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Thank you for Being a Member!
Miami-Dade PTA/PTSA Newsletter
December 2024



Message From our President



Dear Miami-Dade County PTA/PTSA Family,

I hope you are doing well. As we move forward, let's keep our mission at the forefront:

To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities.

As we embark on the December Newsletter for this school year, I want to express my deep appreciation for everything we do as a PTA/PTSA. Whether you're a parent, teacher, student, or community partner, your dedication to our children's success is what makes our community so unique.

November was a month filled with meaningful activities and events that showcased the power of collaboration and dedication. Here's a quick recap:

- M-DCPS Leadership Conference, Engage:
PTA facilitated workshops on restarting PTA units and increasing parent involvement in schools.
- 1st In-Person District PTA Board Meeting:
Hosted an in-person meeting at Eugenia B. Thomas K-8 Center. This meeting was an excellent opportunity to connect with Board members and share resources. We were honored to have Ms. Barbara Mendizabal from the Parent Academy as our guest speaker.
- FL PTA Local Unit Training:
Conducted statewide virtual training sessions via Zoom.
- Town Hall Meeting with School Board Member Mari Tere Rojas:
Attended Coral Gables Preparatory Academy to discuss community concerns and updates.
- Florida Councils Board Training #1 & #2:
Engaged in leadership development sessions.
- Community Engagement:
Ms. Silvia Bodden represented MDCC PTA/PTSA at the Belafonte Tacolcy Center—The Liberty City Collaborative.
- Participated in the DEEAC meeting at the School Board building.
- Attended the M-DCPS Fall Career Fair at Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior High School with Ms. Diana Delgado and her children.
- Supported events at Kinloch Park Middle School and Seminole Elementary School.
- Children's Trust Board & Committee Meeting:

Discussed vital initiatives and programs for children and families in our community.

Additionally, I am thrilled to share our continued commitment to reaching our three strategic goals by July 2026:

1. Transition all local chapters to the GiveBacks platform to enhance outreach and capabilities.
2. Strengthen partnerships with local businesses to make the PTA membership card even more valuable—offering benefits that rival AAA.
3. Focus on family support systems to emphasize their positive impact on children's emotional, spiritual, and educational well-being.

We've also successfully migrated to the Gmail Workspace platform, providing a more efficient communication tool for our organization.

Thank you for your dedication and hard work. It is an honor to serve alongside such an incredible team as we support our local units and, most importantly, our children.

With warm regards,

Osmani Gonzalez
President, Miami-Dade County Council PTA/PTSAs

Like I always say:
"When You Show Up, Great Things Happen"

Calendar

12.11.24 - Miami-Dade School Board Meeting
12.20.24 - Teacher Planning Day (No School for students)
12.23.24 - 1.3.25 - Winter Recess (No School)

Training

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

December 2024

This month, the Leadership Development Committee presents the following recommendations for your personal and professional growth and development.

If you are interested in a particular area of training, email us at the address below.





Google Workspace Training Center
Google Support



Nonprofit Management Skills
<https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/elearning3>



Free Leadership Training for Nonprofit Professionals
Nonprofit Ready



COMPREHENSIVE LEARNING

LOW OR NO COST OFFERINGS

PEER LEAD INSTRUCTION



Email Us
leadership@mdccpta.net

Visit Our Website
www.mdccpta.net



Legislative Update

Read about important legislative items from Dr. Nancy Lawther, former PTA Legislative Chair and MDCC PTA/PTSA Past President:

[Legislative update \(click here\)](#)

Budgets



**Now is a good time to reflect on your budgets in case your PTA needs to
set up a General Meeting for budget amendments.
Have questions? Contact us.**

Words from our MDCC PTA/PTSA Student Advisor

**Students - Get involved! Join the Youth Representative Committee. Apply below!
Contact us if you have any questions.**

**Join the MDCPSCC PTSA
Youth Representative Committee**



**Scan
here to
apply!**



- Volunteer and get community service hours!
- Host events for students
- Be an active member of your community
- Be part of something bigger!

What is the PTSA?

The Parent, Teacher, Student Association is a nationwide organization that works on involving all members in their community. By joining the YRC you'll be a vital part in the "student" aspect!

MDCC PTA/PTSA Board of Directors Vacancies & Information

Bring your level of advocacy & service to the next level!

