing instructional time. Accordingly, please ensure your child is in his or her classroom by 8:30 a.m.

Circular Drive Pick-Up

Parents who chose to utilize the Circular Drive Pick-Up must remain in their cars. School personnel will dismiss students to your car. Students will not be dismissed to parents who "walk-up" to the Circular Driveway.

Parents who wish to "walk-up" may do so at the "Walkers" Dismissal Area located at the North Side of the school on Southwest Third Street.

In order to continue to have a safe and smooth daily dismissal, it is important that all parents support the school guidelines on Dismissal.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Student of the Month

The purpose of the Student of the Month Ceremony is to recognize students in Kindergarten through Fifth Grades, who have demonstrated attributes from the International Baccalaureate (IB) Learner Profile, for example: being an inquirer, knowledgeable, a thinker, a communicator, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-taker, balanced, and/or reflective. This includes showing the following attitudes: appreciation, confidence, commitment, cooperation, curiosity, creativity, empathy,

enthusiasm, independence, integrity, respect and tolerance.

The format of the Student of the Month ceremony has changed. The ceremonies will still take place each month; however, they will take place in the afternoon at 1:15 p.m. in the cafeteria. Students will receive a t-shirt, a pencil, a certificate and will make their own special ice-cream creations.

The January Student of the Month Celebration will take place on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 1:15 p.m. in the Cafeteria.

