



A DIVERSE DISTRICT

Broward County Public Schools has a diverse population of over 258,000 students born throughout the United States and around the world. The nation's sixth-largest school district, consisting of 283 schools, has maintained enrollment of over 250,000 students for each of the last seven years.

The District has a total of 258,905 students, including 111,419 in elementary schools (Pre-K through grade 5), 53,743 in middle schools (grades 6-8) and 71,378 in high

schools (grades 9-12). The District's centers have a student population of 5,243 while the charter schools educate 17,122 students.

Over 51.42 percent of District students are male, while 48.58 percent are female. More than 37.5 percent of the District's population is African-American, followed by 30.39 percent White and 25.79 percent Hispanic. Asian, Native American and Multi-Racial cultures combine for over six percent of the District's students. Broward County Public Schools population includes students from 164 countries, speaking 52 different languages.

TIME TO BE INVOLVED

With a new school year upon us, and with the understanding that the more parents are involved, the more successful their children will be in school, parents are often looking for tips on how to "BE INVOLVED." Being involved doesn't necessarily mean volunteering at a school. Here are some ways parents can help their children and show that they support their education:

Responsibilities and Attendance Try to limit extracurricular activities. Over-scheduling a child can cause frustration for parents and children.

Communication and Support Communicate regularly with your child's teacher. You don't have to wait for a formal conference. Send a note, e-mail, letter or just call to touch base and see how things are going in class and to share what things are happening at home.

Literacy and Academic Achievement Explain to your child that success in school, like anything else, involves hard work. When something at school seems difficult, encourage them to try even harder.

Volunteering and Mentoring Contact the school's staff liaison for volunteers to learn about volunteer opportunities at the school.

Leadership & Collaboration Learn about School Advisory Forum (SAF), School Advisory Council (SAC), District Advisory Council (DAC), Parent/Teacher Association (PTA), Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO), ESOL Leadership Council, ESE Advisory, Gifted Advisory, Title I Leadership Council or Head Start Policy Council. For more information, go to (www.getinvolvedineducation.com).

BECON-TV DEBUTS IT'S THE WRITE TIME

It's the Write Time, an informative and entertaining handwriting series for students starting or learning to write in cursive, debuted in September on BECON-TV. The program broadcasts daily into Broward County classrooms through BECON's closed-circuit system and into South Florida homes Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. on BECON-TV (WPPB, cable channel 19 and UHF channel 63).



"The series is 20 15-minute programs designed for 3rd-graders and augments classroom learning by adding a second teacher, Miss Lohse," says Dr. Phyllis

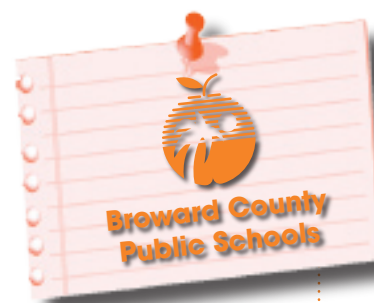
Schiffer-Simon, Director of BECON. "Through the magic of video and her animated sidekick, Bob, she utilizes the time-proven Zaner-Bloser handwriting method to introduce students to the world of cursive writing."

BECON provides curriculum-based instructional programs for classroom teachers and broadcast programming on BECON-TV, which is licensed by the FCC to provide noncommercial, educational programming to the South Florida community. BECON also provides online courses for Broward County Public Schools students through Broward Virtual School and video conferencing services for schools, the community and local businesses. Since 1966, BECON has been providing relevant, entertaining programs for all ages with a focus on encouraging lifelong learning.

For more information on BECON's broadcast or instructional programming visit (www.becon.tv) or call 754-321-1000.

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Cover Story



DISTRICT'S STRATEGIC PLAN FOR WELLNESS

The overall health of a child directly impacts his or her ability to perform academically. In other words, healthy and fit students do better in school. The District is developing a program that involves all grades at all schools incorporating health, wellness, nutrition and physical conditioning into the regular curriculum.

The District is taking on this effort to improve the health and wellness of children and remove barriers that impact teaching and learning. The vision of the program is for all schools to "have a comprehensive system of learning supports that prepares students to be productive and healthy adults who can be supportive of our community."