The following positions on the Miami-Dade County Council Executive Committee & Board of Directors are currently vacant:

Vice President of Advocacy & Legislation
Vice President of Organization
Central Region Coordinator
Feeder Pattern Representative Positions

Please contact us if you have any questions, and/or are interested in any of these positions.

What It Means To Be A County Council President

If you have been involved with your child's PTA/PTSA at their school, you have already taken the first step! Even if your child has moved on from PreK-12th grade and you are still committed to the mission and purpose of PTA, the Miami-Dade County Council PTA/PTSA (MDCC PTA/PTSA) would love to have you on board.

Why would you want to stay involved? For some, it is knowing your continued involvement is benefiting all children in Miami-Dade County, especially those whose parents are, for whatever reason, not involved. There are many positions on the Council Board that you may be interested in. Serving in any of these positions will provide an understanding on how to work yourself up to serving as President of the County Council.

Being the Council PTA/PTSA President is a most rewarding volunteer position. For the two-year term serving as President, you will be closely involved with the school district. You will have the opportunity to serve on district committees such as, the Budget Committee; the Health and Wellness Committee; the Attendance Boundary Committee; and the Family and Community Involvement Committee; to name a few.

Is being the Council President very time consuming? Not when you have a team working with you to delegate certain responsibilities to.

Serving as a County Council President is tremendously rewarding. I can personally tell you that serving as President of MDCC PTA/PTSA were one of the most memorable two years in my life.

We would love to have you get involved in MDCC PTA/PTSA as a Board Member, maybe even to one day serve as President. Please contact Osmani Gonzalez, current MDCC PTA/PTSA President, at 305-995-1102 and tell him, "you can count on me!"

*Respectfully,
Mindy Gould
Past President 2008-2010*

News from MDCPS Region Offices

South

Miami Southridge Senior's Football Team won the Regional Championship in Florida's State Playoffs. They are now in the Final 4, and in pursuit of a State Championship. Good luck, team!

Central

Miami SCORES Comes to Central Region!

Miami SCORES is a leading youth development nonprofit organization providing high-need youth with free after-school programming that combines soccer, poetry, and service learning. The organization currently serves over 200 students across six schools within Miami-Dade County Public Schools. As a leading youth development organization, Miami SCORES teaches students teamwork, leadership, and commitment. The year-round program helps level the playing field for at-risk youth and keeps students healthy. Students receive weekly lessons through the teamwork of soccer, the creativity of poetry, and the compassion of service-learning. The program allows students to find their voice, express themselves, and build confidence on and off the field.

Miami SCORES inspires local youth to lead healthy lives, be engaged students, and develop the confidence and character to make a difference in the world. Most Miami SCORES coaches are Miami-Dade County Public School teachers or staff, trained by Miami SCORES on their curriculum. Community involvement has reached new heights during weekly matches, igniting a new passion for soccer and poetry in the

participating schools. Miami SCORES currently serves Title I Miami-Dade County Public School students at six schools in Brownsville/Liberty City and Little Haiti: Earlington Heights Elementary, Jesse J. McCrary Elementary, Charles R. Drew K-8, Kelsey Pharr Elementary, Liberty City Elementary, and Orchard Villa Elementary. All these schools are located in the Central Region.... The Heart of it All!

North

The North Region Office oversees and supports 104 schools in the North area of Miami-Dade County. This area is 262 square miles with over 80,000 students receiving instruction from professionals preparing them to be college and career ready. The North Region Office provides administrative support to ensure that all students engage in relevant educational experiences in an equitable and nurturing environment to meet the needs of the 21st century.

North Dade Center for Modern Language and Jose Marti MAST 6-12 Academy 2024 won the National Blue Ribbon School Award.

2024 Schools of Excellence Merit Award

Ben Sheppard (top school)

Micheal Krop

IPREP North

Jose Marti MAST Academy 6-12 (top school)

Lawton Chiles Middle

MAST at FIU

Miami Lakes Middle School

Miami Lakes Education Center (top school)

Miami Norland Senior

North Dade Center for Modern Language (top school)

EdFed's High School Hero

Congratulations to Lurlene & Dylan for receiving scholarships from EdFed!

