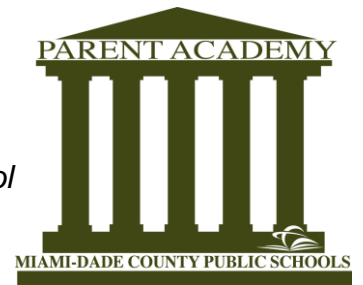




The Parent Academy
of
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Helping Parents Help Their Children Succeed In School



The Parent Academy is a free, year-round, parent engagement initiative of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, helping parents become full partners in their children's education. The Parent Academy helps educate parents about the importance of their roles, unites families and schools, and gives parents a fuller sense of their rights, responsibilities and the educational opportunities available to their children and to them. The "campus" is spread throughout every corner of this community. The curriculum helps bring parents more skills, knowledge and confidence to champion their children's education. Parents are teachers, role models, mentors and providers – and have great power to make their children's lives better.

The Parent Academy was created with the goals to:

- educate parents about the importance of their role;
- strengthen the family unit;
- unite families and schools; and
- inform parents of their rights, responsibilities and the educational opportunities available to their children and to them personally.

The functions of **The Parent Academy** include:

- classes and workshops for parents;
- Family Learning Events;
- promotion of M-DCPS resources that are available to parents and students;
- information regarding community resources and services available to parents and their children; and
- professional development for school personnel on how to create parent-friendly schools.

The Parent Academy "campus" is spread throughout every corner of this community, and offers free classes and workshops at local sites such as schools, libraries, parks, colleges, private businesses, and neighborhood centers. Parents have the opportunity to enroll in workshops that are aligned with their needs and convenient to their homes and workplace.

When parents are involved students have:

- ✓ Higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates
- ✓ Better school attendance
- ✓ Increased motivation, better self-esteem
- ✓ Lower rates of suspension
- ✓ Decreased use of drugs and alcohol
- ✓ Fewer instances of violent behavior

The Parent Academy offers **classes and workshops** developed around nine subject area strands, which are listed below along with a brief sampling of relevant course offerings:

- Help Your Child Learn (*Example: PASSport to Success – 8 module series*)
- Parenting Skills (*Example: Positive Discipline*)
- Early Childhood (*Example: Developing Early Literacy Skills*)
- Arts & Culture (*Example: Family Day at the Opera*)
- Languages (*Example: American Sign Language for Families*)
- Computers & Technology (*Example: Parent Portal*)
- Health and Wellness (*Example: Preventing Substance Abuse*)
- Financial Skills (*Example: Financing Your Child's College Education*)
- Personal Growth (*Example: GED Preparation – offered through Adult Education*)

Monthly calendars are posted in the **Course Directory** section on **The Parent Academy's Website** at www.theparentacademy.net.

Family Learning Events are held in culturally enriching venues to provide educational activities for families with children of all ages, and foster strong relationships between parents and children. "Family-strengthening interventions impact both parenting processes and child outcomes. Successful programs promote parent-child bonding..." (American Educational Research Association, 2007). Typical venues include Parrot Jungle Island, Miami Children's Museum, Miami Science Museum, the Historical Museum of Southern Florida and Miami Metrozoo. Families have the opportunity to visit cultural venues that they many not otherwise be able to afford. Workshops and resource fairs are built into the event so that families can learn and have fun together at the same time. School sites can help promote these events by sharing the flier with parents. All Family Learning Event fliers are posted in the *Upcoming Events* section on The Parent Academy's Web site at www.theparentacademy.net.

To date, **The Parent Academy** has educated over 100,000 parents throughout Miami-Dade County, by providing them with informative sessions, training workshops, and parent/child community events offered in English, Spanish and Haitian-Creole. Parent attendance at classes, workshops, and events is tracked through **The Parent Academy** database. As a public/private venture, **The Parent Academy** has initiated partnerships with private sector, higher education, government entities, and a wide range of community-based organizations to reach parents and provide a clearinghouse for integrating information on the many resources and the greater community's support systems. The purpose is to provide maximum outreach and services.

Phone Number: (305) 995-2680

Web Site: www.theparentacademy.net

1450 NE 2nd Avenue, Room 226

Miami, FL 33132



The following resources are available to parents as well as to school staff to help students succeed in school

Adopt-A-Classroom: Adopt-A-Classroom invites the community into the classroom in support of teachers and their students. By adopting a classroom, donors form partnerships with specific classrooms providing financial and moral support. The result is a meaningful contribution to education in which donors experience the impact of their efforts and celebrate in a classroom's success.

