



**Principal**

Dr. Alina M. Diaz-Blanco

October 26, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Per Florida Board of Education Rule 6A-1.09412 Mental and Emotional Health Education, school districts must annually provide a minimum of five (5) hours of instruction to students in grades 6-12 related to youth mental health awareness and assistance, including suicide prevention and the impacts of substance abuse. As part of its longstanding commitment to providing all students with a world-class educational experience in a safe and nurturing learning environment that enables them to thrive both academically and socially, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is providing a mental and emotional health high quality curriculum to our students.

As a matter of practice, the curriculum is designed to encourage student interaction with relevant topics, provide opportunities for students to define and understand emotions and behaviors, and build the confidence to make more positive, healthy choices. Additionally, the flexible platform has provided us the opportunity to design a grade specific curriculum that is used for prevention and empowerment for all learners. Lessons feature experts: a diverse group of real people from around the world including business leaders, celebrities, athletes, social media influencers, and more. Their experiences bring learning to life through personal conversations and real-world examples. The entire curriculum is aligned to social emotional competencies and designed to support students.

The curriculum will be facilitated by the English Language Arts teachers and will be implemented throughout the school year. All modules and lessons must be completed at school, and it is our goal that students complete the five (5) hours of instruction during the implementation window.

Months	Hour Modules	Completion Dates
December 2020	1 hour	December 18, 2020
January 2021	1 hour	January 29, 2021
February 2021	1 hour	February 26, 2021
March 2021	1 hour	March 25, 2021
April 2021	1 hour	April 30, 2021
May 2021	Make-ups	May 27, 2021

As a parent, this is an excellent opportunity to open the door to conversation about mental and emotional health with your child. Please help us to reinforce the key messages of the curriculum – that talking about mental health challenges is not something to fear and that we here at M-DCPS are here to help!

If you would like more information about what your child will be learning, please feel free to contact Ms. M. Marquez, School Counselor. Also, please visit the M-DCPS Department of Mental Health Services website at <http://mentalhealthservices.dadeschools.net/#!/fullWidth/313> or you may call the parent assistance line at 305-995-7100 for further information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alina Diaz-Blanco, Principal



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