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BROWARD
County Public Schools

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AWARDS

Thursday, May 22, 2025
Lauderhill Performing Arts Center



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2025 PROGRAM



Presentation of Colors	Everglades High School
Pledge of Allegiance	Sean Curran, Principal Army JROTC Chief Nicholas Porter, Senior Army Instructor
National Anthem.....	Juliana Zamorano Monarch High School James Cecil, Principal Caleb Miller, Director
Welcome	James Griffin, II , Master of Ceremonies Principal, Boyd H. Anderson High School
Mighty Marching Dragons.....	Stranahan High School Nichola Stephenson Gayle, Principal Carlos Redman, Director
Greetings.....	Debra Hixon , Chair The School Board of Broward County, Florida
Remarks.....	Dr. Howard Hepburn Superintendent of Schools
District & Municipal Partner Awards	Dr. Valerie S. Wanza Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer John Sullivan Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs Officer
Advanced Women's Ensemble.....	Dillard 6-12 Alfred L. Broomfield, II, Principal Sophia Beharrie, Director
School-Based Partner Awards.....	Dr. Angela Fulton Deputy Superintendent, Teaching and Learning Eric Chisem , Director BCPS Office of Strategic Partnerships
Enchanted Eagles	Park Lakes Elementary School Rhonda Parris, Principal Dr. Jennifer Mehu, Coach

Superintendent's Student Award.....	Dr. Howard Hepburn
Special Recognition.....	Nova Middle School Rayner Garranchan, Principal Kristin Murphy, Advisor
The Knights of Jazz	Monarch High School James Cecil, Principal Caleb Miller, Director
Years of Service Awards.....	Alan Strauss South Regional Superintendent, Teaching & Learning
Family and Community.....	Dr. Lori Canning , Executive Director BCPS Office of Family and Community Engagement
Engagement Awards	Nadia Bryan Clarke , Assistant Director BCPS Office of Family and Community Engagement
Beachside Montessori Drama Club.....	Beachside Montessori Village Nancy Long, Principal Nicole Murillo, Director
Outstanding Mentor Awards.....	Dr. Jermaine Fleming North Regional Superintendent, Teaching & Learning
	Dr. Jodi Washington , Executive Director (Task Assigned) BCPS Office of Student Services Initiatives
Titans Step Team.....	Nova Middle School Rayner Garranchan, Principal Dr. Juanda Smith, Advisor
Outstanding Volunteer Awards.....	Richard D. Lamarre 2025 BCPS Teacher of the Year Miramar High School
	Sheneka Blue 2025 BCPS Principal of the Year Oriole Elementary School
	Shenee Rowe 2025 BCPS Assistant Principal of the Year Blanche Ely High School
	Tracy-Ann Smith 2025 BCPS School-Related Employee of the Year Boyd H. Anderson High School
Closing.....	Mighty Marching Dragons Stranahan High School

Proud Sponsors of the 2025 Community Involvement Awards



Sponsoring today's event is one of the many ways these organizations demonstrate their commitment to Broward County Public Schools students, families and community. Throughout the years, their products, services and people work to improve our lives. Please thank each of our sponsors for their involvement, as well as for their contribution to the Community Involvement Awards.

Presenting



Silver



Special Recognition

Nova Middle School Pre-Law Students



Following an impressive first place win at the state level, Nova Middle School's Pre-Law students made history by securing their third consecutive national championship at the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition in Washington, D.C. This remarkable achievement highlights the school's steadfast dedication to civic education and the exceptional commitment of its students and educators.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Howard Hepburn *Superintendent of Schools*



Welcome to the 2025 Broward County Public Schools Community Involvement Awards! Under the inspiring theme, "Catch the Spirit," we celebrate the vital partnerships that strengthen our schools and empower our students.

In Broward County, we understand that a truly exceptional education system thrives on the connections it has within the communities it serves. Within these pages we highlight the outstanding individuals, organizations, partners and volunteers who play an integral role in creating the powerful connections that support our students' growth and development and create unique educational opportunities in our schools.

Your commitment and dedication are nothing short of extraordinary. Your tireless efforts – highlighted here – nurture a sense of belonging and encourage positive development in every corner of our District.

Today, we proudly honor those who go above and beyond to support and serve our students and schools. You are all inspiring, and your efforts will stay with our students throughout their lives and shape the lives of generations to come – a true testament to the power of unity and collective actions.

On behalf of Broward County Public Schools, I extend my deepest gratitude to each of you. Thank you for being steadfast partners in this noble work of education. We are proud to celebrate your achievements and the impact you make every day in the lives of our students.



The School Board of Broward County, Florida Lori Alhadeff • Maura McCarthy Bulman • Adam Cervera, Esq. • Debra Hixon • Dr. Jeff Holness
Sarah Leonardi • Nora Rupert • Rebecca Thompson • Dr. Allen Zeman • Dr. Howard Hepburn, Superintendent of Schools

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, prohibits any policy or procedure which results in discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. The School Board also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Individuals who wish to file a discrimination and/or harassment complaint may call the Director, Equal Educational Opportunities/ADA Compliance Department & District's Equity Coordinator/Title IX Coordinator at 754-321-2150 or email eeo@browardschools.com. Individuals with disabilities requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, (ADAAA) may call Equal Educational Opportunities/ADA Compliance Department at 754-321-2150 or email eeo@browardschools.com. **browardschools.com**

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



James F. Griffin, II

Principal, Boyd H. Anderson High School



James F. Griffin, II is a native of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He graduated from Dillard High School in 1989, before matriculating to the home of the Wildcats, Bethune-Cookman University. At Bethune-Cookman, he earned dual degrees in Elementary Education and Specific Learning Disabilities. Mr. Griffin later attended Nova Southeastern University where he earned a Master's Degree in TESOL and a certificate in Educational Leadership.

