

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

## MAY / JUNE 2018

### SAFETY/SECURITY UPDATE

We welcome Detective Adriana E. Canaves to our Ada Merritt Family. Detective Canaves works with us from 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Our PTA will be funding Detective Canaves until 4:30 p.m. to cover the IS/IE dismissal.

### Important Dates

#### Interim Progress Report

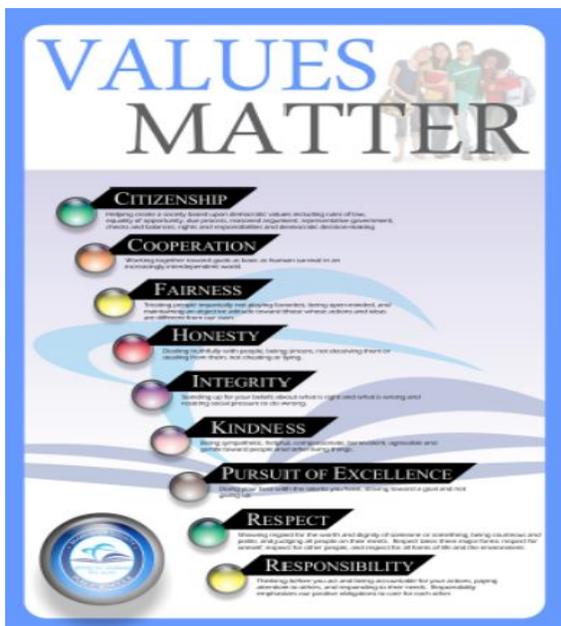
Grading Period 4- May 4, 2018

#### Report Cards

Grading Period 4 - June 22, 2018

### Student of the Month

### 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 May is "Integrity."



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 April and May will take place on Tuesday, May 1, 2018**

## 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](http://www.dadeschools.net) under the Calendars link.

## Stanford Achievement Test

During the month of April, your son or daughter took the Stanford Achievement Test, Tenth Edition (SAT-10).

Individual Student Reports will be provided as soon as the new school year begins in August 2018. SAT-10 results are also posted on the Parent Portal as soon as they are available.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## ART Matters

James Scullin (8th grade) has been selected as a State Finalist for the 2018 Statewide Student Surrealist Art Exhibit: "The Marvelous, the Fantastic & the Grotesque", for his artwork Informality.

Congratulations to James Scullin.

## Running Club

The Running Club is going strong this year. This is a club for 5<sup>th</sup> grade thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade, that meet 2 days after school to run different work outs.

The Running Club meets on Mondays from 3:05 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The last day for running club is scheduled for Wednesday, May 23, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Coach Weaver.

## Fifth Grade

### Field Trip to Islands of Adventure

Students and parents who will be participating Friday, May 4, 2018 at the End of the Year Field Trip to Islands of Adventure, please ensure your child is on time at the Circular Drive Way by 5:00 AM. ONLY the circular driveway will be open. Please do not park in the circular driveway, leave it completely available for the buses. It is strongly recommended you set up a buddy system to contact another parent/student to ensure you and your child will wake-up and are present at school no later than 5:00 AM.

Please take the time to bring your child into the cafeteria to meet the chaperone. We will be meeting in the cafeteria at 5:00 AM before departing to Orlando, to review expectations, details about the trip, and for parents to provide all contact information to the chaperones. If your child has any special needs (allergies, medications, meal restrictions, etc.) please inform the chaperone. Additionally, ensure the chaperone has all your contact information.

Please note that breakfast is not included, however, a rest stop is made for the children to stop and purchase breakfast, or you may pack a breakfast from home if you wish.

Students will be returning approximately at 12:00 a.m., or sooner, please ensure you make the necessary arrangements to pick up your child on time.



## **Eighth Grade**

### **Field Trip to Washington, D.C.**

Students and parents who will be participating **Wednesday, May 16, 2018 – Saturday, May 19, 2018** at the End of the Year Field Trip to Washington, D.C., please ensure your child is on time at the Circular Drive Way by 6:00 AM. We will be meeting in the cafeteria at 6:00 AM before departing to the airport, to review expectations, details about the trip, and for parents to provide all contact information to the chaperones. It is strongly recommended you set up a buddy system to contact another parent/student to ensure you and your child will wake-up and are present at school no later than 6:00 AM.



## **ASPEN Fitness Student Report**

The Aspen Fitness Student Report for your child is available through the Parent/Student portal by following the steps below:

1. Access [www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net)
2. Click on parents (or students)
3. Log in with portal credentials
4. Click on student under "Registered Students" in the student info window, click HEALTH
5. Click Fitness Report

The fitness report contains valuable information regarding the student's performance on physical fitness assessments.

## **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.

Please note: Students in the Media Center Before/After School must be accompanied by a parent.

## 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

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/9>

[0/indes.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 from 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).

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## What's New...

All persons entering our school at any time will be requested to sign in and acquire and display a "Visitor's Pass". All visitors will be required to clearly and legibly print their name and information requested on the Visitor's Log with Security. At the conclusion of the visitor's business, they will be required to exit by the designated points of entry to return the Visitor's Pass. Please note for any Visitor's Pass not returned, a fee of \$10.00 will be assessed. Parents we will need your patience and cooperation as we implement the new, enhanced safety procedures. Please be mindful the Circular Drive Drop-off will be the most time-efficient manner to drop-off your child to school.

### How Can You Help As Parents

Parents please enter and exit only by the designated entry/access points. Please do not use the doors that lead to the parking lot, the emergency doors in the cafeteria, or the emergency exit on the south and north stairwell. Please assist us with our revised safety and security measures.

Remain vigilant at all times and report suspicious activity by calling the following numbers below:

Emergency	911
Non-Emergency City of Miami Police Department	(305) 579-6111
Miami-Dade School Police Department (M-DCPS)	(305) 995-COPS (2667)
Additional Numbers to Report Information	(305) 471-TIPS (8477)

Please add these numbers to your cell phone to have them readily available in the event you need them. Remember, if you "See Something, Say something".

# Brightline Safety Awareness Campaign

M-DCPS has partnered with Brightline to launch a safety awareness campaign, to ensure students, employees, and families are aware that Brightline is beginning its service. With trains running at 79 MPH, it is important that all stakeholders follow safety procedures near a railroad crossing.

## Important Safety Tips:

- Walking or playing on railroad tracks or the right-of-way on either side of the tracks is against the law.
- Trains move faster and are closer than they appear.
- It takes a mile or more for a train to stop in an emergency.
- Always stay behind the yellow line on train station platforms.
- Cross only where you see designated crossings.
- Never cross tracks when you see a moving train.