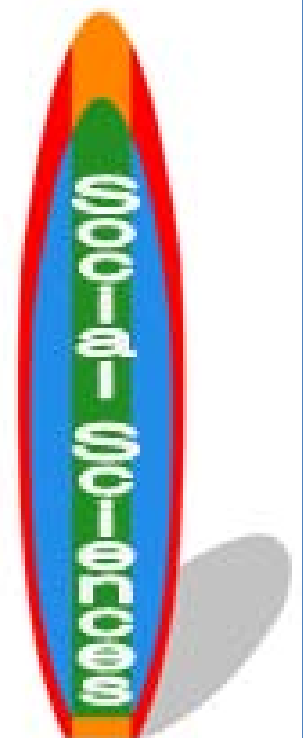




Ready, Set, Go Mission Possible



MIDDLE SCHOOL



Curriculum and Instruction
Social Sciences and Life Skills

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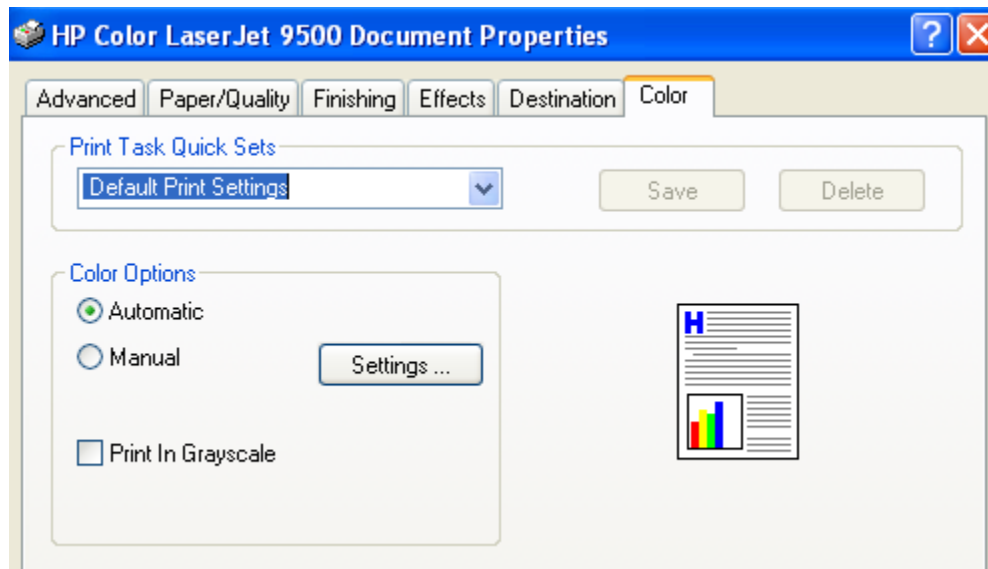
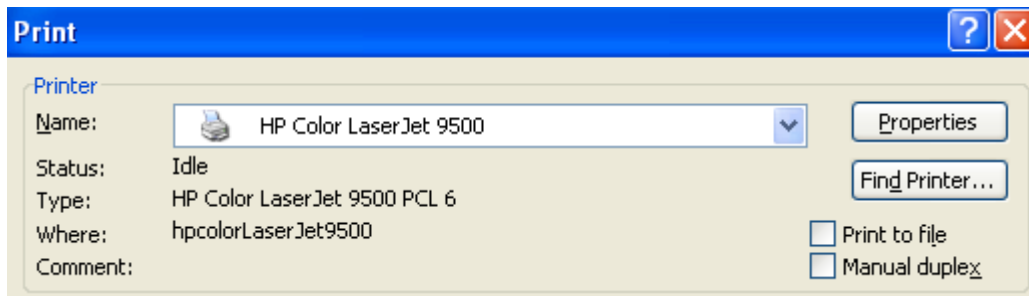
Administrative Director

Curriculum and Instruction, Social Sciences and Life Skills

Welcome to the Miami-Dade County Public School’s Summer Fun packets. These fun activities are designed to help promote learning throughout the summer break. The activities are divided by grade levels and curriculum content – Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, and Reading/Language Arts. Educational web-links are also included with all packets. Please be sure to supervise your child while they are using the internet.

In addition to the fun packets, it is strongly recommended that you encourage you child to continue to read at least 30 minutes each day. Support for reading includes: Barnes & Nobles’ *Summer Reading Journal (May 29 – September 2, 2008)* <http://bn.com/summerreading> and Miami-Dade Public Library’s *Wild About Reading Summer Reading Adventure* <http://www.mdpls.org>. In addition, *Ticket to Read* is available through the Student Portal: <http://www.dadeschools.net/students/students.htm>.