The Wellness Plan includes eight focus areas that create a system of supports so all students can achieve at their highest potential.

Health Education provides a curriculum for all grades to address physical, emotional and social aspects of health, while emphasizing developmental assets and reducing risk factors.

Physical Education focuses on the development of motor/athletic skills and issues related to teamwork and fair play, nutrition and physical fitness and positive attitudes.

Health Services ensures that students who require health assistance are identified and referred to a provider to address their needs – prevention and control, screenings, first aid, health education, consultation, counseling services and more.

Nutrition Services provides students with access to a variety of meals that meet the nutrition needs of all students. School meals reflect the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans to achieve nutrition integrity.



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NEW ADDITIONS



Glades Middle School



Orange Brook Elementary

Nearly 2,600 students arrived at their schools in Hollywood and Miramar to see brand new classrooms, cafeterias, media centers and gymnasiums. Monday, August 20 marked the openings of new campuses at Orange Brook Elementary School and Glades Middle School.

For Glades Middle, it ended three years of teaching and learning from a portable site, located at the intersection of Pines Boulevard and S.W. 172nd Avenue. The school's new state-of-the-art campus is expected to house a 2007/08 enrollment nearing 1,800 students.

Orange Brook Elementary teachers and staff saw their building completed less than four days before the opening of school. They spent the weekend before classes began preparing everything – from moving office supplies to decorating classrooms.

Eight schools had classroom addition projects completed before the start of the 2007/08 year, adding a total of 123 classrooms (2,460 student stations). The schools (all elementary) include Bethune, Coral Park, Hawkes Bluff, Park Lakes, Park Trails, Sandpiper, Tedder and Westpine.

Since June of 2000, the District has opened 26 new school campuses, increasing the number of classrooms by 13,229 and adding more than 6.8 million square feet of space.

ABOUT PARENT NEWS

Parent News is a bi-monthly newsletter designed to keep parents of Broward County Public Schools students informed about news and events associated with their school system. This publication is produced at no cost to the school system or taxpayers. The advertising contained in the *Parent News* envelope offsets the cost of producing and distributing the newsletter. The District does not endorse any of the companies whose ads appear with this publication. If you have any questions, please call 754-321-2300.



KEEP IN MIND

- Applications for free or reduced price meals are available and are still being accepted at all schools throughout the District. The applications must be submitted for students to receive meal benefits for the 2007/08 school year. Once received and approved, meal benefits are good for the entire school year. For more information, call 754-321-0250.
- Free tutoring services may be available to your child. Supplemental Educational Services (SES) provides the service to students who are on a free or reduced price meal plan, do not attend a Choice school, but do attend a Title 1 school. For more information, contact 754-321-1400.
- District schools will not be administering the mathematics portion of the SAT-10 test for first and second grade students. The reading portion of the test will continue to be administered and used as a criteria for grade promotion.

A BOUNDARY DISCUSSION

The District's annual boundary process is conducted in the fall, as every school community reviews alternative student enrollment options for meeting 2008/09 class size reduction goals at the individual classroom level. Although most school boundaries do not change from year to year, boundaries and class size reduction strategies are reviewed annually.

Principals held community meetings in August and September to discuss their school's enrollment and capacity options. The annual boundary process provides multiple opportunities for public input regarding each school's boundary.

Public input is encouraged either at boundary process meetings or directly to the School Boundaries department by phone (754-321-2480) or on their Web site (www.browardschools.com/schoolboundaries).

IT'S THE RECOGNITION

One hundred twenty-six Broward County Public Schools received a combined \$12,608,296 in funding from the Florida Department of Education (DOE) in recognition of their academic achievement and improvement during the 2006/07 school year.

Broward's recognition total from 2006/07 marked the largest single District award in the state.

Schools that achieved an "A" based on the school grading criteria or improved at least one grade from the previous year were awarded \$100 per student.

Ninety District elementary schools, 17 middle schools, four high schools, two centers and 13 charter schools received recognition funding from the state DOE for the 2006/07 school year.