<http://www.adoptaclassroom.com/>

Culture Shock Miami: Did you know that the cultural scene in Miami-Dade offers dozens of fun and exciting performances and exhibitions every week of the year? For just **\$5**, high school and college students (ages 13-22) can experience incredible cultural activities with that unique Miami style? Now, you can go, see and enjoy theater, dance, music, art exhibitions and festivals year-round and we make it easy and affordable for you to enjoy them! <http://www.cultureshockmiami.com/>

DESTINATION SUCCESS: Destination Success is a free online interactive web educational program designed for K-12 to help students in Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. To access, please visit <http://theparentacademy.dadeschools.net/>. Use student's ID for both username and password.

DIAL-A-TEACHER ON-LINE is a "FREE" service provided by **Miami-Dade County Public Schools** in cooperation with the **United Teachers of Dade** and **WLRN-TV**. **DIAL-A-TEACHER ON-LINE** offers homework help in most subject areas in grades K - 12. And parents don't be shy; we can also provide you with assistance in helping your children with their homework. dial-a-teacher.com (305) 995-143

FACTS.org: FACTS.org is Florida's Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students. Sponsored by the Department of Education and the Florida Center for Advising & Academic Support, this free online advising website helps students plan and track their education progress from middle school through college. <http://facts23.facts.org/navigation/home.do>

Florida KidCare: Florida KidCare is the state's children's health insurance program for uninsured children under age 19. It includes four different programs. Florida KidCare will check which program your child may be eligible for based on age and family income. : <http://www.floridakidcare.org/> or call **1-888-540-5437**

Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade County: The Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade is responsible for the establishment and oversight of the Miami-Dade Healthy Start system, which includes directing funds for continuous care coordination to pregnant women and children birth to age three, evaluating services, and quality improvement and assurance responsibilities. <http://www.hscmd.org/>

Reading Rockets: Strategies to Help Kids Who Struggle in Reading

Reading Rockets is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. The goal of the project is to provide information on how young kids learn to read, why so many struggle, and how caring adults can help. Learn about easy ways you can **link to us** to let others know about the many free resources available from Reading Rockets. <http://www.readingrockets.org/>

Starfall.com

Starfall.com is an interactive program that is available online across the world to all children who are learning to read in English. It is the first Internet site to be recognized by *Children's Software and New Media Review* as the highest rated product in their Early Elementary category. <http://www.starfall.com/>

The Children's Trust: The Children's Trust is committed to funding programs that offer the highest possible quality services and best practices to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County by making investments in their futures. Recognizing that the greatest obstacle to addressing family needs knows where to go for help or information, The Children's Trust is fully funding 211 in Miami-Dade County to make this resource and referral line available to everyone in our community. Now, by dialing **211**, parents, caregivers and adolescents are reaching The Children's Trust Helpline, where specially trained Switchboard of Miami counselors are standing by, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in English, Spanish and Creole.
s. <http://www.thechildrenstrust.org/>

VPK (Volunteer Pre-Kindergarten) is Free to All 4-Year Olds. If you live in Florida and have a child who turns 4 years of age by September 1, your child is eligible for Florida's FREE VPK program. Two programs are offered annually. The school-year program includes 540 hours of instructional time and begins in August. The summer program consists of 300 instructional hours and can begin as early as May 1.
<http://www.vpkhelp.org/> or call **(305) 373-3521**

The Parent Academy: The Parent Academy is an information destination for families and school staff. It provides various resources, monthly calendar, and links to numerous free educational programs and community resources. For more information, please visit <http://theparentacademy.dadeschools.net/> or call 305-995-2680.

The Parent Academy

Request for Workshop

Name of School/Organization: _____ Regional Center: _____

Principal's Name: _____ Feeder Pattern: _____

School Liaison: _____ Title/Position: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Workshop Title	Date	Time
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please indicate if:

The Parent Academy will provide instructor School will provide instructor

Please check our Workshop Directory at www.theparentacademy.net

Please fax this form to The Parent Academy office at 305-523-0505.
Please call 305-995-2680 for questions or more information.

