

CONNECTION

A NEWSLETTER FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARENTS

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March 2022

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COLLEGE FAIR MIAMI



SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

April 6

10:00 a.m.
Instructional Materials
Public Hearing

April 13

10:00 a.m.
Conference Session

April 13

11:00 a.m.
Regular Board
Meeting

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) experienced a successful return to the in-person National College Fair this year. Thousands of students and parents participated in the four-hour event where

representatives from more than 100 colleges and universities provided answers to questions regarding admissions, financial aid, housing, testing requirements and more.

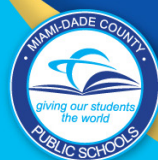
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2022-2023

Will your child be five years old by September 1st? If so, it is time to apply to Kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year! Even if you are not sure where you will be living this fall, or what your plans will be for your child's schooling, secure your seat. There is no downside to applying and it is best to have an option for the fall.

Visit our [Virtual Welcome Center](#) to find your neighborhood school, explore different program options, and learn more about registration requirements.

Your child deserves a strong academic foundation. Kindergarten enrollment is now open for the 2022-2023 school year!

- ★ Miami-Dade County Public Schools is an A-rated school district with a proven track record of academic success.
- ★ Our graduation rate for the 2020-2021 school year was 94%.
- ★ Our teachers are certified and receive ongoing professional training.
- ★ Having achieved AdvancED accreditation, our schools are committed to the care, education, learning, growth and development of young children.
- ★ We prioritize the health, safety, and well-being of students and employees.



Kindergarten
2022-2023

Learn more at
showupmdcps.dadeschools.net





We live in a noisy world. Every day, we hear a variety of sounds ranging from the soft hum of a refrigerator to the blaring siren of a fire engine. While we can filter out unimportant sounds and only focus on the sounds we need to respond to, more noise pollution occurs as our world gets louder.

Music concerts and noisy crowds are not the only cause of noise pollution. We can also blame the more obvious culprits such as televisions, hairdryers, vacuum cleaners, barking dogs, crying children, lawnmowers and traffic. Most household sounds keep safe noise levels. However, the problems begin when we operate several noisy devices simultaneously or raise the volume on the television so that we can hear it over the vacuum cleaner. When we take these actions, we raise the overall noise level in our homes without realizing it.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), hearing loss is the third most common chronic physical condition in the U.S. and is twice as prevalent as diabetes or cancer. Approximately 40 million Americans have hearing loss, 10 million of which are attributed to Noise-Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL). NIHL is progressive, permanent and typically painless. It is also the only type of hearing loss that is 100 percent preventable!

What is NIHL?

Sound is measured in units called decibels. Sound waves deliver decibels to sensory hair cells in our ears, which allow us to hear. Because people can't hear all frequencies or pitches of sound, A-weighted decibels (dBA) can be used to describe sound based on what human ears can hear. For example, a whisper measures 30 dBA while a normal conversation measures 60-70 dBA. These sounds are considered safe. When sound is at or above 85 dBA (e.g., lawnmowers, city traffic, chainsaw) for too long, it can damage the tiny sensory hair cells in our ears, causing hearing loss.

The American Academy of Audiology estimates that one in eight children has sustained NIHL and 16 percent of teenagers have sustained NIHL due to prolonged exposure to personal listening devices.

Because hearing loss can affect a child's ability to develop communication, language, and social skills, early preventative measures, hearing testing, and education about NIHL for adolescents are helpful to overall hearing health in the future. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has mandated hearing screenings for students in kindergarten and grades one and six. However, parents are encouraged to speak to their child's pediatrician about audiometric screenings that detect NIHL.

Each year, the World Health Organization designates March 3rd as "World Hearing Day" to highlight the increasing number of people living with hearing loss. M-DCPS, in collaboration with Ear Peace Save Your Hearing Foundation, launched a districtwide campaign to promote awareness of this initiative. The goal is to bring understanding about the effects of NIHL and provide resources on topics such as protecting your hearing, identifying the early signs of NIHL, and information on diagnostic testing if hearing loss is suspected.

For more information and fact sheets on safe and unsafe noise levels, visit the Noisy Planet website at <https://www.noisyplanet.nidcd.nih.gov/parents/too-loud-too-long>. The earlier children with hearing loss start getting services, the more likely they are to reach their full potential. Trust your instincts and speak with your child's doctor if you suspect your child has hearing loss. Don't wait!

IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION

March 21 - 25
Spring Recess

April 15
Teacher Planning Day

PARENT E-TIPS

Creating Healthy Eating Habits

<https://bit.ly/3IVJ0VM>

GIVE YOUR CHILD A HEAD START



The Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Head Start and Early Head Start program is

accepting applications for children ages two (2) months to four (4) years of age to participate in the 2022-2023 program year.

The Head Start/Early Head Start program is provided in partnership with Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human Services Department and is a federally funded, comprehensive child development program for income-eligible children who reside in Miami-Dade County. Children between the ages of three (3) to five (5) may participate in the Head Start program, enrolling as soon as their third birthday. Early

Head Start serves children ages two (2) months to three (3) years of age. Children with disabilities are included in the program and receive a full range of developmental services.

Families are encouraged to apply online by visiting headstart.dadeschools.net. Families may also contact their nearest school to obtain information on the program, including eligibility criteria and application procedures. A list of participating schools is available at <https://headstart.dadeschools.net/>.

THE REAL COST OF FAKE IDS



Did you know? Manufacturing, possessing or displaying a fraudulent ID card is a third-degree felony under Florida law. Florida statute 322.212, *Unauthorized possession of, and other unlawful acts in relation to, driver license or identification card*, defines state provisions related to the illegal use of driver licenses and identification cards (IDs) and codifies penalties associated with the violation of these provisions. The penalties are severe and can have

lasting negative effects on those who face them.

The price you may pay:

- Up to 5 years in prison
- \$5,000 fine
- Between \$2,500 and \$7,500 in attorney fees plus court costs
- Someone can steal your identity
- May affect your current and future education
- May prevent future opportunities

SOCIAL MEDIA



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www.dadeschools.net

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