Mr. Griffin joined Broward County Schools in 1993. He has taught grades K – 5, as well as Adult Basic Education, General Education and English to second language learner adults from Haiti, Peru, Russia, Cuba, Brazil and China. He was appointed as an Assistant Principal at North Fork Elementary School in 2003. During his tenure at North Fork Elementary, Mr. Griffin was recognized as a 2007 finalist for Assistant Principal of the Year. Mr. Griffin received international recognition as an Illuminate Hero and Promethean Torchlight. He was appointed principal of Rock Island Elementary School in 2007 and his accomplishments garnered him the esteemed privilege of being named Broward County's and Florida's Principal of the Year for 2010. He then went on to serve as the Principal of Lauderdale Lakes Middle School from 2010 until 2019. During his tenure at Lauderdale Lakes Middle School, Mr. Griffin was honored to serve as a member of the Florida Department of Education Commissioner's Superintendent Committee. Currently, he serves as Principal of Boyd H. Anderson High School.

Mr. Griffin is emerging as a global steward. He was invited by the Bahamian Ministry of Education to assist with the government's largest technology initiative in schools. He also funded the construction of a classroom through Free the Children in an underprivileged and underserved community in India. Some of Mr. Griffin's latest accolades and accomplishments include an honorary doctorate degree from Nova Southeastern University in 2022, graduating from the National Superintendent's Academy in 2019, an internship for Broward County's Public Information Office in 2018, induction into the Broward Education Hall of Fame in 2017, being honored by Legacy South Florida magazine as one of the "50 Most Powerful and Influential Leaders" of 2016, and being named a 2014 JM Lexus African American Achiever. Most recently, Mr. Griffin was selected to participate in Florida Atlantic University's Doctoral program sponsored by the Teacher School Leader Federal grant program.

SPECIAL THANKS



Beachside Montessori Village Drama Club

The Beachside Montessori Village Drama Club has performed at various Broward County Schools' events including The Arts for the Future Scholarship Ceremony, Broward County Elementary ORFF Showcase, Broward County Youth Arts Month Celebrations, and recently closed *Matilda Jr., The Musical* at Hollywood Central Performing Arts Center.



Dillard 6-12 Advanced Women's Ensemble

Dillard Center for the Arts Advanced Women's Ensemble, strives to bring choral music to the community at the highest possible level. The Chorale has been invited to sing at many venues including Carnegie Hall in New York and the Arsht Center in Miami, as well as participate in Disney's Candlelight Processional Program.



Everglades High School Army JROTC

Everglades High School's Army JROTC is a top-tier leadership development program designed to equip students with the essential skills for academic excellence and lifelong success. Through a dynamic curriculum, cadets graduate with a strong foundation of transferable skills that prepare them for success in both their careers and personal lives..



J.P. Taravella High School ProStart

The talented and dedicated students ProStart class at J.P. Taravella High School were the inaugural winners of the \$50,000 kitchen makeover grant from the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association Educational Foundation or FRLAEF. They compete nationally and each year and remain one of the most decorated programs in BCPS.



McFatter Technical College & High School Photography Program

Guided by the creative leadership of instructor Danielle E. McColgin, the photography students at McFatter Technical College & High School are developing into confident visual storytellers. With a strong foundation in technical skills and a bold approach to artistic expression, these students explore everything from studio lighting and portraiture to photojournalism and digital editing.

SPECIAL THANKS



Monarch High School Jazz Ensemble

The Monarch High School Jazz Ensemble, known as the "Knights of Jazz" is an 18-member ensemble composed of students from grades from 9-12. The ensemble recently received its first Superior Rating at the 2023 Florida Bandmasters Association District 15 Jazz Music Performance Assessment, and this year received their first Straight Superior rating at the 2025 District Jazz MPA.



Nova Middle School Step Team

The Nova Middle School Step Team has been in existence for over 20 years. Each year student steppers participate in events at school to bring awareness to stepping. This year the Steppers performed in the Holiday Chorus Show and Black History Show. Additionally, the Team provides entertainment during the school's lunchtime and BCPS annual The Above the Influence Rally.



Park Lakes Elementary School Dance and Cheer Team

The Park Lakes Elementary School Enchanted Eagles was established by dedicated teachers to provide students with a creative outlet. The Team showcases their talents at school events such as pep rallies, Christmas and Black History Month performances, and community events including parades and fundraisers. The program emphasizes team-building activities and fosters unbreakable lifelong bonds and many of the dancers continue to pursue their love for dance in middle school and beyond.



Stranahan High School Mighty Marching Dragons

The Stranahan High School Mighty Marching Dragons Band has been a traditional favorite of South Florida for over 70 years. Most recently the band had televised appearances at the 2021 London New Year's Day Parade. Additional accolades include the Atlanta's Viewer's Choice Winner of 2018 and 2023, 8 Excellent Ratings, and 18 Superior titles.



Western High School Cheer Team

The Western High School Cheer Team has a program of over 65 athletes. The Competitive team are back-to-back State Champions for the years 2024 & 2025 and placed second at the National High School Cheerleading Championship in February 2025. The Sideline cheer program supports the school's Football and Basketball programs and is involved in the community.

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DISTRICT PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD



JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Junior Achievement of South Florida (JA) has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) students, educators, and community. JA delivers innovative, high-impact programming that bridges education and industry - empowering our students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences to thrive in today's workforce.

