

Update 9.4.20

Good Afternoon,

This has been a most interesting week. Well, I told you it would be exciting. The week had more twists and turns than a summer block buster movie. Between the switch failures, cyber-attacks and long wait times, you're probably asking: Are we there yet? I would like to believe that today was the best day of the week. I hope it work out that way for you and your child as well.



So, if we are indeed there, where is there in relation to our objective? Not sure; however, I can tell you that our teachers did everything they possibly could to engage with students this week and I so appreciate the patience and diligence that our students and parents demonstrated throughout the process. Believe me when I say, we feel your pain as does Superintendent Carvalho. I know he and others are working on solutions to the problems we all faced this week. It will get better.

I am sure that you noticed that after our teachers stepped away from K12, much of the conversation centered on course content and in most cases, instruction in that regard began. Please take time over the long weekend to sit with your child to review what was discussed. Pay attention to the course syllabus that was presented and how student performance will be assessed. Many of our students struggle with time and task management under the best circumstances. It is important that you establish a set of routines that allow you to monitor your child's work so submission deadlines are met. Most of the courses we offer require extensive reading so it is important that your child's schedule includes one to two hours of reading per night.

We have a new and exciting way for our ninth-grade students to obtain their identification badge. It's much easier than the way I previously described. Here are the directions:

1. Go to www.foxmar.com/virtualids
2. Choose your school: MAST@FIU
3. Enter your 7 Digit Student ID
 - a. If we already have your photo on file, you will be asked to set a password and you will be presented with your virtual ID card.
 - b. If you do not have a file, you will be prompted to take a selfie, which the school will review and approve.

It's just that easy.

The School Board of Miami-Dade County has selected Starr Indemnity and Liability Company through Insurance for Students (IFS) as the provider for the voluntary student accident insurance program for the 2020-2021 school year. This low-cost accident coverage is offered to all students at the beginning

of the school year and is also offered to new students entering M-DCPS throughout the year. Students purchase the coverage voluntarily at their own expense.

Health Special Risk, Inc. (HSR) continues to be the administrator for this program. Parents may enroll online at www.K12StudentInsurance.com.

Many parents don't know or don't know where to find helpful tips and ideas to support their child's education and plans. Well, you're in luck because we have a Counseling [webpage](#) that's full of information to help you. Please visit it often.

Be careful this weekend. COVID-19 is still a problem and this is no time to let your guard down. Continue to follow the CDC guidelines: wear a mask, stay six feet away from others, avoid crowds and wash your hands frequently. Virus infection rates are on the decline. Let's keep it that way.

I have included some helpful information for you in this update.

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. Also visit our [website](#) often for information and updates. It should be one of your favorites; it certainly is ours.

Bye for now.

Matthew Welker

You can view "2020-2021 Project UP-START Student Eligibility Questionnaire (FM-7378).pdf" at:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:288f99fe-436e-4cb2-a75a-0af55fcff2c5>

You can view "Digital ID badge.pdf" at:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:7d5fb245-1dc5-4054-b58b-8a373553b544>

You can view "Project UP-START Info Sheet for Parents and Families-20-21.pdf" at:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:04b3856b-5dcd-470a-bd16-3fa6a15a55c8>