



**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 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 participate in workshops that are aligned with their needs and convenient to their homes and workplace.

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 curriculum helps bring parents more skills, knowledge and confidence to champion their children's education. **Classes and workshops** are developed around five subject area strands:

- Arts & Culture
- Health and Wellness
- Help Your Child Learn
- Parenting Skills
- Personal Growth

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 to foster strong relationships between parents and children. Typical locations 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 these cultural venues that they may 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. All Family Learning Event fliers are posted in the *Upcoming Events* section on The Parent Academy's Website at www.theparentacademy.net.

To date, **The Parent Academy** has educated over 200,000 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. 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. Through these partnerships, parents have access to a clearinghouse of information on the many resources available in the greater community. The purpose is to provide maximum outreach and services.

Parents are teachers, role models, mentors and providers – and have great power to make their children’s lives better. 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

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