Over the years, BCPS partnership with JA has expanded dramatically, and today it includes an extensive portfolio of programs that serve thousands of students annually across elementary, middle, and high school levels. These programs include:

- **JA BizTown (Grade 5):** A transformative simulation that allows students to run a town, manage businesses, and understand real-world economics through active learning.
- **JA Finance Park (Grade 8):** A critical experience focused on financial literacy, budgeting, career exploration, and personal finance, culminating in a simulation at JA World Huizenga Center.
- **JA Stock Market Challenge:** An engaging competition where high school students apply investment strategies in a fast-paced simulated market.
- **JA Fellows Company Program:** A year-long entrepreneurial program that empowers high school students to create, launch, and manage real businesses.
- **JA Career Bound / Youth Employment Program:** A 10-month work-readiness initiative offering job coaching, resume preparation, mock interviews, and summer employment.
- **JA Pre-Apprenticeship Program:** Industry-focused training with hands-on learning and direct access to apprenticeship and employment opportunities.
- **JA Girls Rule:** A dynamic leadership summit connecting high school girls with inspiring female mentors and leaders.
- **JA 3DE Schools at McArthur and Flanagan High Schools:** A national model reimagining high school education by embedding real-world case studies into core curriculum to boost student engagement and achievement.

Through these programs, JA has provided essential curriculum, resources, volunteer support, teacher training, and simulation-based learning aligned with Florida standards and District priorities. JA has become an integral partner in preparing students for future success—academically, socially, and professionally.

JA's leadership, particularly from President & CEO Laurie Sallarulo and her team, exemplifies what a true educational partner looks like. Their ongoing responsiveness, commitment to equity, and collaborative spirit have made a profound impact on the lives of our students.

MUNICIPAL PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD



The City of Dania Beach



The City of Dania Beach has contributed towards improving public education, continuously supporting the schools of Dania Elementary School, Collins Elementary School, and Olsen Middle School. The City is investing over \$10 Million towards the conversion of empty and unused spaces at Collins Elementary to be retrofitted as the City's new Emergency Operations Center, and a state-of-the-art seven-acre park and sports complex to be built at Olsen Elementary. Additionally, City officials and staff spend countless hours volunteering and facilitating programs and meetings for students and for the schools' improvements, including the active role of members of the city's Education Advisory Board.

Nominees

City of Coconut Creek
City of Coral Springs
City of Dania Beach
City of Fort Lauderdale
City of Hollywood
City of Lauderdale Lakes
City of Miramar
City of Parkland
City of Plantation
City of Sunrise
City of Weston

OUTSTANDING SCHOOL-BASED PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARDS



Throughout the academic year, generous business and community partners across Broward provide much-needed financial and material resources, as well as their valuable time, energy and expertise in support of quality education. These business and community partners are independently nominated by the schools they help to receive Broward County Public Schools *School-Based Partner of the Year Award*.

A screening panel reviews and scores all qualified nominations across a set of criteria developed around level of commitment, demonstrated support for school improvement and student achievement, and the effective use of resources in providing meaningful experiences to our students.

The descriptions in this booklet give only a small glimpse into the innovative and generous ways that our partners support Broward County Public Schools. We are deeply grateful for their support!

Nominees:

Blanche Ely High School.....	Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers
Charles Drew Elementary School.....	Exotech, Inc.
Charles W. Flanagan High School.....	Zone The Falcon Foundation
Cooper City Elementary School.....	i9 Sports
Cooper City Elementary School.....	Jeremiah's Italian Ice
Cooper City Elementary School.....	Kick Fit Martial Arts
Davie Elementary School.....	Kiwanis Club of Davie & West Hollywood
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Montessori Academy.....	Fresco Y Mas
Hollywood Hills High School	Art Prevails Project
James S. Rickards Middle School	Harmony Developmental Center
Liberty Elementary School.....	Kiwanis Club of Margate
McNab Elementary School.....	Barnes & Noble
Park Lakes Elementary School	Miami Marlins Foundation
Pembroke Lakes Elementary School	Game Day/First Priority
Plantation Park Elementary School.....	i9 Sports
Pembroke Pines Elementary School	After School Programs (ASP)
Riverglades Elementary School	Blue Realty
Riverglades Elementary School.....	Certified Therapy Dog, Inc.

OUTSTANDING SCHOOL-BASED PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARDEES



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL

Miami Marlins Foundation with Park Lakes Elementary School

The Miami Marlins and Miami Marlins Foundation teamed up with Kiwanis of Little Havana to provide over 10,000 students with school supplies in select Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach County elementary schools. This year, in partnership with FPL, the Marlins selected Park Lakes Elementary School for a unique in person school supplies distribution as the only school representing Broward County.

On August 22, 2024, each grade and classroom received free school supplies to help them "BAT" a thousand and write their own success stories! The Marlins and FPL provide over 25 volunteers in collaboration with the Office of Strategic Partnerships to set up and distribute over \$36,000 in school supplies to almost 1,000 elementary school students at Park Lakes Elementary School. Board Member Debra Hixon, Superintendent Hepburn, Billy the Marlin and executives from the Miami Marlins greeted and distributed the supplies to each student.



MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL

Harmony Development Center with James S. Rickards Middle School

Harmony Development Center's (HDC) partnership with James S. Rickards Middle School is a model of excellence. HDC provides Wraparound Academic Support providing free after-school and summer programs with certified teachers, serve 70 students, and offer counseling, housing support, and meals—meeting the needs of the whole child and their family. They also sponsor cultural events, making a lasting impact on students and families and student engagement. This partnership exemplifies what it means to support a Title I middle school through both academic enrichment and community uplift.



HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL

The Falcon Foundation with Charles W. Flanagan High School Zone

The partnership between Charles W. Flanagan High School Zone and the Falcon Foundation started in 2000 as "Get Flanagan A Stadium, Inc." This initiative raised awareness and funds for a stadium at Charles W. Flanagan High School. Joining with the City of Pembroke Pines, the organization raised over \$1.4 million for athletic facilities at Charles W. Flanagan High. The Foundation has evolved into the general support of Charles W. Flanagan High and its eight-feeder elementary and middle schools. The Foundation is led by Henry Rose, whose commitment spans decades, influencing thousands of students and staff.

SUPERINTENDENT'S STUDENT AWARD



Vashti Chinkoo
McArthur High School

Throughout her academic tenure at McArthur High School, Vashti Chinkoo has been a part of several organizations including Broward College TRiO Upward Bound; AICE Leadership; Best Buddies; SPIDER College Preparatory Program; and Rotary InterACT Club.

Currently the president of the National Honor Society, Ms. Chinkoo has committed more than 4,400 service learning hours to volunteer work and giving back to her South Florida community. At McArthur High, she helps at several events, including senior events, fundraisers, and school spirit activities. Ms. Chinkoo works with two local elementary schools to ensure that students have the necessary equipment to fuel their learning. This includes updating laptops, sorting books in the library, and tutoring. She also serves the community each week at Griffin Road Church of Christ. Ms. Chinkoo volunteers as a Sunday School teacher and nursery aide. Additionally, she volunteers for Hand 'N' Hand Youth Project, a nonprofit organization that donates school supplies for students in need; and Southwest Focal Point Community Center, assisting in any means for the events they hold for the senior citizens in the community.

Born and raised in Guyana, Vashti Chinkoo is a first-generation student who will be attending Florida International University in the summer. She is an early admissions student through Broward College and will be receiving her AICE Diploma along with her high school diploma.

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS



FIVE YEARS

Heron Heights Elementary School.....	Erica Davis
Heron Heights Elementary School.....	Callie Dietrich
Heron Heights Elementary School.....	Carmen Ferrando
Heron Heights Elementary School.....	Jeniffer Freeman
Heron Heights Elementary School.....	Amanda Kuenzle
Heron Heights Elementary School.....	Jessica Ross
Heron Heights Elementary School.....	Lara Thaler
Riverglades Elementary School.....	Julia Hill
Riverglades Elementary School.....	Gabrielle Moreno
Riverglades Elementary School.....	Michelle Ong
Riverglades Elementary School.....	Renee Pyka
Riverglades Elementary School.....	Rachel Rodak
Riverglades Elementary School.....	Jennifer Solf
Riverside Elementary School.....	Christine Faverzani
Riverside Elementary School.....	Carin Flores
Riverside Elementary School.....	Brooke L'Hommedieu
Riverside Elementary School.....	Karen Novak
Riverside Elementary School.....	Desiree Ramirez
Riverside Elementary School.....	Sabrina Zabaleta
Silver Palms Elementary School.....	Crystal Clark
Sunset Lakes Elementary School.....	Natalie Ortega
Sunset Lakes Elementary School.....	Yadira Santana-Dowling
Sunset Lakes Elementary School.....	Carine Williams

TEN YEARS

Virginia Shuman Young Montessori.....	Erin Gohl
Elementary School	

FIFTEEN YEARS

Liberty Elementary School.....	Angelica Dubanewicz
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FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The Division of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) supports the District's commitment to improving the achievement levels of all children. Our goal is for families to partner with school staff and community members, and organizations to continue a tradition of excellence in Broward County Public Schools. Our team is committed to delivering research-based initiatives that engage, inform, and strengthen families by offering access to resources and learning experiences within the District and community.

Family and Community Engagement Award

The Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Awards celebrate individuals and organizations that exemplify the District's commitment to student success through strong family and community partnerships. The Individual Nominee Award honors a school staff member or volunteer who demonstrates outstanding leadership in engaging families, fostering collaboration, and building trust within the school community. The Group Nominee Award recognizes a community-based partner that actively supports schools through innovative programs, resource sharing, and inclusive practices that empower families and contribute to student achievement. Both awards reflect FACE's mission to engage, inform, and strengthen families across Broward County Public Schools. The Individual Nominee selected as the District's winner is eligible to compete for state recognition.

Online Resources for Family and Community Engagement

The District's website, browardschools.com, includes a variety of resources for parents and families. Parents can access information and resources to help them stay informed about their child's academic progress, educational digital learning resources, details on how to get engaged in their child's school, and much more. This "one-stop shop" has everything families need to engage in their children's education. Take a look! Visit browardschools.com, and click the "Parents" tab.

The Division of Family and Community Engagement's website, browardschools.com/face, provides resources and information that support BCPS families in becoming full partners in their children's education, while improving access to learning opportunities across Broward County.

Parents' Guide to Broward Schools

The Parents' Guide to Broward Schools is a handy online resource that serves as a parent's roadmap to the District. The website contains a comprehensive listing of topics of interest for parents. Detailed information ranges from ways to stay connected with BCPS, academics, resources for families new to Broward Schools to Wellness and Student Support Services. The online guide is designed to foster a strong relationship between families and schools in an ongoing effort to increase student achievement. Visit browardschools.com/parents to access online resources for parents.

For more information about Family and Community Engagement programs, please contact the Office of Family and Community Engagement at 754-323-4716.