Students can be nominated at: edfed.org/highschoolhero



Congratulations to EdFed's **High School Hero** monthly scholarship recipient **Lurlene C.**, a 12th grader at **North Miami Senior High School!**

Nominate a high school student making a difference in their community through volunteerism for a chance to receive a **\$1,500 scholarship**.

Visit edfed.org/highschoolhero to recognize a student today.





Congratulations to EdFed's **High School Hero** monthly scholarship recipient **Dylan F.**, a 10th grader at **Jose Marti MAST 6-12 Academy**!

Nominate a high school student making a difference in their community through volunteerism for a chance to receive a **\$1,500 scholarship**.

Visit edfed.org/highschoolhero to recognize a student today.



Parent Academy

The M-DCPS Parent Academy is a free, year-round, family engagement initiative that supports parents and caregivers on their parenting journey. The Parent Academy is a valuable source of information and resources for families, providing valuable in-person and online opportunities to learn about the school district staff and to connect with other caregivers. Through the department's online Virtual Campus, videos on more than 80 topics are available 24/7 in English, Spanish, and Haitian-Creole. The direct link to the Virtual Campus is <https://parentacademymiami.com/virtual-campus>. The Parent Academy also offers "Weekly Webinar" sessions every Tuesday in English, Wednesday in Haitian-Creole, and Thursday in Spanish. Sessions take place at 9 AM and 6 PM. Parents may also visit one of the four Community Resource Hubs to attend workshops and engaging activities for all members of the family:

- Doral - Eugenia B. Thomas K-8, 5950 NW 114th Ave Room 811; Phone: 786-845-8391
- Hialeah - next to Amelia Earhart, 5801 East 7th Ave; Phone: 305-769-6455
- Northside Shopping Center - 7900 NW 27th Ave; Suite F-9, Phone: 305-694-7120
- Parkway Educational Complex - 2349 NW 175th Street; Phone: 305-624-9613.

For the latest information, please visit their website, call, or follow them on social media:

- Website - <https://parentacademymiami.com/>
- Email - TP1@dadeschools.net

- Facebook and Instagram - Parent Academy Miami
- X - @ParentAcadMiami
- Main Office Phone: 305-271-8257

Local Unit Spotlight

JOSE MARTI MAST 6-12 ACADEMY PTSA
YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE 2024-2025

Thanks to our school community, our PTSA has accomplished a lot for our students, teachers, staff and our school. Here are some highlights.

GRANTS RECEIVED

- PTA Connected: Build Up and Belong program that is sponsored by Discord
- 10 Gift cards \$50 (each): Aldi

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- 2023-2025 National PTA School of Excellence Designation
- Volunteer of the Year **2nd year in a row**
- City of Hialeah PTA Appreciation
- Distinguished PTA Family Award **2nd year in a row**
- Program of Impact: Our Parent Chat
- The Legislative Award: Our Advocacy Group Safety Initiatives
- Family of year for MDCPS **2nd year in a row**

BEHIND THE SCENES

- T-Shirt Donations for Sports
- Quarterly Gift Cards
- Cookies for Honor Roll Students
- Partnered with SWAT to offer quarterly awareness treats
- Sponsored Coffee Talks with the Principal
- Top 15% Senior Frames
- Funded the Miami Laker School Ad to increase enrollment
- Donated Soccer Goals
- Advocated for Fans to be donated
- Advocated for Basketball Court Resurfacing
- Advocated for New Front Gate
- Quarterly Membership Incentives for staff and student memberships
- Funded awards and trophies for end of year ceremonies
- Provided lunches for the Senior Boot Camp
- Donated a shed for science department
- Special Recognition: Celebrated Custodians, Security Principal, Assistant Principal, Librarian, Administrative Staff, Counselors, and teachers on special days.

SCHOOL EVENTS

- Hispanic Heritage
- Grandparents' Day
- Fall Festival
- Winter Stars
- Kindness Event
- Fathers in education
- Summer Blast
- Volunteer Breakfast
- Quarterly Coffee talks with the principal
- Quarterly Principal Honor Roll Breakfasts

TEACHER / STAFF SUPPORT

- Welcome lunch meal & gift
- Quarterly Incentives
- Winter Lunch
- Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week

FUNDRAISING RESULTS

- Uniforms \$15,000
- Chocolate Sales - \$6,000
- Winter Festival - \$5,800
- Hispanic Heritage - \$3,000
- Holiday store - \$3,000
- Papa John's - \$1,100
- Kona Ice \$800
- Give Backs \$700
- Donations and more...

