

September 9, 2009

Dear Parent(s):

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is proud to announce the Superintendent's new initiative *Beyond the Bell*. This initiative provides grade-level, appropriate technology software programs supporting reading, mathematics and science. *Beyond the Bell* is designed to be used to supplement and/or enrich student learning beyond the school day. The content focus of these programs is aligned to the District curriculum plan and is modified each nine weeks.

Access to your child's specific learning path(s) is available via the web in the M-DCPS Student Portal at <http://myportal.dadeschools.net/student/>. Once your child has logged into the portal, an individualized learning path is linked to grade-level, appropriate software programs. All curriculum paths were designed to target instruction based on FCAT performance and aligned to District curriculum.

We encourage you to participate with your child to support their learning beyond the bell. Recognizing that all students may not have access to computers with internet connectivity, you are encouraged to visit public libraries and community centers, which may provide internet access free of charge.

Learning using technology can be fun, enriching, and engaging. I invite you to spend time exploring this wonderful resource. Please sign the attached contract indicating your willingness to participate in this new endeavor and return it to your child's homeroom teacher.

Sincerely,

Principal

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Beyond the Bell

Student/Parent/School Contract

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is dedicated to providing all students with experiences to enhance their education. The Superintendent has a new initiative for the 2009-2010 school year entitled *Beyond the Bell*. This initiative will provide students in grades 3-11 with access to instructional programs in the areas of Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics, and Science. Students will be able to access these programs beyond the school day via the Internet.

Beyond the Bell is accessed via the web through the Miami Dade County Public School Student Portal located at <http://myportal.dadeschools.net/student/>. Once students log into the portal, specific learning paths have been identified and are aligned to FCAT levels.

The following programs are available:

Name	Grade Level(s)	Content
Compass Learning	6-8	Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies
Gizmos	4-11	Mathematics and Science
Reading Plus	6-12	Reading
Riverdeep	3-11	Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics and Science
Ticket To Read	3-5	Reading

This supplemental program will not be graded nor will it be assigned for homework. The purpose of *Beyond the Bell* is to permit students and parents to work together using engaging learning activities.

Recognizing that all parents may not have computers with Internet access in their homes, we encourage parents to visit their public libraries or other locations in the city that provide free Internet access.

Your commitment along with the school site will provide academic support for your child. We are requesting you accept this contract to participate in our program. Please return this signed form to your child's school before September 11, 2009.

Student Name: _____

Student ID #: _____

Parent Signature

Student Signature