

CONNECTION

A Newsletter for Miami-Dade County Public Schools Parents

M-DCPS RECOGNIZES TEACHERS' WORK WITH PERFORMANCE PAY

Miami-Dade Superintendent of Schools Alberto M. Carvalho distributed performance pay checks to teachers in October for up to \$25,000, allowing some Miami-Dade educators the potential to earn as much as \$100,000 or more for the year.

"We leveraged the financial benefit of Race to the Top (RTTT) funding through negotiation rather than imposition," Carvalho said. "By doing so, we are able to recognize teacher performance tied to student achievement."

Miami-Dade is the first school district in the state to reward teachers for their performance under RTTT thanks to the support of the union and the School Board members who have strongly maintained their commitment to local classrooms.

Over 16,500 individual teachers will or have received a RTTT award at some level. More than 13,000 teachers have been recognized through student performance related to their whole school. Nearly 12,000 teachers have been rewarded because of student performance related to content area within the school and more than 500 teachers have been compensated because of student performance at their school.

EIGHT M-DCPS SCHOOLS MAKE NEWSWEEK'S LIST OF AMERICA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOLS FOR 2011

Eight Miami-Dade public high schools earned their way onto Newsweek magazine's list of the 500 Best High Schools in America. A total of 43 schools from Florida made the prestigious list, which was released in June.

Leading the list in ranking order for Miami-Dade's high schools is the School for Advanced Studies (28), MAST Academy (46), Coral Reef (53), Miami Palmetto (251), Doctors Charter (374), Mater Academy Charter (404), Mater Lakes Academy (427), and Doral Academy Charter (456).

Newsweek, which has been ranking the top U.S. high schools for more than a decade, revamped its methodology for 2011. The new criteria include six components: graduation rate, college matriculation rate, and AP tests taken per graduate, plus average SAT/ACT scores, average AP/IB scores, and AP courses offered per graduate.

A total of 1,100 schools were assessed to produce the final list of the top 500 high schools. For a complete list of schools, visit <http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/features/2011/americas-best-high-schools.html>

SUPERINTENDENT ALBERTO CARVALHO'S TESTIMONY BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE AVAILABLE ONLINE

Miami-Dade Superintendent of Schools Alberto M. Carvalho's testimony before the United States House Education & Workforce Committee, which was presented on Wednesday, Sept. 14, is available for viewing online at www.dadeschools.net.

The hearing was titled "Examining the Federal Role in Public School Accountability." The issues discussed at the hearing are of critical importance to the ongoing negotiations related to the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) – currently known as No Child Left Behind.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, November 11 – Observation of Veteran's Day

Thursday, November 24 – Thanksgiving

Friday, November 25 – Recess

Monday, December 19 – Teacher Planning Day

Tuesday, December 20 through Monday, January 2 – Winter Recess

Monday, January 16 – Observation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

Monday, January 23 – Teacher Planning Day

Friday, February 3 – Teacher Planning Day

Monday, February 20 – All Presidents Day

M-DCPS 2011-2012 BACK-TO-SCHOOL TOOL KIT NOW ONLINE

Miami-Dade County Public Schools' "2011-2012 Back-to-School Tool Kit" is available online for parents and students.

The tool kit was created to inform parents about different programs that support students' needs. Students can benefit from information found in the tool kit, and parents may also use it to find out about important dates and policies regarding their child's education.

The tool kit has pertinent information on subjects ranging from choice schools through dual enrollment, graduation requirements to parent involvement and school safety. The tool kit is available in English, Haitian-Creole, and Spanish.

Please visit <http://news.dadeschools.net/toolkit1112.html> for more information.

MIAMI-DADE SCHOOLS WINS \$150,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS AS A FINALIST FOR 2011 BROAD PRIZE

As a finalist for the 2011 Broad Prize, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has paved the way for students to receive scholarships. High school seniors in Miami-Dade will have access to new college scholarship funds, as Miami-Dade County Public Schools has won \$150,000 in scholarships as a finalist for the 2011 Broad Prize for Urban Education, The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation announced in Washington, D.C. recently. The college scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who graduate in 2012. Miami-Dade County was previously a Broad Prize finalist in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

M-DCPS, LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION PUBLIC BUS TOUR

Miami-Dade Schools Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho, Members of the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation, business and community leaders, parents, and school district administrators participated in a Community Education Tour on Thursday, September 15, 2011.

The tour stopped at Miami Edison Senior High School, Coral Way K-8 Center, Lindsey Hopkins Educational Center and iPrep Academy and Primary Learning Center and provided members of the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation with the opportunity to visit schools in our district and to get a closer look at improvements and educational achievements. The tour was part of Miami-Dade County Public Schools' community outreach effort with legislators.

SUPERINTENDENT ALBERTO M. CARVALHO ANNOUNCED AS ALAS PRESIDENT FOR 2012-2014

Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is the new President of the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS). Carvalho has served as President Elect of the association this past year and will officially take over the reins of the organization on January 1, 2012.

"Through innovation, staunch advocacy and strategic professional development, ALAS is committed to ensuring that students in this growing demographic group are provided quality educational experiences that will enable them to lead rich, productive lives," said Carvalho. "I am honored to serve as an advocate in my new role as President."

Among his first actions as incoming president, Carvalho has secured Miami as host city for the 2012 ALAS Summit. He vowed to double the number of summit participants in the year ahead.

ALAS is the largest and fastest growing national organization of educators serving Hispanic/Latino students. Developed in 2003, it was created out of an idea brought forth by a group of Hispanic/Latino administrators and superintendents whose vision and leadership were instrumental in addressing the needs of not only the Hispanic/Latino population, but those educators and administrators serving the needs of Hispanic/Latino students in particular and all students in general.

THREE MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS NAMED 'SUPER SCHOOLS'

The Primary Learning Center, Melrose Elementary School and Southside Elementary School were selected as 2010-2011 Imagine Nation Super Schools by Imagine Learning, Inc.

The Super Schools were three of 20 schools to earn the distinction nationally for their outstanding achievements and encouragement in language and literacy instruction through the use of Imagine Learning English.

Imagine Learning is an innovative language and literacy program that provides schools with award-winning educational software. Its one-on-one instruction promotes personal achievement while engaging students in entertaining activities and lessons. Imagine Learning English embraces five principles, including strategic language support, measurable gains, academic language, research-based literacy, and tutoring technology.

UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

November 22	10 a.m. Organization Meeting 11:45 a.m. Regular Meeting
December 14	11:45 a.m. Regular Meeting

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair
Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Carlos L. Curbelo
Renier Diaz de la Portilla
Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway
Dr. Martin Karp
Dr. Marta Pérez
Raquel A. Regalado

Alberto M. Carvalho
Superintendent of Schools

Hope Wilcox
Student Advisor to the School Board

Produced by the Office of Public Relations
John Schuster
Chief Communications Officer

Tammy T. Reed
Director