OUTSTANDING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



GROUP NOMINATIONS

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Diaper Bank
All District Schools

Parent Teacher/Student Association
Everglades High School

Parent Teacher Association
Riverglades Elementary School

INDIVIDUAL NOMINATIONS

Kim Spennato
Central Park Elementary School

Stephanie L. Brown
Quiet Waters Elementary School

Jessica Oliverio Bailey
Riverglades Elementary School

Jennifer Solf
Riverglades Elementary School

Ninella Chiesa Zarate
Park Ridge Elementary School
Riverglades Elementary School

OUTSTANDING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OF THE YEAR - INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP AWARDS



Dwayne Wolfe

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Diaper Bank

Led by Dwayne and Brittany Wolfe, The Greater Fort Lauderdale Diaper Bank has become a vital force in supporting families across the community. Through broad-based outreach and rapid response initiatives, the organization meets critical needs with dignity and urgency. In partnership with the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) North Team at Broward County Public Schools, they extend that impact directly into the lives of teenaged parents within our District, helping build pathways toward stability and success.



Brittany Wolfe

The Diaper Bank eases financial burdens that can force young parents to choose between school and caregiving by supplying essential childcare resources. With an average impact of \$600 per student in covered expenses, their support significantly boosts school attendance, retention, and overall academic achievement. The Greater Fort Lauderdale Diaper Bank exemplifies authentic community partnership. Their steadfast commitment goes beyond material assistance, it restores hope and stability for students navigating extraordinary challenges. Their model sets a powerful standard for holistic, responsive engagement in education and empowers teenaged parents to pursue their education with dignity, support, and the knowledge that their community believes in them.



Jessica Oliverio Bailey

Jessica Oliverio Bailey

As Riverglades Elementary School's PTA Vice President of Events, Jessica Bailey has transformed school events into inclusive, educational, and community-centered experiences. By deeply involving students in event planning, such as turning Creative Arts Night into a school-wide, student-led installation themed on environmental sustainability, she bridges classroom learning with real-world impact. Ms. Bailey fosters strong partnerships with teachers and community organizations, supports over 1,000 volunteer opportunities (including high school students), and ensures accessibility through low-sensory hours. Her strategic, inclusive approach promotes high-quality instruction, a safe and supportive environment, and effective communication, positioning Riverglades Elementary School as a model for family and community engagement Districtwide.

MENTORING ACROSS BROWARD



Mentoring is nationally recognized as an effective intervention strategy and students who meet regularly with mentors are much more likely to be successful in school and beyond.

Mentoring Across Broward, which operates within the Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) Department of Equity, Diversity and School Climate, utilizes a multi-tiered approach to leverage school and community-based mentoring resources to better serve the needs of students.

The District's Community Involvement Awards provides an opportunity for schools to highlight their mentoring efforts by nominating a Mentor of the Year and Outstanding Mentoring Programs for consideration.

Mentoring Across Broward combines school-based mentoring, peer mentoring and community-based mentoring opportunities to ensure every student who can benefit from a mentoring relationship has

access to a caring and supportive mentor whether in school or in the student's home community. In addition, BCPS is mobilizing district staff to serve as mentors to some of our most fragile students including those at risk of dropping out of school and students who are enrolled in Department of Juvenile Justice educational programs.

Among the school-based mentoring programs providing mentoring services, support and in some cases, scholarship opportunities are:

5000 Role Models

5000 Role models is a civic engagement program in which young males in elementary, middle, and high school are paired with mentors from the community under the guidance and primary supervision of a school-based director. The site director, student, and mentor focus on three general principles throughout the school year: progressive and successful men in the community to emulate; positive alternatives to self-destructive behaviors and societal pitfalls; everyone must assume responsibility for preparing our youth to successfully face the challenges and struggles in today's society.

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers Big Sisters - Bigs in Schools is a one-on-one mentoring opportunity for adults and college students to meet with a child for one hour a week during school hours or during aftercare hours. Mentors may help with homework, play games, have fun, and be a friend. Big Brothers Big Sisters also operates mentoring programs in select schools that target specific populations of students such as Mujeres Latinas at Indian Ridge Middle school,

MENTORING ACROSS BROWARD



which pairs professional immigrant women with young girls with similar cultural backgrounds as well as peer mentoring programs in selected schools.

Latinos in Action

Latinos in Action is a part of the District's ongoing commitment to meet the needs of Broward's growing Latino community. This program focuses on providing Latino students with increased opportunities for educational, service, cultural and leadership experiences, while empowering them to complete their high school education and attend a college or university after graduation.

Mentoring Tomorrow's Leaders

Mentoring Tomorrow's Leaders (MTL) is a peer-to-peer mentoring and student leadership program that serves youth that are at-risk for not graduating and/or remaining in school. MTL aims to decrease dropout rates, particularly among minority males, to ensure successful school graduation based on the following five Pillars for Success: Academic Achievement, Mentoring, Family Involvement, Community Support and Student Incentives.

Take Stock in Children Mentor and Scholarship Program

Take Stock in Children's mission is to break the cycle of poverty for low income, academically qualified students by providing opportunities for post-secondary education. TSIC offers college scholarships to students who are matched with adult mentors who meet one-on-one with students in middle and high school. The mentors provide support and guidance to students further preparing them for academic and personal success.

Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program

Women of Tomorrow is about women helping women. The program model is unique and effective. Highly accomplished professional women meet with small groups of at-risk girls in public high schools once a month to discuss ways to overcome obstacles and provide skills for success. Participating students are encouraged to apply for scholarships provided through Women of Tomorrow.

Broward County Public Schools is committed to providing youth with access to quality mentoring program both in school and in the community.



Amanda has volunteered at Riverside Elementary and Ramblewood Middle, supporting students and teachers, and goes above and beyond to make a difference.

We are proud of her!



J.P. Taravella High

OUTSTANDING MENTOR PROGRAM OF THE YEAR AWARD



The Big Brothers Big Sisters of Broward County

The Big Brothers Big Sisters of Broward County BBBS has served as an external partner for 51 years, proudly supporting and providing programs for Broward County Public Schools elementary-post-secondary students in a variety of settings. To date, 854 mentors have completed 40,992 combined service hours in BCPS schools.

