

As we count down to the start of the new school year on Wednesday, August 15, 2018, Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) remains focused on providing our students with safe and secure learning environments. Below are highlights of recent District actions:

- **Surveillance Cameras Upgrade:** The first phase of the project to upgrade the network of 10,000 real-time surveillance cameras is complete. The School Board approved an item to begin phase two of the video surveillance project. This phase includes plans to install approximately 2,500 additional cameras on school campuses. The upgraded cameras enhance the District's ability to leverage the upgraded system and provide additional functionality for monitoring campuses.
- **Security Risk Assessment Update:** The first phase of the security risk assessment, conducted by Safe Havens (an independent security firm), has been completed. Safe Havens is compiling a preliminary report as it prepares to implement the second phase of the project.
- **School Resource Officer/Armed School Safety Officer:** By the first day of school, the District will meet the new state requirement under the Coach Aaron Feis School Guardian Program to have at least one School Resource Officer (SRO) or an Armed School Safety Officer on every school campus.
- **Code Red/Active Assailant Drills:** District staff has worked with law enforcement agencies to improve "code red" active assailant training and drills for staff and students. Starting early in the school year we will increase the frequency of lockdown drills.
- **Expanded Mental Health Services:** The District will expand mental health services in the District, with \$5.1 million in new funding from the state.
- **Safety/Security Protocols:** All safety rules will be continuously reinforced at all schools – procedures for locking exterior doors, classroom doors, and gates throughout the day. As a reminder, all students, staff and visitors are required to wear identification badges on school campuses.
- **Sandy Hook Promise Foundation programs:** The School Board approved an agreement with the Sandy Hook Promise Foundation to implement up to 4 no-cost, violence prevention programs (Start with Hello, Say Something, Safety Assessment and Intervention, and Signs of Suicide) into existing or new pro-social clubs at schools across the District.

BCPS will continue to provide updates on school safety and security as new details become available.



Expanding Debate in Schools

- The BCPS debate initiative, which is the largest in the world, is expanding in the 2018/19 school year. Debate programs are launching in 30 additional BCPS elementary schools, for a total of 70 elementary schools across the District. Debate continues to be offered in all BCPS middle and high schools, with approximately 13,000 students participating.
- BCPS Students earn local, state and national recognition for their debate skills. During the summer, more than 100 BCPS middle and high school students competed in the National Speech and Debate Tournament. Cypress Bay High School was recognized as a School of Outstanding Distinction for finishing among the top 10 schools in the country and students from Charles Flanagan High School, Cypress Bay High School, Falcon Cove Middle School, Miramar High School, Nova High School, Western High School and Westglades Middle School earned Top 5 finishes in their respective events.

Learn more at browardschools.com/debate.





Increasing Unique Educational Programs

BCPS is committed to providing students with unique educational experiences that spark their students' interests, develop their talents and support their academic pursuits. In 2018/19, BCPS is proud to launch the following programs for students:

- **Cypress Bay High School - Lightning STEM Academy**

The Lightning STEM Academy creates a track for students to achieve an Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Diploma through the Cambridge International Program and earn Bright Futures Scholarships, while emphasizing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) content across an array of classes.

- **Cypress Bay High School - FBI Cyber/STEM Program**

The FBI Cyber/STEM Program, a pilot program in 2018/19, is designed for students who have a strong interest in learning about and pursuing careers in the cyber field. BCPS students who complete the specific FBI Cyber/STEM Program requirements will receive a FBI Cyber/STEM Certificate and commencement cord upon graduation.

- **Dillard 6-12 and Monarch High School - Cambridge International Program**

The Cambridge International Program prepares students for college and careers by offering rigorous curriculum and opportunities to earn college credits while in high school. The Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) courses provide students opportunities to earn the internationally renowned AICE diploma recognized by colleges and universities all over the world.

