

2025-2026

Upper Academy Information and Requirements



Principal: Fatima R. Balderramos
Asst. Principal: Elisa Mitrani-Profeta
Asst. Principal: Fernando Diaz



Upper Academy Staff

▶ Science

- ▶ Mrs. Mayorga
- ▶ Ms. Mitchell
- ▶ Mrs. Prada
- ▶ Mrs. Rodriguez

▶ Mathematics

- ▶ Ms. Bergman
- ▶ Mr. Giordano
- ▶ Mrs. Mawas
- ▶ Ms. Wolfson

▶ ELA

- ▶ Ms. Edwards
- ▶ Ms. Klahr
- ▶ Mrs. Levine
- ▶ Mrs. Russo

▶ Social Studies

- ▶ Mr. Harris
- ▶ Ms. Isnady
- ▶ Ms. Larsson
- ▶ Ms. Lax

▶ Special Areas

- ▶ Mrs. Perez (Physical Education)
- ▶ Ms. Romero (Art)
- ▶ Mr. Sievert (Music)

▶ Upper Academy Counselor

- ▶ Mrs. Nagler

▶ ESE Teachers

- ▶ Mrs. Castillo
- ▶ Mrs. Hall
- ▶ Mrs. Torguet
- ▶ Dr. MacDowell

Upper Academy Academic Requirements Needed for Promotion

- ▶ English/Language Arts (ELA) (3)
- ▶ Mathematics (3)
- ▶ Social Studies (3)
- ▶ Science (3)

Core Classes Are Based
On Teacher
Recommendation,
Grades, & FAST
Assessments

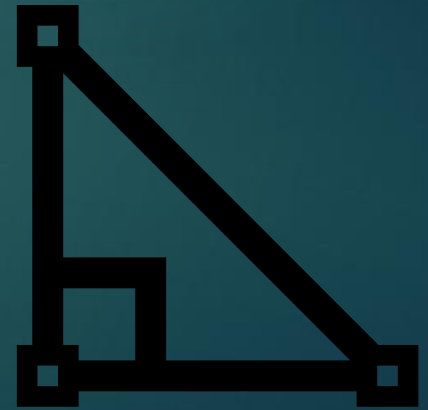
- ▶ Electives (6) including
P.E. and Exploring Music

Students scoring Level 1 or Level 2 on statewide standardized assessments for ELA or Math may be enrolled in an intensive reading or math course in lieu of an elective course.



High School Courses Offered

- ▶ Algebra I Honors (7th and 8th grade)
 - ▶ Passing the Algebra 1 EOC (End-of-Course) assessment is a high school graduation requirement.
- ▶ Geometry Honors (8th grade)
- ▶ Physical Science (7th and 8th grade)
- ▶ Biology Honors (8th grade)
 - ▶ EOC assessment results for Algebra I, Geometry and Biology constitute **30% of the final grade.**
 - ▶ A passing grade must be earned in order to receive high school credit.
 - ▶ High school level courses taken in middle school will be included in the high school transcripts.



Academic Grades

- ▶ A minimum of 10 points is required to pass each class.
- ▶ Each academic grade is assigned the following value:
 $A = 4$ $B = 3$ $C = 2$ $D = 1$ $F = 0$
- ▶ Each quarter is worth 25%. To calculate the number of points, multiply the numeric value of the letter grade by 2.5 (i.e., $3 \times 2.5 = 7.5$ points).
- ▶ A total of 18 credits are needed in order to successfully complete middle school (3 in Language Arts; 3 in Math; 3 in Social Studies; 3 in Science; 6 elective courses).
- ▶ If a score lower than 3 on Reading and/or Math on the new state assessments is earned, students will be placed in a mandatory elective of Intensive Reading/Math course as mandated by the state of Florida.
- ▶ Failing Core Classes (Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies) means failing the grade. Work hard!



Elective Choices

Electives

- ▶ Art
- ▶ Band
- ▶ Broadcasting (7,8)
- ▶ Chess
- ▶ Culinary Arts
- ▶ Drama
- ▶ Journalism
- ▶ Peer Counseling (7,8)
- ▶ Robotics
- ▶ Speech and Debate



M-DCPS Attendance Policy

Parents and students are responsible for attendance which shall be required of all students during the days and hours that school is in session.

