



# Miami-Dade County Public Schools

*giving our students the world*

## Superintendent of Schools

Alberto M. Carvalho

## Miami-Dade County School Board

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Chair

Dr. Marta Pérez, Vice Chair

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall

Susie V. Castillo

Dr. Steve Gallon III

Perla Tabares Hantman

Dr. Martin Karp

Lubby Navarro

Mari Tere Rojas

November 4, 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. Marquez, School Counselor at 305-663-7200. 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 Díaz-Blanco, Principal

**International Studies Preparatory Academy at Gables (ISPA) • 1570 Madruga Avenue • Coral Gables, Florida 33146**

*Dr. Alina M. Diaz-Blanco, Principal*

305-663-7200 • 305-661-0196 (FAX) • [ispa.dadeschools.net](http://ispa.dadeschools.net)