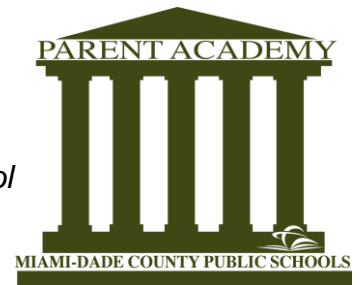


**The Parent Academy**  
of  
**Miami-Dade County Public Schools**  
*Helping Parents Help Their Children Succeed In School*



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. The curriculum helps bring parents more skills, knowledge and confidence to champion their children's education. Parents are teachers, role models, mentors and providers – and have great power to make their children's lives better.

**The Parent Academy** was created with the goals to:

- educate parents about the importance of their role;
- strengthen the family unit;
- unite families and schools; and
- inform parents of their rights, responsibilities and the educational opportunities available to their children and to them personally.

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

**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

**The Parent Academy** offers **classes and workshops** developed around nine subject area strands, which are listed below along with a brief sampling of relevant course offerings:

- Help Your Child Learn (*Example: PASSport to Success – 8 module series*)
- Parenting Skills (*Example: Positive Discipline*)
- Early Childhood (*Example: Developing Early Literacy Skills*)
- Arts & Culture (*Example: Family Day at the Opera*)
- Languages (*Example: American Sign Language for Families*)
- Computers & Technology (*Example: Parent Portal*)
- Health and Wellness (*Example: Preventing Substance Abuse*)
- Financial Skills (*Example: Financing Your Child's College Education*)
- Personal Growth (*Example: GED Preparation – offered through Adult Education*)

**Monthly calendars** are posted in the **Course Directory** section on **The Parent Academy's Website** at [www.theparentacademy.net](http://www.theparentacademy.net).

**Family Learning Events** are held in culturally enriching venues to provide educational activities for families with children of all ages, and foster strong relationships between parents and children. "Family-strengthening interventions impact both parenting processes and child outcomes. Successful programs promote parent-child bonding..." (American Educational Research Association, 2007). Typical venues 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 cultural venues that they many 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. School sites can help promote these events by sharing the flier with parents. All Family Learning Event fliers are posted in the *Upcoming Events* section on The Parent Academy's Web site at [www.theparentacademy.net](http://www.theparentacademy.net).

To date, **The Parent Academy** has educated over 100,000 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. Parent attendance at classes, workshops, and events is tracked through **The Parent Academy** database. 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 to reach parents and provide a clearinghouse for integrating information on the many resources and the greater community's support systems. The purpose is to provide maximum outreach and services.

**Phone Number: (305) 995-2680**

**Web Site: [www.theparentacademy.net](http://www.theparentacademy.net)**

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