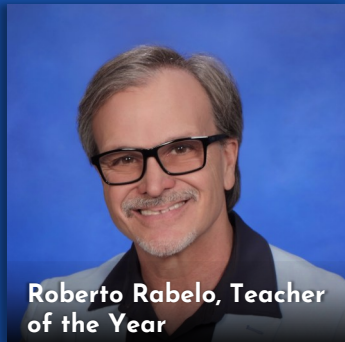
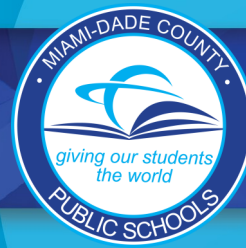


WORKFORCE WIRE

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Roberto Rabelo, Teacher of the Year



Kristian Luciano, Rookie Teacher of the Year

HOT OFF THE WIRE

Roberto Rabelo, a 37-year veteran teacher at Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), has been named the 2027 Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year. He is a social studies/civics teacher at South Miami Middle Community School with a legacy of mentoring students and helping them to harness their incredible potential.

The 2027 Rookie Teacher of the Year is Kristian Luciano, a social studies teacher at Homestead Middle School. The model of resilience, he uses his personal experiences to guide 7th- and 8th-grade students, helping them reach their potential with compassion and high expectations.

iLead

"iLead by empowering others to innovate and challenge the status quo—because the breakthrough of tomorrow depends on the risks we take today."

— Dr. Leo Rabinovich
Administrative Director
Innovation and Advancement

BODY & MIND

"You deserve your own unconditional love."



— Wynn,
your wellness buddy

National School Counseling Week was observed February 2-6. **No One Eats Alone Day** is February 13. Click [here](#) for resources. **National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day** is February 15. **Public Schools Week** is February 23-27.



ABOVE & BEYOND

Maria Quintana is a security monitor at Springview Elementary. An integral member of the Springview family for more than 20 years, Ms. Quintana has also served in the school library and the Pre-K classroom. She is committed to ensuring students feel **SAFE** both in their environment and in themselves, promoting self-confidence and belief in every student.

An Important Centennial

Each February at M-DCPS, we are honored to celebrate the Black educators who elevate and sustain our school district. Their history and ongoing contributions have made us the third-largest school system in the nation and maintain our legacy as the best **CHOICE** for Miami's families.

This year marks a century of national commemorations of Black history. Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson (pictured) institutionalized the teaching, study, dissemination, and commemoration of Black history when he founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), on September 9, 1915.

In 1925, when Dr. Woodson planned the inaugural week-long observance of Black history, he could hardly have anticipated the imprint he would leave. From Negro History Week to Black History Month, the organization has carried forth the tradition, and the observances have become part American culture. For this 100th theme, the founders of Black History Month urge communities to explore the impact and meaning of Black history and life commemorations in transforming the status of Black peoples in the

modern world.

When Dr. Woodson, as director of the Association, established Negro History Week, he did so as part of that tradition. Year after year, he built Negro History Week into an African American and American cultural institution. He set the themes and provided materials to illustrate the contributions people of African descent had made to the movement of history and modern culture.

On February 10, 1976, during the United States Bicentennial, President Gerald R. Ford became the first president to issue a message recognizing Black History Month. Then in 1986, Congress designated February as Black History Month. These efforts have made February the month when Black history finds its way not simply into cultural heritage sites and workplaces, but into American schools of across the land.

M-DCPS is proud to participate in this commemoration, acknowledging the generations of Black educators who helped build—and continue to maintain—the third largest school district in our great and diverse nation.



Student Healthcare Innovation

The Children's Trust's \$26 million expansion of **Health-Connect in Our Schools** brings comprehensive medical and mental health services to 283 Miami-Dade schools, providing on-site nursing, telehealth, and mobile units, significantly reducing lost instructional time and improving return-to-class rates. Students benefit from direct access to screenings, behavioral health support, and management for chronic conditions like asthma or diabetes. This integrated approach fosters a stronger learning environment and promotes long-term academic success through proactive, school-based wellness.



Powered by Excellence

M-DCPS and the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) have announced the launch of **Florida's Future: Powered by Public Schools** Communications Initiative. This statewide effort will elevate public awareness of the value and positive impact of Florida's public schools. This campaign will delve into the programs, people, and positive outcomes from our students, staff, volunteers, and community partnerships, and celebrate those successes. The FADSS theme this month is Career Technical Education (CTE). Share your story to stories@dadeschools.net.



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