- ▶ **School Attendance** - Students are to be counted in attendance only if they are present for at least two (2) hours of the day or engaged in a school-approved educational activity.
- ▶ **Tardiness** - A student is considered tardy if they are not present in class at the moment the school bell rings for the class assigned.
- ▶ **Early Dismissal** –No student shall be released within the final thirty (30) minutes of the school day unless authorized by the principal or principal's designee (i.e., emergency, sickness).
- ▶ **Attendance e-mail:** 0241attendance@dadeschools.net (Excuse must be submitted no later than three (3) after the absence).
- ▶ **In addition to the school attendance email, also email the absence note to the student's homeroom teacher.**
- ▶ Absences not included in the approved excused absences list from M-DCPS shall be unexcused. Any student who has been absent from school will be marked unexcused until the required documentation is submitted. Failure to provide required documentation within three (3) school days upon the return to school will result in an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences do not require that the teacher provide make-up work for the student.
- ▶ A student accumulating ten (10) or more class unexcused absences in an annual course or five (5) or more class unexcused absences in a designated semester course may have final grade(s) withheld pending an administrative screening and completion of assigned interventions by the Attendance Review Committee.
- ▶ For more Info - Visit the Student Parent Handbook @ https://api.dadeschools.net/SMAv2/0241/Links/Parent_Student_Handbook_2023-2024-ENGLISH.pdf



Attendance

Attendance and promptness are mandatory on a DAILY basis.

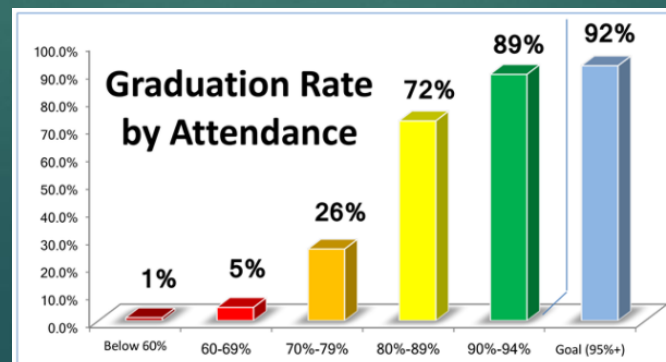
School hours for middle school are as follows:

8:25 a.m. - 3:05 p.m. - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

8:25 a.m. – 1:50 p.m. – Wednesday

Excused absences include child's illness, death in the family, or an M-DCPS approved religious holiday. A note **MUST** be sent to the homeroom teacher when you return to school. If the student is absent more than two days because of illness, a doctor's note is expected.

THESE NOTES MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN THREE (3) DAYS OF THE STUDENT'S RETURN TO SCHOOL IN ORDER TO HAVE THE UNEXCUSED ABSENCE(S) CHANGED TO EXCUSED. AFTER THE THREE (3) DAY PERIOD, THE ABSENCE(S) WILL REMAIN UNEXCUSED.





Tardy Policy

IMPORTANT:

If a student is tardy, a parent must walk them in to the main office in order to obtain a tardy pass.

Creating a Culture of Peace

- ▶ At RKBBH K-8 Center, it is our mission to provide a secure, innovative and challenging environment for our students.

WE ARE A BULLY-FREE SCHOOL!



- ▶ The school district policy on bullying and harassment states that bullying is prohibited:
 - ▶ During any educational program or activity conducted by M-DCPS;
 - ▶ During any school-related or school-sponsored program or activity;
 - ▶ On a M-DCPS school bus; or
 - ▶ Through the use of any electronic device or data while on school grounds or on a M-DCPS school bus, computer software that is accessed through a computer, or computer network of M-DCPS.
- ▶ Additional information about M-DCPS Bullying Policy may be found at:
<http://studentservices.dadeschools.net/bullying/>

Code of Student Conduct

MAINTENANCE OF APPROPRIATE STUDENT BEHAVIOR

- Affects the orderly operation of the classroom, school functions, extracurricular/co-curricular programs or approved transportation.
- Model student behavior creates a safe learning environment and reduces disruption of the educational process.
- Behavior infractions range from Level I – Level V.
- Behavior Contract
- **CSC Core Values**
 1. Citizenship
 2. Cooperation
 3. Fairness
 4. Honesty
 5. Integrity
 6. Kindness
 7. Pursuit of Excellence
 8. Respect
 9. Responsibility



Consequences

- ▶ Per the Code of Student Conduct, the principal or designee must select at least one of the following strategies:
 - ▶ Parent/Guardian contact
 - ▶ Reprimand
 - ▶ Detention
 - ▶ Student behavior contract
 - ▶ Loss of the right to participate in social activities such as celebrations, school dances, end-of-year activities, etc.
 - ▶ Assignment to a Student Success Center(1- 10 days)
 - ▶ Recommendation for expulsion
 - ▶ Points Behavior Management System



All Students Are Expected To:

- ▶ Respect and obey ALL staff members.
- ▶ Refrain from disturbing others, in and out of online or physical classes.
- ▶ Refrain from physical and/or verbal abuse, and cyber bullying.
- ▶ Comply with mandatory uniform policy.
- ▶ Complete all class work and homework assignments.
- ▶ Refrain from damaging or destroying property.
- ▶ Follow cafeteria rules.
- ▶ Refrain from UNAUTHORIZED use of any electronic device during classes.
- ▶ Follow BYOD rules.
- ▶ Refrain from chewing gum on school property.
- ▶ Arrive to all classes on time.
- ▶ Ride skateboards off campus only and use helmets.



