

# FACT SHEET

## **1. *What is The Parent Academy?***

The Parent Academy is a new year-round initiative of Miami-Dade County Public Schools to help parents become full partners in their children's education.

## **2. *When is The Parent Academy opening?***

The Parent Academy is opening in August 2005 for registration and some adult education classes. Most of the new classes will begin in September 2005.

## **3. *How is a parent defined?***

A parent is defined as any caretaker of our students.

## **4. *What types of classes are being offered?***

The classes are organized into three tiers: Core, Growth and Certification classes. In the first year, The Parent Academy is only offering Core and Growth Courses. Core Courses are designed to teach parents how to help their children succeed in school. The Growth Courses will help parents develop themselves personally and professionally. Certification classes, planned for the third year, will offer parents the opportunity to further develop their employment skills in a particular field.

Additionally, two other types of courses will be offered – Signature Classes, designed to teach a specific subject to a targeted audience, and Lunch and Learn, a series of mini-classes hosted by area businesses.

## **5. *How can I find the classes I want to take?***

A schedule of more than 500 offerings at more than 80 locations will be available beginning August 13, 2005. Copies will be distributed through all Miami-Dade public schools and region offices, plus county libraries, houses of worship, retail stores, PTAs, and higher education institutions. The most up-to-date class schedule will be online at [www.theparentacademy.net](http://www.theparentacademy.net).

## **6. *Will there be any charge to attend any of the classes offered?***

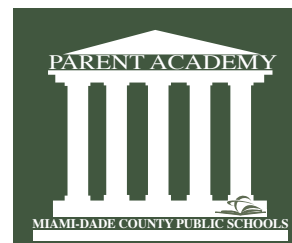
No. All classes will be offered completely free of charge.

## **7. *Where are the classes?***

Classes in year one will be held in our public schools, libraries, private businesses, community agencies, work sites, colleges, attractions, museums, and neighborhood centers. The base sites are our existing neighborhood schools.

## **8. *Are classes offered in languages other than English?***

Yes, they are also offered in Spanish and Haitian-Creole. To determine if a class is offered in your preferred language, check the course directory.





### **9. How do I register?**

You may register by calling The Parent Academy office at 305-995-2680 or visiting The Parent Academy Web site at [www.theparentacademy.net](http://www.theparentacademy.net).

### **10. If a class is not offered in my area, can one be created?**

New classes will be added during the course of the year. If resources are available and a group of parents is interested, we can certainly set up a class in your community.

### **11. What about transportation and babysitting services?**

Transportation to and from classes and babysitting while parents are in class are available for eligible families. Information and forms to receive tokens for public and STS transportation can be found in the class directory and on the web at [www.theparentacademy.net](http://www.theparentacademy.net). A few Miami-Dade adult schools offer babysitting. Parents who hire babysitters while attending Parent Academy classes may apply for reimbursement. Information is in the class schedule.

### **12. What is the Lecture Series?**

By popular demand, The Parent Academy will bring national parenting and education experts to Miami to share their expertise with parents and families.

### **13. Do parents graduate from The Parent Academy?**

Each parent attending class will receive a certificate of completion. We are developing a way to recognize as “graduates” the parents who attend and complete a certain number of classes in a specific track.

### **14. Have you included existing resources in the community to keep from “reinventing the wheel”?**

Yes, but it is an ongoing and daily effort. Every day we hear from new groups and individuals who have something currently going on or would like to set something up. We welcome referrals.

### **15. Who planned and is running The Parent Academy?**

A group of over 100 citizens has helped plan the Academy since November 2004. A vast majority of the committee members are parents of students in our school system. Staff and parents have worked together with community members and a number of partners to help bring this to fruition. The Academy will be run under the direction of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, in partnership with our supporters and sponsors.

An oversight or advisory group will be formed to meet regularly with The Parent Academy dean and school system officials to ensure that the Academy is addressing the needs of all parties concerned.

### **16. Will you evaluate The Parent Academy?**

Yes. A three-year evaluation is planned in conjunction with Miami-Dade County Public Schools’ program evaluation office and a higher education partner. We want to be sure we are delivering what we say we are, and that, in the long run, The Parent Academy is making a difference in student achievement and parent satisfaction and involvement.

#### **The Parent Academy**

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[www.theparentacademy.net](http://www.theparentacademy.net)