GOEIE DAG • NI HAO • HEJ • BONJOUR • DIA DUIT • GUTEN TAG • BONJOU • ALOHA • SHALOM • SELAMAT SIANG • SALVE • KONNICHWA • ANNYEONGHASEYO • HALLO •

A WORLD OF LANGUAGES

Language plays a unique role in human diversity. In today's globalized society, being multilingual is an important skill. Learning a second or third language improves a student's opportunities, both in school and in the job market. In keeping with the times, the District has added Chinese language and culture to the vast variety of world languages offered.

At the high school level, the District offers world languages according to the needs of each community: American Sign Language, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Spanish, and Heritage Language (Spanish for Spanish Speakers). All middle schools offer Spanish, with some offering French and Heritage Language. Selected elementary schools even offer Spanish courses. The District's magnet language schools offer French, Spanish and Japanese.

Learning additional languages will benefit students in many ways. Students will gain a better knowledge of their own language, acquire a better understanding and respect for others; develop an intellect that enables them to learn other subjects and help them become stronger prospects as job applicants in their fields of choice.

HOLA • MERHABA • SHWMAE • SAWUBONA • HELLO • SILLAW • SELAMAT TENGAHARI • KIA ORA • SALAM • OLA • BUNA ZIUA • HEJ • JAMBO • MABUHAY • SAWUT DEE



ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular school attendance is linked with academic success in school. Teaching and learning happens every day in school, so it is vitally important that your child attend regularly. Changes have been made to the District's Attendance Policy to bring it in line with the requirements and interpretation of State statutes written to encourage regular school attendance.



Academic instruction can be missed in three ways: daily absences (excused and/or unexcused), tardiness or early sign-outs. The revised policy says that when absences total 1,800 minutes (5 days) in a marking period or 10 days within a 90-day period, the student may be exhibiting a "pattern of non-attendance." Absences may be excused if the parent or guardian writes a note or calls the school, within 48 hours, to say why

the child was absent. There are eight acceptable reasons for absence. Those reasons are listed in the Code of Student Conduct booklet.

If your child has unexcused absences (without documentation) that add up to a "pattern of non-attendance," a Collaborative Problem Solving Team (Child Study) Meeting, to which you can be invited, will be scheduled. At the meeting, it will be determined if the "pattern of non-attendance" is an indication of early truancy.

If it is clear that the unexcused absences are a sign of early truant behavior, the school will provide assistance to get your child in school on a regular basis. That assistance or intervention may include, but is not limited to, student counseling, attendance contracts and referral to agencies for family services. If these efforts do not help to improve your child's attendance and absences continue, a referral will be made to the School Social Worker for more intensive interventions and assistance. In some cases, families could be required to appear in court. Parents may be suspended from receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and students could have their driver's licenses suspended or be prevented from obtaining driver's licenses.

Please partner with us in supporting your child's regular daily attendance at school. We are committed, as you are, to the academic success of your child.

For more information, call your school or the School Social Work and Attendance Department at 754-321-2490 or visit (www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentssupport/sswad/HTML/ap.htm).

District's Strategic Plan For Wellness story continued from page 1...

Behavioral Health services are provided to improve a student's mental, emotional and social health, which in turn, improves educational achievement and behavior. Services include prevention programs, assessments, counseling, referrals and more, provided by the District or its partner agencies.

A Healthy School Environment is the physical surroundings, the climate and culture of a school – including temperature, noise, lighting, air and more.

Health Promotion for Staff encourages all school-based employees to pursue healthy lifestyles. As health improves, staff morale increases and creates positive role modeling for students. A healthy staff also increases overall school productivity and decreased absences.

Family and Community Involvement encompasses the overall goal of the wellness initiative – improving the health and well-being of students. Parental and community involvement allow staff to respond most effectively to wellness-related and other issues facing schools on a daily basis.

The vision of the District's Strategic Plan can only be achieved through strengthening our partnerships with parents and community stakeholders.

Stay tuned and join in when invited!

CLASS NOTES

- The District's Transportation Department operates 1,530 buses, transporting over 80,000 students to and from school each day.
- The District has more than 122,500 computers in operation, including those available to students, school staff and District administration.
- Broward County Public Schools has the highest total of National Board Certified Teachers of any school district in Florida and the second-highest single district total in the nation.
- Fort Lauderdale High School features a state-of-the-art two-story cafeteria, the only school structure of its kind in the state of Florida.