

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

giving our students the world

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Alberto M. Carvalho

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

The growing popularity of social media has expanded the way in which we communicate. This is especially true for our youth. In contrast to other forms of communication, social media is one of the easiest, quickest, and most common ways to share information. Platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube allow users to engage in online conversations and instantaneously share information, including photos and videos, with people all over the world.

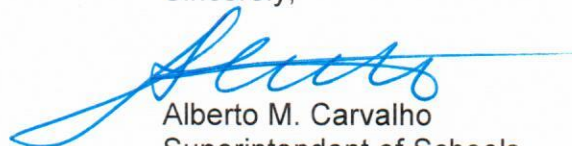
We at Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) believe social media can serve an educational purpose and further enhance the learning experience for children. However, embracing this new method of communication also means understanding and addressing the potential risks involved. Indeed, while we embrace technology and encourage students to bring their own devices to the classroom, we must also be deliberate in establishing policies and procedures to ensure students use technology safely and responsibly.

In commemoration of October as Digital Citizenship Awareness Month, M-DCPS has organized numerous programs and activities that promote the responsible use of social media among students and educators. These activities include professional development offerings for staff, public service announcements, and student leadership meetings that directly address the topic of responsible digital citizenship.

Because parents play a pivotal role in a child's education, it is important that you are equipped with the appropriate tools and resources to effectively navigate social media and its continuous evolution. The Parent Academy hosts a variety of workshops focused on social media and how the digital world is being integrated into the learning environment. Attached is an informative flier summarizing best practices for protecting your child as he/she engages with social media. It is our hope that you will review these helpful practices at home and that they will become part of established routines with your child.

Through continued partnership between school and home, M-DCPS students will be safe and empowered within the digital landscape. For more information on Digital Citizenship, please visit http://digital.dadeschools.net/digital_citizenship.asp.

Sincerely,



Alberto M. Carvalho
Superintendent of Schools

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Attachment