



# WORKFORCE WIRE

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## HOT OFF THE WIRE

Need to escape this summer but don't want to break the bank to make it happen? Consider a staycation! Luckily, we live where most people vacation, with more than 26 million visitors in 2022 alone. Miami-Dade County boasts sandy beaches, the lush Everglades and vibrant neighborhoods that represent our diverse community.

Below are a few ideas for a fun-filled staycation.

- Book a beachfront hotel stay on Miami Beach
- Commune with nature at a national or state park
- Pamper yourself with a relaxing spa treatment
- Book a food tour or discover a new cuisine
- Explore the city by water through jet skis or a boat ride

To get started on your staycation, click [HERE](#).

## iLead

"iLead with a team concept in mind, ensuring that I have placed my teammates/colleagues in positions to be successful by informing them, guiding them, and preparing them for success."

-Nelson Izquierdo, Jr.  
Assistant Superintendent  
Office of Labor Relations and Compensation

## BODY & MIND

This is your daily reminder to HYDRATE! Both dehydration and overhydration can lead to certain health risks. You should drink at least half an ounce of water per pound you weigh. Avoid too much juice, most sodas, and energy drinks.



Synergy X: A Decade of Excellence July 7 – July 14 • Florida Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday July 24 – August 6 • Brightline thanks M-DCPS employees with a 30% discount on fares to Orlando! Click [here](#) to book by July 31. Check your inbox for an email with additional details.

ARE YOU READY?



## ABOVE & BEYOND

Alexandre Ramirez is a Media Specialist at George T. Baker Aviation Technical College. Beyond his duties, he has created innovative data dashboards that can be used to grow the local economy and implemented systems to increase student retention and stimulate organizational development. Mr. Ramirez's contributions continue to impact Baker students and the wider Miami community.

## Educational Access for All

When a student suffers an illness requiring prolonged hospital care or is involved in an accident that renders them unable to walk, many may assume their education would be put on hold indefinitely. But M-DCPS is committed to providing a world class education to all students, including those experiencing extenuating circumstances.

Brucie Ball Educational Center (BBEC) is one of M-DCPS's most crucial assets, catering to students who develop terminal illnesses, undergo transplants, and survive accidents, all the way to those living with major depression and anxiety.

Through BBEC, students are afforded the classroom time they need to stay on track, either online or with a visiting educator. Many students are enrolled short-term while they take time for physical recovery, but for those enduring several years of treatment, their teachers become much more than just instructors.

"If you're teaching in the child's home and the mom is serving the teacher cafecito on the kitchen counter, you become part of the student's family," said Dr. Amrita J. Prakash, BBEC Principal.

Despite the challenging work environment, teachers at BBEC are very committed and few leave or transfer to other schools.



"For the most part it's a joyful place to work. We are all very close-knit because of the work we do," said Dr. Prakash.

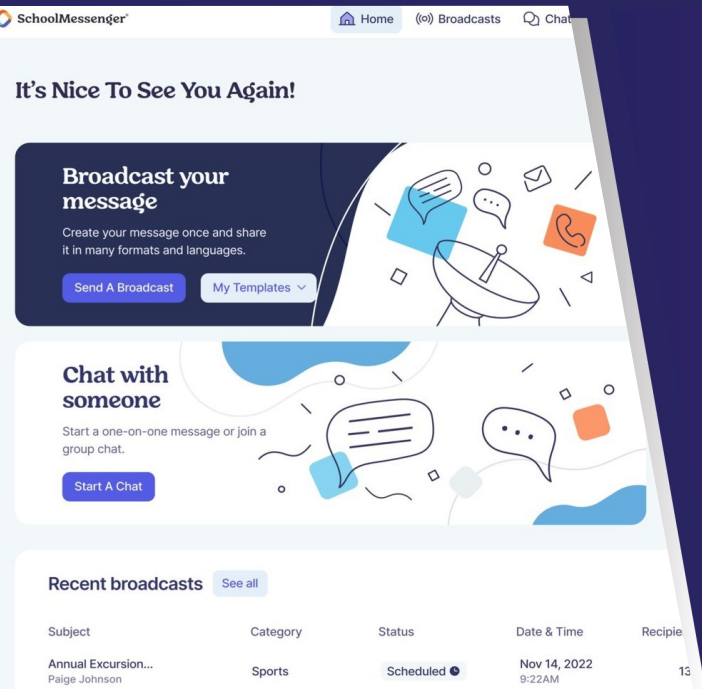
She said parents send regular updates of students' progress long after they leave the school, proof of the close bond they develop with their teachers.

School counselor Lisa Nesenman says despite the sad situations they encounter with students, who have long-term illnesses or injuries, the work is exhilarating because teachers get to see many students get better and thrive after a long road to recovery.

"I'm the first one to see the medical forms come through and this week alone we had five applications for students who have serious illnesses," said Ms. Nesenman. "But it's incredibly rewarding to see when seniors finish and are released and can walk in the ceremony to get their diploma."

## History on a Mural

Paul Laurence Dunbar K-8 Center recently unveiled a mural that celebrates Miami's diverse and vibrant history. The mural honors the many communities that have contributed to the city's growth and development. The influx of Bahamian and Haitian migrants over the past century has played a significant role in shaping the city's infrastructure and prosperity. Their culture and traditions, definitive of Miami's heritage, are beautifully represented on Dunbar's colorful new reminder.



## SchoolMessenger Gets a Makeover

SchoolMessenger, the automated communications system that allows schools and the District to send important messages to parents and employees, is rolling out a new look! With new features and a fully redesigned dashboard, SchoolMessenger will be more user friendly to our 1,300 users districtwide.

Produced by the

Social Media

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