

Update 8.21.20

Good Afternoon,

Remember that great scene in [Jurassic Park](#) when the T-Rex was chasing the people in the jeep and the camera focused on the passenger mirror. For most of us, it was a remarkable moment because we saw the power and fury of this huge dinosaur and the words: OBJECTS IN MIRROR ARE CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR. I am sure you laughed as I did when you saw it. The director employed a shrewd theatrical trick known as an emotional paradox. In that moment, the audience went from fear to laughter. I remember the emotional release it created for me and the rest of the audience when the scene ended. You may be thinking: where is Doc going with this? Stay with me, all will be revealed.



With all that's going on in your life right now as a parent you probably feel like you are in that jeep. And just when you thought you had everything under control, you gazed into the mirror and saw the "object" pursuing you. That object is the opening of schools and it is, indeed, close. Fear not, we are here to help you and that help will happen during the [Week of Welcome](#) (WOW) that begins on August 24th.

Many informational sessions are scheduled for parents during WOW. Parents may engage in [topics](#), such as Connecting Virtually, Healthy Mind and Body, Supporting Student Success and Your Child on Campus that are designed to orient and assist parents with My School Online. Additionally, parents are asked to tune in to the Superintendent's Parent [Webinar](#) that will be telecast at 5:30 PM on August 25th. Parents may also submit [questions](#) about MSO or other inquiries until August 20th so they may be answered before school begins. We will also host Zoom meetings for students and parents as well during that week to provide more specific details about MSO at MAST@FIU.

Student course schedules will be posted on August 28th. Students may log into the Student Portal or mobile app to access their schedule and parents may access their child's schedule through the Parent Portal or mobile app by logging in using their assigned PIN. Parents who do not have a PIN, should contact [Ms. West](#) for assistance.

The courses reflected in your child's schedule may have change since June because of the difficulty we encountered when students were placed into two different houses (online vs. in school). We did the best we could do given the circumstances and our goal was to ensure that students had all the courses they need for graduation. No schedule changes are possible unless your child is scheduled into a course he/she has already taken. We will address that concern after school opens. Additionally, students who are enrolled in a Florida Virtual School (FLVS) course this year do not have to create an account at [FLVS](#) as previously described. We will enroll students into each course so there is no errors or delays in providing instructional services.

When school begins, students will have approximately 20 hours of training on the K12 platform with their teachers before they dive into the curriculum. The training is designed to orient students to the various components of the platform. This time will also provide opportunities for K12 and district representatives to address any concerns that arise during the implementation phase of the platform's usage.

Keep in mind that school for our students begins at 7:20 AM and ends at 2:20 PM. Our periods are blocked into two-hour intervals. Students will meet periods 1-3-5 the first day of school on August 31st as posted in our school [calendar](#). FIU begins their classes on August 24th which is a week before our start time. Students enrolled in dual enrolment courses should log into [MyFIU](#) to view their schedule and specific course details. Dual enrollment students who are enrolled in American History (AMH 2010) with Mr. Gonzalez begin their class on August 31st rather than August 24th.

Students are expected to wear their school uniform each day. Incoming ninth graders may wear a non-school polo shirt until September 8th. Our new uniform company, selected by the PTSA, will launch its website in the next few days. I will inform you when the site is operational. The PTSA will host its annual meeting very soon. If you are interested in running for the position of Vice-President or Recording Secretary or you just want to help, please contact [Dr. Mitra Raheb](#). Our PTSA is fabulous and all the money they raise comes back to our students and the instructional program.

Keep in mind that although we cannot interact within the same physical space, we certainly can within cyber space. Reach out to any of us for help by using our [staff directory](#). Your child's teacher is your primary contact for all academic questions and concerns. Our faculty will respond to requests within 48 hours, excluding weekends.

I know the chase has begun and the opening of school is closer than it appears. Unlike the people in *Jurassic Park*, you don't have to be a scientist or a runner to survive—just engaged. Until next time, keep that mask on, stay six feet away from others, avoid crowds and wash your hands frequently. Oh, don't forget to smile; it really does help.

I have included a helpful list of frequently asked questions, a calendar of important dates and events, and a typical MSO day for your use.

Bye for now.

Matthew Welker

I'm using Adobe Send & Track.

You can view "Calendar of Events.pdf" at:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:fb2216a6-ec5d-48fd-b9e2-2c753f428b17>

You can view "Opening of School FAQs 8.21.20.pdf" at:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:26fb4933-dc50-4f43-a141-5017369f1589>

You can view "Typical MSO Day.pdf" at:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:ad70243f-c156-4e47-a59f-ce3ff403c3ef>