



DISTRICT/SCHOOL OPERATIONS

<http://schooloperations.dadeschools.net/>

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of District/School Operations I am proud to share with you the 2008-2009 Second Quarter District/School Operations Newsletter. Although we continue to face challenges we must maintain a positive outlook, strengthen our strong leadership skills and elicit support from the community we serve. I have every confidence that you will as Theodore Roosevelt once stated "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

As you are all aware, the FCAT season is rapidly approaching. It is imperative that we maintain our FCAT preparation schedule through a targeted and systematic process enhanced through staff development activities and a strong focus on student attendance. The Office of Professional Development has strategically developed a menu of course offerings for the District's Professional Development day on February 6, 2009. Please encourage your teachers to take advantage of these P.D. opportunities which I am sure will positively impact your school's instructional programs. Your Attendance Review Committee must rigorously monitor attendance and provide interventions and proactive support to at-risk students during these last weeks before FCAT.

You are resourceful, innovative, and knowledgeable administrators who will succeed in surpassing any goal set by our District or State. Thank you for your continued optimism and commitment throughout this time of change.

Dr. Carmen B. Marinelli

Regional Superintendent, District/School Operations

Alternative Education Highlights



JRE Lee Young Women's Academy for Academic and Civic Development

Community participation is an important factor in the success of all schools, especially in our alternative education schools where parental participation is generally low. In the restructuring of the disciplinary schools into single gender schools, a group of individuals concerned about at-risk young girls volunteered to work with the Young Women's Academy for Academic and Civic Development (YWAACD) at J.R.E. Lee and Jan Mann. Representatives from the University Of Miami School Of Education, the Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention and Treatment, the Women's Fund, the Public Defender's Office, as well as former Representative Cindy Lerner, have participated with District and school site staff in the Girls Ad Hoc Committee. The committee has worked to identify possible resources for the schools and assist in planning relevant staff training. An example was a one-day *Reaching Girls on the Edge* conference at the United Way Center for Excellence planned specifically for staff at both schools on the professional development day. Queen Brown, noted radio show host and women's advocate; Dr. Isaac Prillentsky, Dean of the School of Education, University of Miami; and Dr. Lawanda Ravoira, nationally renowned expert on girls in the juvenile justice system, were featured. The conference was an overwhelming success. To expand partnerships, the committee has involved the local chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women, who funded a grant this year to Planned Parenthood for a series of workshops to be conducted for both schools.

Principal: Ms. Claire Warren

Department of Food & Nutrition Services

BLUE RIBBON NEWS!!!



Through collaboration with District/School Operations, federal reimbursements from subsidized free and reduced meals has steadily increased. We would like to thank school administrators, and food service managers for their continued efforts at serving each and every child a nutritious school meal.

Congratulations to Ms. Penny Parham, Administrative Director and her staff for providing the leadership that resulted in this Accomplishment!

Data At A Glance Second Quarter 2008-2009

DISTRICT ATTENDANCE

2007-2008: 95.25%

2008-2009: 95.47%

DISTRICT SUSPENSIONS INDOOR/OUTDOOR

2007-2008: 14,434/ 13,331

2008-2009: 8,831/ 9,193

PRINCIPALS' MONTHLY WEBCASTS AVAILABLE AT:
<http://schooloperations.dadeschools.net>

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

FCAT and School Breakfast

FCAT preparation is on everyone's mind. One way to prepare your students to score well is to get them in the habit of eating a healthy breakfast everyday. Breakfast at school ensures that students are in school on time and ready to learn.

The Department of Food and Nutrition offers breakfast, at no charge each school day, to all Miami-Dade County Public Schools' students. Research has shown that students who eat a good breakfast:

- **Tend to be more alert, better learners and score higher on tests.**
- **Have more energy.**
- **Have more positive attitudes and are less likely to cause problems in the classroom.**



Please encourage your students to eat breakfast at school, especially during FCAT testing, by informing them of the importance of eating a good breakfast and reminding them that breakfast is available at no charge.

STORES AND MAIL DISTRIBUTION

Stores and Mail Distribution News

Stores and Mail Distribution (S&MD) conducted a surplus equipment auction on November 5, 2008. The auction successfully generated net proceeds of \$97,299 from the sales of obsolete, inoperable or unusable equipment transferred from schools sites. S&MD reminds all locations that surplus equipment is to be transferred using an outgoing controlled equipment form (FM 1670) to maintain inventory accuracy at each location. A surplus vehicle auction is scheduled to be conducted on February 4th 2009 at the vehicle auction site located at 4300 S.W. 74th Avenue. S&MD can be contacted at 786-275-0600 for any questions related to the auctions.

PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

We salute our Regional Center Principals of the Year. District/School Operations sends best wishes as they represent their Regional Centers at the District level for this great honor.



North Regional Center

***Ms. Rosy Calvo*, Miami Lakes K-8 Center**

North Central Regional Center

***Ms. Kimberly Emmanuel*, Poinciana Park Elementary**

South Central Regional Center

***Dr. Nicholas JacAngelo*, Miami Coral Park Senior High**

South Regional Center

***Ms. Noreen Virgin*, Winston Park K-8 Center**

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Young Men's Academy for Academic and Civic Development at MacArthur South



The Young Men's Academy for Academic and Civic Development (YMAACD) at MacArthur South (YMAACD @ MS) incorporates school-based service learning across the curriculum. MacArthur South's young men apply classroom learning to meet the needs of disabled, disadvantaged and elderly community members. The teachers at YMAACD @ MS help their students transform skills acquired in their classrooms to make a difference in the community. Together, they design hands-on projects that tackle current crises that impact the elderly, homeless citizens and disabled youth.

