



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

giving our students the world

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July 11, 2016

Dear Parent,

Miami-Dade County Public Schools recognizes that a primary concern of parents is the safety of their children. The Miami-Dade Schools Police Department is entrusted with this responsibility, and we strive daily to ensure that our students are provided with a safe school environment where they are able to learn, unburdened by the fear of crime. In an effort to make this a reality, School Resource Officers (SROs) are available to facilitate a safe and nurturing learning environment. The SRO Program focuses on building meaningful relationships between police and the school community. As such, we stand by our core purpose of *Impacting Lives Today for a Better Tomorrow*, day in and day out.

Key goals and objectives of the Department include:

- Preventing crime on a pro-active basis;
- Maintaining a positive interaction between students and law enforcement officers;
- Presenting law enforcement and community-related programs;
- Continuing our active involvement with parents, faculty, students, and civic groups on school campuses;
- Counseling and/or referring students to the appropriate services if they become involved in delinquent acts;
- Helping students to recognize what they can accomplish with positive peer leadership; and
- Guiding students to recognize their shared responsibilities as part of the community.

As a component of the District's overall safety plan, the Department continues to facilitate the Metal Detection Program (MDP). The purpose of these metal detection searches is not to effect arrests; it is to deter individuals from bringing weapons onto school grounds, to detect and confiscate weapons, and to take appropriate law enforcement and administrative action when necessary. A short video outlining the MDP can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEV6Z1Hb2P98>. In addition to the MDP, the Department also conducts proactive K-9 sweeps utilizing canine search teams for drugs, firearms, and explosives. For years, the K-9 Unit has played a key role in the District's safety plan and provides essential law enforcement services during and after regular hours.

For the SRO Program to be successful and effective, your participation is essential. Your involvement helps to ensure that your child's school is a safe haven where all students can continue to receive a high-quality learning experience. We encourage you to report suspicious activity by utilizing our "If You SEE something SAY something" campaign, at 855 FLA-SAFE (855-352-7233). Together we will accomplish our shared goals, professionally, always understanding we must serve as role models to the students and be "Committed To Excellence Through Service" at all times.

Please visit our website at www.mdspolice.com where you can access additional departmental information and follow us on our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter) for current updates. If you have any questions about the SRO program, or if we can be of any help to you or your child, please feel free to contact the SRO at your child's school.

Sincerely,

Ian A. Moffett
Chief of Police and District Security

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cc: School Site Principal