Description of BBBS Programs:

The **BIG Futures** program (Ages 12-25) is a college and career readiness initiative designed to equip youth for post-secondary success through career mentoring, education, and access to key opportunities. Youth in the BIG Futures program are mentored in the professional work environments of our corporate partners. Youth learn valuable career development skills through job shadowing with the employees and they are given college readiness tools.

The **BISS program** supports academically at-risk youth by pairing them with caring mentors, either adult or high school Bigs—who help improve their academic performance, school attendance, and classroom behavior. Bigs provide encouragement and guidance, fostering a positive outlook on education and inspiring Littles to graduate and pursue higher education or career opportunities.

The **BIG Pride** program is a focused effort to address the unique needs and vulnerabilities of LGBTQ+ youth (Ages 12-25) by providing trusting, caring, mentoring relationships between Bigs and Littles.

The **Mentoring Children of Promise** program (Ages 5-25): Mentoring Children of Promise (MCOP) provides consistent, one-to-one mentoring for youth impacted by parental or familial incarceration. BBBS Broward partners with custodial or legal guardians to ensure these children receive the support, guidance, and encouragement they need to overcome challenges, build resilience, and achieve their full potential.

OUTSTANDING MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS



Student Empowerment



Dr. Glenice Glover

Liberty Elementary School / Mentoring Program: BI-WI (Because I'm Worth It)

The "Because I'm Worth It" Mentoring Program aims to empower 25 young girls at Liberty Elementary by providing them with positive role models and guidance for personal growth, academic achievement, and future success. Through this program, the girls learn to recognize their inherent worth, build self-confidence, and develop the skills they need to excel in both school and life. Each mentee is paired with a dedicated mentor who offers support, encouragement, and valuable life lessons. Regular mentorship sessions allow the girls to set goals, overcome challenges, and unlock their potential in a nurturing environment.

The program focuses on several key objectives. First, it aims to help the girls build self-worth and confidence, encouraging them to believe in themselves and their abilities. It also provides guidance on academic and personal development, including goal-setting, study habits, and building positive relationships with peers and teachers.

Mentors work with the girls to help them set short-term and long-term goals, both academically and personally, and inspire them to dream big for their futures. Additionally, the program creates a supportive community where the girls can share their experiences, ask questions, and learn from one another while building lasting friendships. The program's emphasis on providing positive female role models empowers the girls, helping them envision themselves as future leaders and change-makers.

Leadership Through Literacy Connections



Riverglades Elementary School / Mentoring Program: Canine Assisted Therapy

Canine Assisted Therapy (C.A.T.) is a nonprofit organization in Fort Lauderdale, Florida dedicated to improving the lives of those in need. C.A.T. works with volunteers and their dogs to provide animal assisted therapy and companionship to people in hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospice, and schools. From children's reading programs to working with veterans, C.A.T. has expanded its services to help people from all walks of life. C.A.T. provides Riverglades Elementary School students comfort, where their youngest readers build confidence by reading

to the therapy dogs through their Leashes for Literacy program.

Leashes for Literacy is designed to help children gain confidence and achieve academic goals in the classroom, one on one or small group visits with a therapy dog provides struggling students a safe space to practice reading skills with the support from a non-judgmental canine. All of Riverglades Elementary's PreK, ASD cluster students, and Kindergarten students bring books and poetry notebooks and read to the dogs. This helps with comfort, reading fluency and building confidence.

OUTSTANDING MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS



Community Engagement



Officer Matthew Kroger

Sandpiper Elementary School

Officer Kroger's specialized pull-out reading group supports the school's continuous improvement efforts by enhancing literacy skills and fostering positive relationships between students and law enforcement. This initiative contributes to students' social and emotional development by building trust, communication, and a sense of community. Additionally, the program aligns with the district's commitment to equity and closing the achievement gap by providing targeted support to students who may benefit from additional reading intervention. By creating a safe and engaging learning environment, this initiative reinforces district goals related to academic

success and positive youth development.

Behaviorally, students have shown increased respect for authority figures and stronger social-emotional skills, fostering a more positive school climate. Additionally, the program has strengthened community relations by building trust between students, families, and law enforcement. This initiative has also encouraged parent engagement, as families appreciate the support their children receive both academically and socially.

Inspiring Academic Excellence



Major Collins

Ramblewood Middle School / Mentoring Program: Dads Be on Duty/ 5000 Role Models

Mr. Major Collins has been working with the students of Ramblewood Middle School since 2021. His Dads Be On Duty mentoring program specifically targets eighth-grade males with the goals of increasing attendance, reducing suspensions, improving self-esteem, grades and life skills, as well as preparing them for high school and beyond.

Mr. Collins also works with students about making better choices in both academic and social settings particularly outside the school campus. Sharing life experiences with these students has been crucial to the mentor program to deter students from external suspensions at Ramblewood Middle School. Through this program, the young males mentees are recognizing their mistake and writing apology letters and making strides to change their trajectory not only at Ramblewood Middle School but beyond. The young men are encouraged to share their struggles in the "Monday Group Huddles" and together build bond of respect and develop strategies how to solve peer issues.

OUTSTANDING MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS



Cultivating Career Exploration



Dr. Afrah Hamin

Dave Thomas Education Center / Mentoring Program: Pearls of Excellence 21st Century

Through her work in programs like Pearls of Excellence, Dr. Hamin supports Dave Thomas Education Center students' emotional intelligence, confidence, and leadership skills, helping them navigate challenges both in and out of the classroom. This directly contributes to improved behavior, stronger academic performance, and higher student engagement.

