

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

March 2018

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.

Testing Calendar

Parents, we have provided you with copies of the 2017-2018 Miami Dade County Public Schools Testing Calendar. A virtual calendar is available at www.dadeschools.net under the Calendars link.

Important Dates

Report Cards

Grading Period 3 - April 13, 2018

Grading Period 4 - June 22, 2018

Interim Progress Report

Grading Period 4- May 4, 2018

School of the Year Award for Elementary Schools

Congratulations to Ada Merritt K-8 Center, for being short-listed for the School of the Year Award for Elementary Schools!

Dozens of great schools with strong Spanish programs from all over the U.S. and Canada participate in this competition each year, and having been shortlisted for one of the four prizes for this category, is already a great achievement for which we are very proud for having been part of this great accomplishment. We are very proud of our Spanish program at Ada Merritt K-8 Center.

VALUES MATTER



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. The focus of the core value for March is "Cooperation."

Magnet Application Process

The Magnet application process has opened. Interested candidates need to complete an application online and submit it to Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) before the January 15, 2018 deadline.

Siblings must also apply to the Magnet Program and note "Sibling" on the form, in order to be given priority.

Parents will be informed of their child's application status on March 15, 2018. Parents of accepted students will respond to invitations and register their child between March 15 and March 30, 2018.

When registering, bring your Schools of Choice Acceptance Letter and a completed Registration Packet.

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 Student of the Month Celebration for March will take place on Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

ART Matters

Great News! The following students were selected as district-finalists for the 2018 Youth Fair Fine Arts Division Student Exhibition

organized by Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition:



María Schuchovski (8th Grade)
Dariela Cardeans (4th Grade)

The following students were selected as district-finalists for the 2018 Youth Fair Poster Division Student Exhibition organized by Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition:

Poster (3rd grade):

- Diego Lopez
- María Paula Rincon
- Sofia Prieto
- Katherine Madrigal
- Sofia Mustelier
- Andres Aberastury
- Anthony Rodriguez
- Barbara Leon
- Zyon Pereira
- Samuel Pozzobon
- Philip Gonsoullin
- Yaneva Toro
- Ethan Lapidés
- Amanda De-Andrade
- Amelie Castagna
- Danny Brizuela
- Eva Cristina Higuera
- Brianna Medina

Congratulations to all our artists.

Running Club

The Running Club is going strong this year. With over 50 students signed up. This is a club for 5th grade thru 8th grade, that meet 2 days after school to run different work outs.

Spelling Bee 2017-2018

Parker Grossman (7th Grade) represented Ada Merritt K-8 Center at the 78th Annual Miami Herald Spelling Bee Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at Parrot Jungle Island.

Math Bowl 2017-2018

The Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade Math Bowl Teams will be representing Ada Merritt K-8 Center at the ANNUAL ELEMENTARY MATHEMATICS BOWL.

Date: Saturday, March 17, 2018
Mater Academy Charter Middle -High School
7901 NW 103 Street
Hialeah, Fl 33016

Third Grade Team

Gabriel Ribeiro
Jose Aberastury
Kai Cardenas
Diego Lopez

Fourth and Fifth Grade Team

Sophia Tanure (Grade 4)
Brianna Louissaint (Grade 4)
Matias Correa (Grade 5)
Kian Bouch (Grade 5)

Let's wish them good luck!!

Science Fair 2017-2018

TOP SUPERIORS

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.

Marcos Colio (4th)
Meghan McGuinn (4th)
Demian Ugarte-Lesende (5th)
Carla Montenegro (5th)

The following seventh grade students were the **top superior recipients** who represented Ada Merritt K-8 Center at the **64th Annual South Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair.**

Adrian Colio
Thomas Suarez
Samantha Oyon
Nancy Rosario-Agudel

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 continued support.

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

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.

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

We thank you for your cooperation.

*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.

After School Community Classes 2017-2018

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

Currently After School Community classes include: Karate, Flamenco, Guitar, Hip Hop, and Chess.

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 Center Website** at: <http://adameritt.dadeschools.net> to reflect all new and existing community classes.

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, Spanish, and Haitian/Creole versions of the document on the M-DCPS Website located at: <http://ehandbooks.dadeschools.net/policies/90/index.htm> or you may request a copy from your child's school.

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.

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.

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 Volunteers / Visitors

Effective immediately, parents, students, employees and community members who wish to volunteer at the 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.

Peanut/Nut Free School



Let's be mindful that Ada Merritt K-8 Center is 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 Driveway 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.