UPPER ACADEMY STUDENT BEHAVIOR CONTRACT
2025–2026 School Year

This contract applies from Monday, August 25, 2025, through the last day of the school year. All Upper Academy students must maintain acceptable behavior, follow attendance requirements, and adhere to school rules to participate in school-sponsored activities such as dances, field trips, Spirit Week, athletic events, and other special activities.

Violations of the Student Code of Conduct and poor attendance will be addressed through the implementation of the District's Progressive Discipline Model and attendance policy. This may include, but is not limited to, parent contact, a poor behavior grade on the report card, referral to the school counselor, referral to administration, and referral to an alternative setting. Level 1 and/or Level 2 violations during the first semester (beginning Monday, August 25, 2025 – Friday, January 15, 2026) may be eligible for participation in second semester activities and field trips only upon review and approval by the Discipline Committee. Both first semester and second semester infractions can impact eligibility for end-of-year activities for 8th grade students.

General Expectations

1. Respect and obey all staff members at all times.
2. Refrain from disturbing others during instructional and non-instructional times.
3. Avoid all forms of physical or verbal abuse, harassment, instigative behavior, and cyberbullying.
4. Follow the mandatory uniform policy (see "Uniform Policy" below).
5. Refrain from damaging or destroying property belonging to the school, staff, or peers.
6. Comply with cafeteria rules and procedures.
7. Refrain from unauthorized use of any electronic device during school hours. Unauthorized use of wireless communication devices is prohibited; violations will result in confiscation and parental contact, with escalating consequences for repeated offenses (please refer to MDCPS "Heads Up Devices Down" policy).
8. No gum chewing on school property.
9. Arrive at all classes on time and remain in assigned areas unless you are given permission to leave.
10. No possession or use of tobacco products, vaping devices, nicotine products, or look-alike devices.
11. No unauthorized sales of any product or exchange of currency on campus.
12. Follow attendance requirements—students with 10 or more unexcused absences in a full-year course or 5 or more unexcused absences in a semester course may have grades withheld and will be ineligible for school activities.
13. Stay in authorized areas before school; students found in unauthorized locations before 8:25 a.m. will face disciplinary action.

Attendance Policy

Consistent attendance is required to maintain eligibility for school activities. Excused absences include:

- Illness of the student
- Medical appointments or therapy services
- Death in the immediate family
- Court appearance of the student
- Observance of a religious holiday
- Approved school activities or enrichment events
- Outdoor suspension
- Other reasons approved by the principal

Absences not meeting these criteria will be unexcused. Unexcused absences may result in ineligibility for field trips, extracurricular activities, dances, and 8th-grade end-of-year events.

Mandatory Uniform Policy

- Shorts and skirts must be 1" past the fingertips; only black or khaki (black jeans acceptable).
- All bottoms must be worn at the waist—no visible undergarments.
- Burgundy uniform shirts must be at least 3" below the waist. Shirts are not to be tied at the bottom.
- Jackets must be plain burgundy and worn over a uniform shirt.
- Only closed-toe shoes are permitted (no sandals, slides, crocs, etc.) due to safety reasons.
- Dress appropriately during approved No-Uniform days (no tank tops/crop tops, pajama pants or flannels, no inappropriate designs/writings on shirts)

Infractions and Consequences

Behavior violations will be addressed using the District's Progressive Discipline Model detailed in the MDCPS Code of Student Conduct (accessed in student portal and/or via: <https://api.dadeschools.net/WMSFiles/322/pdfs/Secondary-COSC-English-091124.pdf>):

- Level 1 Infractions (examples include):
 - Confrontation with another student
 - Cutting/skipping class
 - Disruptive behavior
 - Failure to comply with class or school rules
 - Violation of dress code
 - Possession of items or materials that are inappropriate for an educational setting
 - Unauthorized location
 - Unauthorized use of wireless devices
 - Repeated use of crude or profane language not directed at a person or group of people
- Level 2 Infractions are more serious than Level 1 because they significantly interfere with learning and/or the well-being of others (examples include):
 - Cheating or plagiarism (including unauthorized AI use)
 - Confrontation with a staff member
 - Defiance of school personnel
 - Harassment
 - Instigative behavior
 - Larceny/petit theft
 - Physical altercation
 - Possession/use/sale of tobacco or smoking/vaping devices
 - Prohibited sales on school grounds
 - Vandalism under \$1,000
 - Repeated use of crude or profane language directed at someone
 - Leaving school grounds without permission
 - Failure to comply with previous correctional strategies

Note: Any Level 2 infraction, or repeated Level 1 infractions, may result in loss of participation in school activities for a period determined by school administration. In addition, the Code of Student Conduct outlines Level 3, Level 4, and Level 5 infractions with progressively elevated consequences.