Her mentoring of new and aspiring Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers ensures consistent, high-quality instruction in real-world skill areas, addressing the District's college and career readiness goals. This work also supports continuous improvement by building instructional capacity and sustainability across departments.

Dr. Hamin also serves as a trusted adult mentor for many minority male students, offering individualized guidance and high expectations that promote academic growth, accountability, and self-worth. She engages in culturally responsive practices and positive behavioral interventions, helping to reduce disproportionality in discipline and promote a more equitable school environment.

All of her mentoring activities are intentionally designed to meet all 500 students where they are—emotionally, academically, and socially—and to close opportunity gaps by connecting them with resources, positive role models, and a strong support system.



Volunteer Services

Broward County Public Schools



Volunteer Services, a part of the Office of Strategic Partnerships, supports and assists school volunteer programs throughout Broward County. BCPS volunteers are individuals who are sincerely interested in contributing to the success of our students. Volunteers actively serve during regular hours at one or more schools or departments, several hours at a special one-time activity or event or work on school projects at home. Under the supervision of school or department personnel, a volunteer provides supportive assistance, which complements and enriches the environment. The following Districtwide volunteer initiatives are some of the programs managed by Volunteer Services.

Outstanding Volunteer Awards

Each year, schools and departments submit numerous nominations for the Outstanding Adult, Senior, Youth, and District Advisory/Committee Volunteer of the Year Awards. The selected winners have made significant contributions to the growth and success of BCPS students. These individuals exemplify exceptional dedication and commitment to enhancing the quality of education across our schools.

Hours of Service / Years of Service Award

This Hours of Service Award is given to volunteers who have completed 200 or more hours of service for the current school year. The Years of Service Award is given to volunteers must have donated 200 or more hours of service for consecutive years.

One Broward School Support Initiative

The One Broward School Support Initiative is an exciting opportunity to make a meaningful impact for the learning environments across our District. The goal of this initiative is to build stronger relationships with students, teachers, and school leaders while supporting the outstanding work happening in our schools every day.

Florida School Volunteer Appreciation and National Volunteer Month

April is Florida School Volunteer Appreciation and National Volunteer Month. School Volunteer Liaisons are provided with resources to recognize and highlight the great work of volunteers. These include certificates of appreciation, social media templates, and other celebration resources, which are available in the online Volunteer Services Toolkit.

Florida Department of Education's Build Resiliency Program

The Building Resiliency Program is a first-of-its-kind approach to reframe mental health, helping children become resilient. Resiliency Coaches are recruited to help students apply grit, perseverance and problem solving to a variety of situations, whether to improve a course grade, participate on a team or recover from a natural disaster.

BCPS VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

**For more information about school volunteer programs, contact:
the Office of Strategic Partnerships at 754-321-2300 or visit browardschools.com/volunteer**

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



OUTSTANDING ADULT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Boyd H. Anderson High School.....	Christine Grant
Business Support Center	Marie Harvey
Cooper City Elementary School.....	Jessie Lamfers
Cooper City Elementary School.....	Fernando Nunez Gomez
Cooper City Elementary School.....	Francesca Rinaldi Benarrosh
Cooper City Elementary School.....	Nicole Serdenes
Coral Cove Elementary School.....	Indira Dupotey-Rubi
Coral Springs Middle School	Jesse Lapin-Bertone
Discovery Elementary School	Cindy Lowry
Eagle Point Elementary School.....	Josefina Contreras
Eagle Ridge Elementary School.....	Stephanie E. Garcia
Everglades High School.....	Aquila Lovell
Glades Middle School	Melissa Ramos
Griffin Elementary School	Maria Bracamonte
Harbordale Elementary School	Kelly Dean
Hollywood Hills High School	Dametre Williams
Indian Ridge Middle School.....	Jennifer Smith
Indian Trace Elementary School	Natalia Rodriguez
Liberty Elementary School.....	Angelica Dubanewicz
Liberty Elementary School.....	Gloria Pineda
Manatee Bay Elementary School	Adelina Snell
Maplewood Elementary School.....	Erica Ortiz
Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.....	Cori Schwartzberg
Oakridge Elementary School.....	Maria Marquez
Panther Run Elementary School.....	Yvonne Howard
Pembroke Lakes Elementary School	Jasmine Murias
Pembroke Lakes Elementary School	Enrique Rodriguez
Pembroke Lakes Elementary School	Lorena Seiler
Peters Elementary School.....	Brithney Johnson
Pinewood Elementary School	Jordan Silver-Morgan
Pompano Beach High School	Rita Mackenberg
Pompano Beach High School	Tracey Morganelli
Pompano Beach Middle School.....	Heike Tetzner
Ramblewood Middle School.....	Rosaura Cruz
Riverglades Elementary School.....	Maria Jewell
Riverside Elementary School.....	Lucie Di Capua
Sandpiper Elementary School	Jacqueline Jeffrey

OUTSTANDING ADULT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES (Continued)

Seminole Middle School.....	Vanessa Velocci
Silver Lakes Elementary School.....	Lydia Moore Allen
Sunset Lakes Elementary School	Kristin Utsman
Tradewinds Elementary School	Tiffani Wenig
Tropical Elementary School	Jill Siegel
Virginia Shuman Young Montessori Elementary School	Erin Gohl
Westchester Elementary School.....	Danielle Greenhauff

