

# We love and welcome our Military Families



It is our pleasure to welcome our military families to our home, John I. Smith K-8 Center. We pride ourselves in the opportunities we provide all our students and on the consideration and individualized attention we give to our military families. We are dedicated to supporting military-connected students who join our community due to a parent's change in duty station. Our goal is to remove obstacles to academic success for these students. We're here to help military families navigate school transitions, frequent relocations, deployments, and the variations in education across states.

## *Admissions/Registration*

Students of Military Families: Miami-Dade County Public Schools recognizes the importance of removing barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families. Furthermore, per [Florida Statutes 1003.05\(3\)](#), enrollment priority is given to students whose parents are on active military duty. The [Initial Registration Procedures Handbook](#) provides the guidelines for enrolling students of military families.

The [Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children](#) is another useful resource. This compact addresses common problems that affect military-connected children as a result of frequent moves and deployments. Additional information and assistance are available on the [Division of Student Services](#) website.

## *Transition planning for military families*

Every service member's journey is as different as the needs of their child and family. Whether your family's transition means a new school, a new posting, or even an extended deployment, we are here to help you every step of the way. Our team will assist your family with registration and academic planning. Additional emotional, social, or exceptional student education resources and support will be identified and provided as necessary to help make the transition process as smooth as possible. Begin the process by reaching out to any of the individuals below for more assistance and to determine your next steps.

If you need immediate assistance, and are unsure who to reach out to, please do not hesitate to call the school directly at **305-406-0220** and request to speak with **Ms. Rabelo, Ms. Morillp, or Ms. Gil**, identifying yourself as a service member in need of assistance.

## *Student Lead Transition Program*

Our Student-led transition program is designed to provide your child a peer able to act as a first point of contact at the school. Their student contact will help them

connect them to resources at the school site as well as provide a peer sounding board for any initial questions.

For more information on our student-led transition program or to get your child involved please reach out to Ms. Rabelo – [irabelo@dadeschools.net](mailto:irabelo@dadeschools.net), our Student-Led Transition Program Youth Advisor.

## *Upcoming Events*

Please check our [calendar of events](#) for upcoming school events.

### Writing Letters to our Military

Ms. Elizabeth Nolan, school counselor, engages in activities throughout the school year, where students write letters/notes to our Military heroes.

### Reading Around the World

We proudly honor and celebrate our military families throughout the school year, working closely with our military partners. One of our key collaborations during the year is Reading Around the World, where military personnel/heroes volunteer their time to read to our students.

### Career Day and our Military

During our yearly Career Day, we invite a diverse range of professionals to share insights about their jobs, vehicles, and equipment, as well as the education and skills needed for success in their fields. Each year brings something unique, and we've been fortunate to host representatives from the Army, Navy, and Coast Guard, who share their experience through classroom presentations for our students.

### Purple Up for Military Children

April is the Month of the Military Child, and we celebrate Purple Up on April 15th. This special event features engaging, hands-on activities that bring together military-connected students and service members from all branches. Our faculty and staff proudly wear purple to show their support for all military children.

## *Additional Resources*

MDCPS-Military Families Assistance

List of Military Family Resources

Miami Army MWR School Support Services Website

Military Teens and Mental Health

Interstate Compact Questions and Answers

Partnership-in-Education-Program

Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission



### Military Point of Contact

Ms. Rabelo ~ Trust Counselor

Email: [irabelo@dadeschools.net](mailto:irabelo@dadeschools.net)

305-406-0220 ext. 2152

### School Liaison Services

Garth Gourley

School Liaison Officer, Child and Youth Services

US Army Garrison ~ Miami

9301 NW 33rd St

Doral, FL 33172

Email: [garth.b.gourley.naf@mail.mil](mailto:garth.b.gourley.naf@mail.mil)



John I Smith K-8 CENTER ~ THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!