- **Plantation Middle School - Controlled Environmental Agriculture**

The Controlled Environmental Agriculture program integrates engineering and plant science through technology. This innovative program provides students with the opportunity to participate in research-based activities and problem-solving strategies to learn the principles and practices of sustainable commercial food crop production.

- **Plantation High School - Gifted Academy**

The District's first Gifted Academy for students in grades 9 – 12 supports a philosophy that acknowledges the need for and provision of a highly engaging and challenging academic learning environment for gifted students. The academy provides specialized learning that is tailored to meet each student's personal goals.

- **Stranahan High School - THE CUBE**

THE CUBE @ Stranahan High School, offers comprehensive experiences to develop student-led innovation. THE CUBE, which stands for Creative & Unique Businesses Emerging, provides students entrepreneurial learning opportunities through, customized curriculum, college credits and scholarships, redesigned learning labs, and industry certifications. Students explore, design and produce innovative products while experiencing career pathways based on their interests.



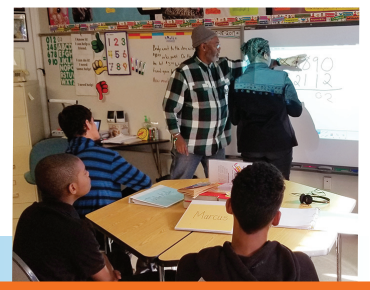
Growing the Dual Language Program

The number of innovative District elementary schools offering the Dual Language Program is growing. Four more schools will offer the program in the upcoming school year. This includes:

- James Hunt Elementary School and Oakridge Elementary School, bringing the total number of elementary schools with Dual Language Programs to 40.
- Apollo Middle School and Glades Middle School, bringing the total number of middle schools with Dual Language Programs to three.

The BCPS Dual Language Program provides students with the opportunity to become fully bilingual by learning, listening, speaking, reading and writing in English and the target language.

Learn more about the Dual language program at browardschools.com/duallanguage.





Increasing Computer Science and STEM Opportunities in Schools

More Robotics Opportunities for Students

- Through a grant from the Robotics Education & Competition (REC) Foundation and NASA, more robotics equipment, materials and teacher professional development are on the way for District schools. In 2018/19, 113 schools are now offering VEX robotics, an increase from 57 schools last year. This will be the second year of the four-year grant, which is valued at approximately \$227,000. Additional schools are added each year of the grant, with all schools benefiting by year four.

Expanding the SECME STEM Olympiad

- In 2018/19, the SECME STEM Olympiad Program is reaching students in 85 elementary, middle and high schools. Students will work all school year to compete in the annual Olympiad, putting their STEM skills to the test in events such as mousetrap vehicles, water rockets, VEX robotics, bionic hand, banner, poster and essay contests, plus sponsored competitions from partners such as the Florida Panthers, Florida Power & Light, and Magic Leap.

Learn more about these programs at browardschools.com/stem.

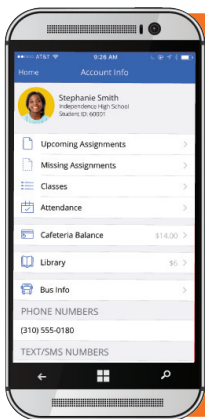


Supporting Environmental Stewardship

Students have even more opportunities to become environmental stewards thanks to expanded partnerships with Broward County, Friends of State Parks, the Everglades Foundation and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). In 2018/19:

- The District's STEM in the Parks initiative offers middle school students opportunities to work with park naturalists to identify and solve problems within county parks.
- The Learning in Florida's Environment (LIFE) program is providing students in kindergarten through 12th grade the opportunity to work with state park rangers to conduct investigations and collect data as they learn more about the local environment.
- Schools Districtwide continue to integrate Everglades Literacy and NWF EcoSchools lessons in their curriculum to teach students about environmental sustainability and resilience, and the impact our environment has on our health, wellness and economy.

For more information, contact the Applied Learning Department at 754-321-1859.



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