OUTSTANDING SENIOR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Cooper City Elementary School.....	Maria Fallo
Cooper City Elementary School.....	Randy Hausmann
Coral Springs Middle School.....	Debra Streit
Discovery Elementary School	Edna Morris
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Montessori Academy.....	Elizabeth Riggs
Eagle Ridge Elementary School	Karen King McCallum
Hollywood Hills High School	Sandra Curry
Maplewood Elementary School.....	Cynthia Revere
Plantation Park Elementary School.....	Lucrecia Soriano-Morillo
Riverglades Elementary School.....	Deborah Freedman
Riverside Elementary School.....	Nancy Hill
Sheridan Park Elementary School	Dora Bullard
Sunset Lakes Elementary School	Maria Reixach
Winston Park Elementary School.....	Judith Andriesse

OUTSTANDING YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Coral Springs Middle School.....	Zahir Beasley
Discovery Elementary School	LaShaun Perry
Hollywood Hills High School	Dunia Aracely Castro
Ramblewood Middle School.....	Jack Donaldson
Riverglades Elementary School.....	Carolina Ochoa Lozano
Riverside Elementary School.....	Amanda Perez-Berrios

DISTRICT ADVISORY/COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Diversity Committee	Narnike Pierre-Grant
ESE Advisory	Jacqui Luscombe
Gifted Advisory	Karla Figueroa
Green Advisory	Alec Bogdanoff
Human Relations Council.....	Nancy Fry
Multilingual Advisory Committee	Danielle Hoffman
Parent/Community Involvement Task Force	Felicia Christie-Frater
Parent/Community Involvement Task Force	Jennifer Simon
Parent/Community Involvement Task Force	Kim Spennato
Parent/Community Involvement Task Force	Daniela Valdez

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS



ADULT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Rosaura Cruz

Ramblewood Middle School

Ms. Rosaura Cruz is an exceptional and dedicated volunteer at Ramblewood Middle School. Her outreach and impact are far-reaching, as she offers her time, energy, and leadership to ensure that students at every level receive the attention and encouragement they need to thrive. Whether it's organizing events, supporting teachers, or helping students excel, Ms. Cruz is always there, making a difference in the lives of countless individuals. A truly remarkable accomplishment of Ms. Cruz was her ability to increase volunteer engagement by over 80%. This boost in participation has been essential in ensuring that school's events and initiatives, such as the Debate Team, MTL (Mentoring Tomorrow's Leaders), and the HEART Families program, which serves our homeless students and their families, run smoothly. Another initiative led by Ms. Cruz is the Student of the Month celebration, where students are recognized for their exemplary character. Her dedication to highlighting and fostering character development has not only boosted the students' morale but also cultivated a positive and supportive environment at Ramblewood Middle School.

SENIOR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Elizabeth Riggs

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Montessori Academy

Elizabeth Riggs is a staple at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Montessori Academy. Serving the school for more than 850 hours this school year, Ms. Riggs assists the Pre-K teacher with everyday classroom activities and gives one-on-one support to students who may need additional help. Ms. Riggs has participated in a wide range of volunteer activities, including Storytime sessions, arts and crafts and outdoor play. She has established a warm and friendly environment in which children may engage and explore, which is essential for students to prosper academically and socially. Ms. Riggs routinely develops fascinating initiatives that encourage teamwork, cooperation, and respect among peers. These programs assist in preventing disputes and increase pleasant relationships, which leads to improved classroom conduct. She also has a positive influence on student engagement and attendance by providing exciting learning experiences.

Ms. Riggs is a devoted and committed volunteer at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Montessori. Her presence consistently fosters an atmosphere in which children feel encouraged, engaged, and inspired to succeed, resulting in improved academic performance and a vibrant school community.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS



YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Amanda Perez-Berrios

Riverside Elementary School

Amanda Perez-Berrios' dedication, enthusiasm, and resourcefulness have made a significant and lasting impact on Riverside Elementary School, Ramblewood Elementary School, Ramblewood Middle School, and J.P. Taravella High School. At Riverside Elementary, Ms. Perez-Berrios assists with numerous school initiatives and projects. She provides vital translation services for Spanish-speaking parents, bridging communication gaps and strengthening the connection between the school and its families. She assists with classroom setups at the beginning and end of each school year.

Beyond the classroom, she contributes to a variety of school events, including Family Nights, BINGO, school dances, food drives, and Multicultural events, where she assists with event setup, distributes information, and manages the concession stand. Additionally, Ms. Perez-Berrios' support for teachers has been invaluable. She leads school tours during Open House, reminds parents about necessary vaccinations for registration and helps students and families to sign up for club activities. Ms. Perez-Berrios maintains a 4.0 GPA and serves as Freshman Class President of Student Government. Her contributions to her community is invaluable and have earned her the admiration of teachers, parents, and students alike.

DISTRICT ADVISORY/COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Narnike Pierre-Grant

Diversity Committee

Narnike Pierre-Grant is the Chair of Broward County Public Schools Diversity Committee. She has four children who have matriculated through the Broward school system and has served as a PTO/PTA president and IZONE representative for her children's elementary and middle schools for two years each. With one child currently attending a District school, she has spent more than 12 years volunteering and serving on several boards.

Ms. Pierre-Grant's passion has always been the youth and contributing to their success. Each day she advocates for the students of Broward by way of promoting diversity in keeping equity at the forefront. The Diversity Committee is vital to BCPS and along with her committee members, Ms. Pierre-Grant was able to champion and advocate for changes in the District. Her vision for the committee is to expand its core focus, provide the District with the recommendations that will bring about changes to elevate and demonstrate to other school districts a robust representation of educational diversity and equity.

A graduate of Nova Southeastern University and Florida Atlantic University, Ms. Pierre-Grant is co-CEO with her husband of 27 years of StaffWave Healthcare Solutions and currently sits on the Board of LJMAJ Holdings.



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