

WORKFORCE WIRE



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HOT OFF THE WIRE

Refresh, Recharge and Restore - the three Rs of the new year. These will be our guiding words as we usher in the year 2024, which promises to be one of exciting beginnings and continued success. It is the perfect time to take a fresh look at our challenges and build upon our many achievements. Join us in renewing our commitment to making Miami-Dade County Public Schools the best choice in education for all. May you have a happy and prosperous new year!

iLead

"iLead by helping to develop future leaders and mentoring others to find success at one's own pace. iLead by embracing my role as a principal to help shape my students into a future with a purpose."

—Leonardo Mouriño
Principal, Morningside K-8 Center
2024 M-DCPS Principal of the Year

BODY & MIND

Ginger and ginseng relieve inflammation, improve brain function, and lower blood sugar levels.

Treat yourself to some ginseng tea mixes, and for ginger, try [this jicama apple slaw](#) or [this cardamom ginger chai](#) recipe.

The 2025 Francisco R. Walker Teacher of the Year and 2024 Rookie Teacher of the Year recognition ceremony will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Click [here](#) to watch live.



ABOVE & BEYOND

Jennifer Espinoza is a P.E. Coach at Ojus Elementary. Focusing on both body and mind, Ms. Espinoza teaches her students about mindfulness, meditation, and stress management. Outside of her coaching duties, Ms. Espinoza spearheads Ojus's Title I Chess Club, supervising after-school and weekend tournaments; and is the Agriscience liaison for the school's STEM program, involving students in the maintenance of the school's edible garden, composting system, and chicken coop.

The Young Prep at Choice Schools

Miami-Dade County Public Schools' innovation in education has made us a leader in Choice programs for decades, and we continue to develop and implement cutting-edge models for delivery of curriculum. Two such unique models can be found at secondary schools nestled in the heart of Miami - Young Men's Preparatory Academy (YMPA) and Young Women's Preparatory Academy (YWPA).



Founded in 2008, YMPA is a trailblazing single-gender M-DCPS

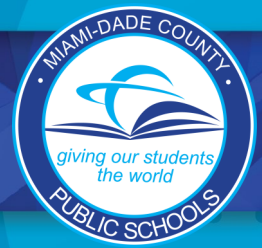
Magnet School that instills four essential competencies in their students: **Scholarship, Leadership, Integrity, and Character.** Having received a well-rounded education and continuing to grow into well-rounded individuals, all graduates leave YMPA with at least one college letter of acceptance.

Also serving a single-gender student body, YWPA has provided young ladies the unique opportunity to pursue challenging academic coursework in a unique instructional environment. There, since 2006, faculty and staff have been committed to providing students with a quality education based on academic

rigor and support. Thanks to their efforts, YWPA has been recognized as a **Magnet Schools of America** "Magnet School of Excellence"; by **U.S. News & World Report** as among the "Best 100 Schools in the Nation"; and for achieving high female representation in computer science with the **AP College Board's** "Female Diversity Award in Computer Science Principles."



For the past 50 years, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has offered a wide variety of Magnet and Non-Magnet Choice schools/programs that allow students to explore a specific area of interest and grow to their fullest potential starting as young as four years old. For more information on M-DCPS' Magnet/Choice programs, visit <https://yourchoicemiami.org/>.



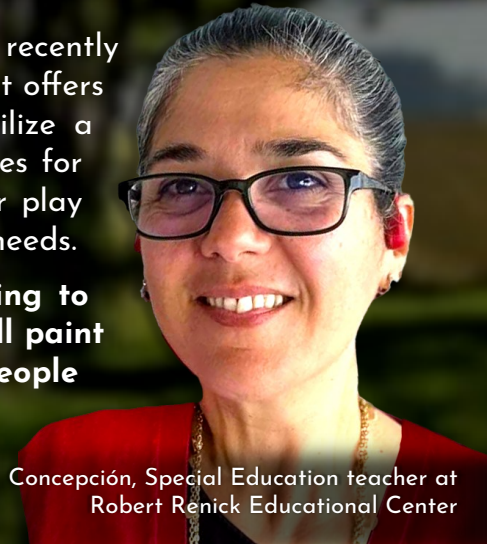
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All Work, All Play!

Jessica Concepción and her students at Robert Renick Educational Center recently won a grant of nearly \$850 from **EcoRise**, a nonprofit social enterprise that offers a STEM-based Sustainable Intelligence curriculum helping schools mobilize a new generation of leaders to design healthy, just, and thriving communities for all. The funds from this grant will be used to enhance and beautify their play area while making it more accessible to students with various accessibility needs.

Ms. Concepción and her students stated in their application: **We are going to create a rock path to help the students see and walk safely and we will paint the rocks to make the space look more colorful because colors help people calm down and feel better.**



Ms. Jessica Concepción, Special Education teacher at Robert Renick Educational Center



M-DCPS Sustainability Officer Karly Pulido (right) and a new M-DCPS electric school bus (left).

Your Best Green Choice!

M-DCPS is spearheading eco-friendly initiatives—one of a handful of school districts in the nation leading in sustainability, and one of even fewer to add a sustainability officer to administrative staff.

M-DCPS Sustainability Officer Karly Pulido leads the District's shift, focusing on clean energy through partnerships like FPL's Solar Together program, adding a fleet of electric school buses, making school sites more energy efficient, and planning a Net Zero Energy Elementary prototype.

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