

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

James F. Notter
Superintendent of School

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September 3, 2009

TO: All Principals
FROM: James F. Notter, Superintendent
SUBJECT: **PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ADDRESS ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2009**

On Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 12:00 noon, Broward County Public School students will have the opportunity to watch an online national address from President Obama on the importance of education.

There have been several calls into the Superintendent's Office suggesting and/or requesting that alternative space and activities be provided for those students wishing to "opt out" of this activity. As one of the premier major school systems in America, we have consistently encouraged civics education in the broadest sense, e.g., Kids Voting, elected officials participating in Career Days, countywide broadcast of Inaugural address, etc. Therefore, providing for a separation from this Address does not align with our practices and responsibility to provide a well rounded, quality education for all students. This is the first time an American President has spoken directly to students on the importance of education and the challenge to work hard, set educational goals, and take responsibility for one's learning.

Schools certainly may record the Address for later educational use, due to individual school needs, e.g., tests at that time, field trip, prior scheduled events, and other reasonable conflicts. If you would like a copy of the Address, please contact BECON.

Contact Dr. Earlean Smiley, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum, 754-321-2110, if you have questions regarding curriculum use and delivery models.

JFN:vh

c: School Board Members
Executive Leadership Team
Charles Webster