WE RAISED over \$50,000

JOIN US!
 Let's make it happen

SCAN ME

Instagram: jose_marti_mast_ptsa
 Facebook: jmmastptsa
 X: JMartiMAST_PTSA

Want to highlight your local unit's accomplishments? Reach out to us!

Spotlight: Jose Marti MAST 6-12 Academy PTSA - Leading Excellence in Miami-Dade County

Jose Marti MAST 6-12 Academy is a shining example of what a dedicated PTSA and school community can accomplish together. Recognized for academic achievement, community impact, and outstanding programs, this academy continues to set benchmarks for success.

School Achievements:

- AP School Honor Roll
- National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
- Certified Magnet Schools of America
- Magnet Schools of America National Award of Excellence Merit
- STEAM Silver School Designation
- Ranked #8 in Florida and #63 nationally among top high schools by *U.S. News & World Report*

PTSA Contributions:

- Secured grants like the PTA Connected: Build Up and Belong program, sponsored by Discord.
- Secured grants like the Healthy Bodies Tobacco Prevention Campaign, sponsored by The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.
- Hosted popular school events including Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations, Winter Festival, Grandparents' Day, and Kindness Week.
- Provided teacher/staff support, such as welcome meals, quarterly incentives, and appreciation events.
- Advocated for improvements like basketball court resurfacing, new soccer goals, and a front gate upgrade.

Awards and Recognitions:

- National PTA School of Excellence (2023-2025)
- City of Hialeah PTA Appreciation
- Distinguished PTA Family Award (2nd year in a row)
- Program of Impact: Our Parent Chat
- The Legislative Award for Advocacy Group Safety Initiatives
- Family of the Year (MDCPS) (2nd year in a row)

Fundraising Success: With over **\$50,000** raised this year, the PTSA supported initiatives such as:

- Uniform sales (\$15,000)
- Chocolate sales (\$6,000)
- Winter Festival (\$5,800)
- Hispanic Heritage events (\$3,000)

Behind the Scenes: From partnering with SWAT for awareness treats to funding senior awards and increasing enrollment through local advertising, the PTSA is truly the backbone of the school community.

Celebrating Local Units

These Local Units were started in the month of December over the years.



PTA News

Check out Floridapta.org and PTA.org for state and National PTA

information and opportunities.

SAVE THE DATE!
July 10-13, 2025

Registration:
Early Member: \$130
Member: \$170
Students grades 6-12: \$25
Students grades K-5 and children
age 5 and below: no cost


1500 Masters Blvd
Championsgate, FL 33869

**Florida
PTA**
everychild.onevoice.®

- ▶ Join us for a weekend of information, networking, inspiration, and fun!
- ▶ Convention Highlights:
 - ▶ Leadership Development
 - ▶ Awards and Recognition Event
 - ▶ Exhibitors and Resources
 - ▶ Scholarship Event
 - ▶ Reflections Celebration

Plan on attending? Remember to include this in your budget, & make sure it's approved by your general membership. This is a great opportunity to grow as PTA leaders!

Academic Calendars

Want to purchase 2024-2025 Academic Calendars?

Calendars include all Miami-Dade County Public School dates, holidays and daily celebrations.

Just click here Advocates PTA Store: <https://advocates.givebacks.com/store>

Support the Largest School District in Florida

We need you! You can help us achieve our goals by volunteering or donating.

Join Our Team!

Donate Now!

Become a sponsor & grow your business!

Because PTA works at the intersection of school and family, a wide range of industries and causes can have success in this market.

From [traditional advertising](#) in our publications to [exhibiting or sponsoring](#) at our convention to a first-of-its-kind engagement, MDCC PTA/PTSA can tailor a strategic plan and supporting tactics to suit your budget, timing, and objectives—while keeping our purpose and values central to every consideration.

Email vp.organization@mdccpta.org to start discovery with us at any time.

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Stay In Touch!

Email: info@mdccpta.net

Write Us At:

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P.O. Box 10309, Miami, Florida 33101



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