

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

National School Breakfast Week



During the week of March 6-10, 2017, students, staff and administrators would like to promote and see a breakfast participation increase. This week highlights how eating a nutritious breakfast helps students fuel up success in the classroom and beyond.

Superintendent's 5K Challenge



Please see Coach Weaver as she is organizing our Ada Merritt K-8 Center Team.

Ready, Set Save the Date:
April 1, 2017

Register now for the Superintendent's 5K Challenge, A Race for Education. Registration for the 2nd Annual 5K Challenge to benefit Miami-Dade's public schools is now open. To register, visit

<http://bit.ly/2hRx3ao>

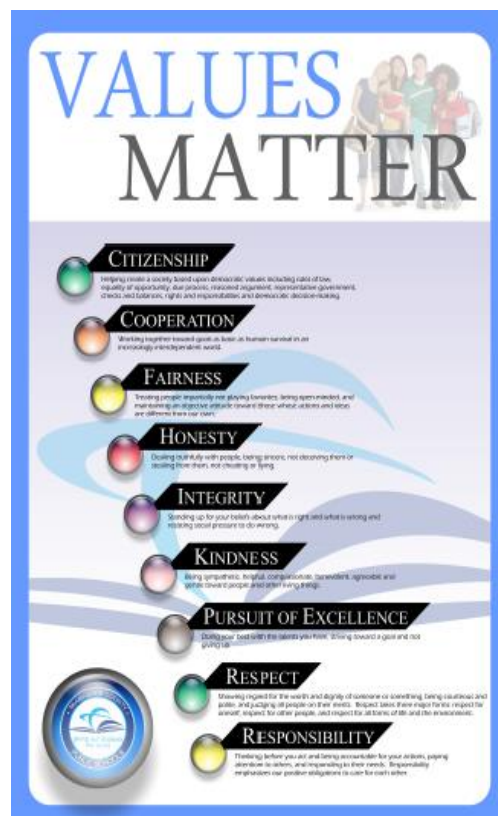
The registration deadline is
March 25, 2017

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.



Thank You!

We would like to thank the Portuguese International Parent Association (PIPA) for a very successful Festa Junina event.

All the parents and students had an enjoyable time and truly enjoyed the festivities.

Miami Dade Online Academy

Miami -Dade County Public Schools Full Time K-12 Virtual School Application for the 2017-18 opens March 6, 2017. This is a good program for students who are self-motivated and independent learners as well as organized and responsible learners. Flyers were sent home with students and additional copies are available in the main office.

Online School Payment System (OSP)

Parents may now use the (OSP) for our Before and Aftercare Program until Sunday, May 14, 2017. This will exclude all Community Classes, which will still need to be paid in the After Care Office in person. To make an online payment, please login to the Parent Portal at <http://www.dadeschools.net/parents.asp>

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.



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.

Running Club



Once again, this year Ada Merritt K-8 Center has a running club that meets twice a week: Mondays 3:05 p.m. - 4:05 p.m. and Wednesdays 2:00 p.m. - 3:00

p.m. We have 35 students participating in grades 5 thru 7. A group of 20 brave runners participated in the Kids Run Miami on Sunday, January 29, 2017 in the cold rain. Coach Weaver would like to thank the parents for bringing the children to the race as well as participating in the race.

Our next big event will be the Superintendents 5K Challenge on April 1, 2017. Even if you are not in the running club, we would like to have as many Ada Merritt K-8 students, teachers, and parents participating. Registration is open to sign up online until April 1, 2017

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 or IE 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.

Spelling Bee Champions

Results of the 2016-2017 Ada Merritt K-8 Center Spelling Bee

Elementary School

First Place (School Champion): Declan Wagar (5th Grade)

Second Place: Jamil Sublaban (5th Grade)

Third Place: Douglas O'Keefe (5th Grade)

Fourth Place: Isabella Rodriguez (4th Grade)

Middle School

First Place (School Champion): Natalia Parras (6th Grade)

Second Place: Isabel Perez (7th Grade)

Third Place: Sofia De-Benito (6th Grade)

Fourth Place: Parker Grossman (6th Grade)

Declan Wagar (5th Grade) and Natalia Parras (6th Grade)

will represent Ada Merritt K-8 Center at the 76th Annual Miami Herald Spelling Bee that will take place on Tuesday, March 8, 2017 at Jungle Island.

Media Center Hours



Please be informed that the Media Center will be available to parents from 7:30 a.m. to 8:25 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 Laithert (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.

National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony October 27, 2016

We would like to honor the New
Seventh Grade

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

**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

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 Alicia Krasner who once again has been selected as a district finalist for the Fine Arts Division of the

Miami-Dade County Youth Fair and Exhibition.

In addition, three of our 7th graders: Mar Garcia, Alicia Krasner and Mariana Leon-Pantin, have been selected as district finalists for the Taste in the Tropics: Portraiture in Nature art exhibit on view at the Hibiscus Gallery of Pinecrest Gardens.

Nabila Osman (6th Grade) who was awarded third place in the Category of 4th- 6th grade in the Pinecrest 3rd Annual Environmental Contest. In addition, Jennifer Chistik, Kimberly Romero and Samantha Oyon were also selected as district-finalists.

Three 7th grade students: Mar Garcia, Alicia Krasner and Izabela Cookson have been selected as district-finalist for the student art exhibit Butterflies STEAM-ing of Fancy! These will be on view at the Miami International Airport.

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 Catergory 1 (1st-3rd grades).

FREE Breakfast!

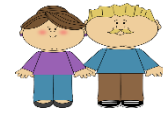


Breakfast is free for all students. Please encourage your child to come by the Cafeteria in the morning and to take advantage of the free breakfast provided for every student.

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

School breakfast improves student behavior and learning environments.

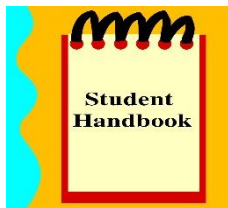
Parent Volunteers/Visitors



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.

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.

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

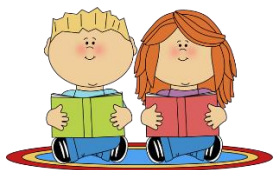
Parents, we appreciate the great effort being made thus far to have students in school on time. Please continue supporting us as we encourage students to be on time to school every day.

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 March Student of the Month Celebration will take place on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 1:15 p.m. in the Cafeteria.