Statistics indicate that the infusion of service learning throughout the school has resulted in rising attendance rates, improved grade point averages/student performance and increased FCAT learning gains while behavioral referrals, recidivism and dropout rates decrease. The students of YMAACD @ MS discover a purpose to be in school.

The school's community partners include: ArtSouth, Miami Dade College, Association for Retarded Citizens, The Palace, Neva King Cooper School, enFamilia, Community Partnership for the Homeless, Dade County Parks and Recreation, Baptist Hospital, Seymour Gelber Adult Daycare, Neva King Cooper School and Sandor Weiner School

Principal: Dr. David Moore

Young Women's Academy for Academic and Civic Development at Jan Mann

KUSUDIA (Club Purposely Created)

The purpose of KUSUDIA is to build self esteem in young ladies through social and cultural experiences that will provide a springboard to foster self-awareness and self-confidence; students will develop leadership skills, promote professionalism, set educational, financial and life goals and recognize the value of community service. The club, which is the brainchild of mentor Erica Morris, began last year with a small group of students that were identified as "on the edge." Students were selected based on their potential to make positive changes with guided direction. Throughout the school year, the girls are given the opportunity to participate in several civic and social activities throughout the community. The students are required to give back by participating in community service events. The 2007-02008 school year culminated with the students being profiled on Local 10. The greatest benefit of this program is exposing the students to things they never knew existed in their community. Participating has absolutely been a life-changing experience for the girls.

Principal: Ms. Deborah Carter



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Drug-Free Workplace Policy and Transportation

Federal Regulations of the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act (OTETA) of 1991 and School Board Rule 6Gx13-4-1.05, Drug-Free Workplace General Policy Statement, require individuals performing safety sensitive functions, as an employee of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, to be free from alcohol and/or controlled substances as a condition of continued employment. Employees who perform safety-sensitive functions are subject to annual and random drug screening. If the results of the drug screening are negative, the employee continues to perform safety sensitive functions without interruption. If the results are positive, the employee is notified of the results and is no longer permitted to perform safety-sensitive functions and referred to the District's Support Agency and Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Substance Abuse Professional. If the agency indicates a need for continued assistance, the employee must be re-evaluated to ensure that they have properly followed any rehabilitation program prescribed. If the District's support agency determines that return-to duty testing and follow-up testing for both alcohol and controlled substances are necessary, the agency will advise the Office of Professional Standards

MONEY MATTERS

Money Matters!

District/School Operations would like to thank all participants for joining us during the Money Matter Support Program (MMSP) Session IV on January 22, 2009. We had an outstanding number of school administrators participate. Over 115 principals above and beyond the mandatory participation expected, joined us for what was an informational broadcast. We would also like to thank the various District's Financial Department who continue to work collaboratively with District/School Operations to assist the schools with financial compliance issues.

This Month's Sound Financial Management Tips:

- **DO NOT** split credit card orders;
 - **ALWAYS** have Form # 5707 completely filled out and approved prior to placing the order;
 - **DO NOT** purchase incentives for teachers and staff;
 - **GIFT CARDS** are not to be purchased for students and or staff with school funds
 - **NO** travel/fieldtrips (**ONLY** seminar/conference registrations less than \$999.99 are allowed);
 - **NO** Sales Tax-District is sales tax exempt;
 - Submit the monthly reconciliation on time;
 - MECA must be treated as any other allied organization;
 - School staff may have mistakenly handled monies raised from fundraisers through MECA;
 - In such cases, monies collected should be deposited in the Internal Funds of the school and not MECA;
 - MECA should not be the venue used to deposit these funds or pay bills related to these activities; and
 - Fundraising activities are in no way to be co-mingled with School Board Employees or the Internal Fund.
- Don't forget that February 26, 2009, is our next MMSP Session.* We will be featuring the Budget Department; Community Schools; and Athletics and Activities.

ADULT/VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Aerospace Resource Center Project at Baker Aviation School

George T. Baker Aviation School formed a partnership with the Aerospace Resource Center (ARC) in one of the school's latest efforts at producing industry-ready aviation technicians. As part of the arrangement, the school would be able to issue an Aerostructures Technician Certificate to qualified students.

The ARC-endorsed certificate was issued after students successfully completed the objectives of the 80 hour sheet metal training course which is designed to cover fabrication, assembly, and repair of sheet metal structures. Students completed the ARC fabrication and assembly of a rib and skin section that duplicates an aircraft fuselage section prior to moving to the actual wing construction of the aircraft. Students with no aviation experience completed a sheet metal familiarization course, safety training, and then put to work in the shop.

The training was modeled on the ARC Assembly Riveter course provided by the ARC and modified to be integrated into the objectives of the Baker program. The students built an experimental aircraft as a part of Barrington Irving's Build & Soar Project. Upon completion of the program, the students were skilled in reading blueprints, measuring and layout, fabrication, and assembly.

After initial training, students were supplied with a set of project instructions that included a line-by-line Task Instruction sheet, drawings and dimensions. They were given metal, tooling and fasteners, and demonstrations on how to work in a shop environment. When their project was completed, they laid out a design on their "fuselage" and painted it. Those students who successfully mastered the objectives of the ARC curriculum were awarded the Aerostructures Technician Certificate. All of the students learned a great deal with many of them continuing on in the AMT program at Baker Aviation.

The project proved to be an exciting, hands-on introduction to aviation for these novice students. They learned to think, to work with their hands, work in teams, and to recognize high quality workmanship--all traits that are eagerly sought after in the aviation industry today. The experimental aircraft took its maiden flight on October 15, 2008, from Opa Locka Airport.