After-School Detention Policy

The Point System will reflect infractions given for violations of the Code of Student Conduct and for failure to turn in ungraded assignments. Student point balances will impact eligibility for participation in school activities. Students who receive (4) points must serve an after-school detention. Detentions are held for one (1) hour after school per week, usually on Friday. Parents will be notified when a detention has been earned and when it is to be served. **Failure to serve detention will result in a discipline referral to the administration.** Once a student has served five (5) detentions, all future infractions will be documented in a discipline referral to the administration. Consequences may include work detail outside of instructional time or being referred to an alternative setting.

- Detentions may be assigned for Level 1 and/or Level 2 infractions, repeated tardiness, ungraded assignments, unprepared for class, uniform violations, and/or failure to follow school rules.
- Students must serve detention on the assigned date. Failure to attend will result in additional disciplinary action, which may include extended detention time, referral to administration, or loss of privileges.
- Parents/guardians will be notified of detentions through written notice via email.

Heads Up Devices Down Policy



Student Name (print): _____	Homeroom Teacher Name: _____
Student Signature: _____	Date: _____
Parent/Guardian Name (print): _____	
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____	Date: _____

Behavior Contract and Detention Policy

STATE HOUSE BILL 1105

“HEADS UP DEVICES DOWN”

**HEADS
UP
DEVICES
DOWN** ↓

**Put Wireless
Communication
Devices
Away!**

**It's Time to
Learn Today!**

Instructional Day
Elementary Schools
K-8 Centers / Middle Schools

M-DCPS
**YOUR BEST
CHOICE**



**Elementary / K-8 /
Middle School**

**HEADS
UP
DEVICES
DOWN** ↓

Students may not use or display
Wireless Communication Devices
during the instructional day.

Wireless Communication Devices
must be silenced and stored out
of sight.

Let's keep our focus on learning!

M-DCPS
**YOUR BEST
CHOICE**



RKBBH K-8 School Uniform Policy

- ▶ ALL students must wear the mandatory school uniform!
- ▶ The school uniform for **Upper Academy (6th-8th)** is maroon shirts with the school logo and solid khaki or black pants, shorts, or skirts. Black jeans are permitted but must be appropriate in length and size. **Please note that under no circumstances torn pants, yoga pants, leggings, or pants that are lower than the waist are to be worn.**
- ▶ Head apparel (i.e., hats) is not permitted.
- ▶ **Students not wearing the school uniform will be sent to the main office to call home. Parents must come to school with the appropriate uniform.**
- ▶ **Students must wear closed shoes. No open toe or heel shoes (e. g. Crocs, slides).**
- ▶ School spirit shirts may be purchased the PTA at <https://rkbbh.memberhub.store>



Extracurricular Activities

- Activities vary from year to year and are subject to availability.

RKBBH K-8 Sports

- Cross Country
- Track and Field
- Golf
- Chess



RKBBH K-8 After School Clubs

- Best Buddies
- Garden/Recycling Club
- Student Council
- National Junior Honor Society
- Yearbook

8th Grade Activities

- ▶ **Magnet School Applications – Oct. 1st – Jan. 15th**

(Based on Application)

- ▶ Out of State Field Trip

(Based on Eligibility – Parent Meeting To Be Announced)

- ▶ Promotional Ceremony

(All Students Being Promoted)

- ▶ 8th Grade Dance and End-of-Year Activities

(Based on Eligibility)

WELCOME CLASS OF 2026

Join the 8th Grade Activities

Schoology Group



Mrs. Castillo
Activities
Coordinator

ycastillo@dadeschools.net



ACCESS CODE:

G99X-3RF7-G7XCH

Join by following these simple steps:

1. Go to Schoology - Click on Groups
2. On the right-hand side, click on My Groups
3. Click on Join a Group
4. Type in ACCESS CODE
5. WELCOME TO THE CLASS of 2026 GROUP

Get ready for a fun and exciting year
of activities!



Have a **GREAT** School Year **BOBCATS!**

Remember ...

- ▶ Always treat others with kindness, compassion and **respect!**
- ▶ **Stay safe!**
- ▶ Stay positive and focused!
- ▶ *Show Bobcat pride!*
- ▶ **Help keep schools safe. If you "See Something, Say Something" call:**
(305) 995-COPS or email: cop@dadeschools.net.