In an attempt to conserve paper and ink, if you wish to print these activities, they are combined using a little space as possible and no color except for the links on this page and this note. If you wish to avoid printing in color, please select “Print in grayscale” on your printer’s properties/color tab located on the “Print” screen. See the figures below.



Grade Levels: 6-8 (with some activities also appropriate for grades 9-12)

Subject: American History

Title of the Activity: Flag Etiquette

Brief description of the activity: Teach your son/daughter proper flag etiquette. Teach them how the flag is to be flown and when the flag should be flown. Go over the meaning of the summer holidays - Memorial Day (last Monday in May), Flag Day (June 14), Independence Day (July 4), and Labor Day (first Monday in September). Finally, have your son/daughter create a poster that informs the public about the rules of proper flag etiquette.

General level of appropriateness:

| K-2 | Grades 3-5 | Grades 6-8 | Grades 9-12 |
|-----|------------|------------|-------------|
| | | ***** | |

Subject: Multicultural Awareness

Title of the activity: Asian Culture

In this multicultural activity, your child will utilize current events and resources to gain an appreciation and understanding of various Asian cultures. Asian newspapers can often be purchased at Asian grocery stores or utilize the Internet to learn more about various Asian cultures. Locate Asia on a map. Discuss current events in Asia with your child. Now look for newspaper and magazine articles concerning politics, culture, and religious activities happening in Asian communities or countries. Watch the local and national news, read newspapers, magazines, and encyclopedias, watch a video about an Asian country. Ask your child if the neighborhoods, communities, and homes are similar or different to our American cities? Have your child write differences and similarities that they have discovered in their research.

General level of appropriateness

| K-2 | Grades 3-5 | Grades 6-8 | Grades 9-12 |
|-----|------------|------------|-------------|
| | | ***** | |

Subject: Character Education

Title of the activity:

Local, national, and world events reported in the newspapers or on television often illustrate positive actions by community members to assist others in times of need. Discuss how tragic events often bring out the best in others. For example, after natural

disasters there is often an outpouring of concern and other demonstrations of compassion by community members. Have students look through newspapers and magazines for evidence of “good citizenship”; e.g., blood donors, charitable donations. Post and discuss these stories as a family.

General level of appropriateness

| | | | |
|--------|------------|------------|-------------|
| PreK-2 | Grades 3-5 | Grades 6-8 | Grades 9-12 |
| ***** | | | |

Subject: American History

Title of the Activity: Civic Awareness

Brief description of the activity: Call your local police office, fire station, city or town hall or court house. Arrange a tour of one or more of these public facilities and stress to your child the importance of each of these public works to the overall civic infrastructure of American democracy.

General level of appropriateness:

| | | | |
|-------|------------|------------|-------------|
| K-2 | Grades 3-5 | Grades 6-8 | Grades 9-12 |
| ***** | | | |

Subject: Civics/Government

Title of the Activity: Helping our Community

Brief description of the activity: Being a good citizen means taking responsibility to help others less fortunate in our community and helping keep our community safe. It is important to know what is happening in your community so that you may be able to take action and get involved. Have your child(ren) watch the local news and read the local newspaper for a week. Have them write down the top 5 community problems or issues they found in the newspaper and local news for that time period. They are to choose the one issue/problem that they feel is the most important one in their community. They are to research the problem using the Internet, library, etc. to determine possible solutions to the problem. Using their research, they are to write a letter to the mayor (either county or municipal, depending on where they live) explaining the problem and the possible solutions to that problem. The county or city government information can be accessed by going to the county website at www.miamidade.gov.

General level of appropriateness:

| | | | |
|-------|------------|------------|-------------|
| K-2 | Grades 3-5 | Grades 6-8 | Grades 9-12 |
| ***** | | | |

Subject: Economics

Title of the Activity: Can We Afford a Vacation?

Brief description of the activity: Develop a one-day itinerary for an imaginary family vacation. Develop a budget that identifies all possible costs for that single vacation day. Discuss with your family members whether or not it would be affordable this summer.

General level of appropriateness:

| K-2 | Grades 3-5 | Grades 6-8 | Grades 9-12 |
|-----|------------|------------|-------------|
| | | ***** | |

Subject: Economics

Title of the Activity: My First Checkbook

Brief description of the activity: Pretend that \$300.00 that has been deposited into your first checking account. You decide to go on a shopping trip to a music/video store where you will purchase at least four items – none of which is to cost more than \$50.00. Make a list of the items you have bought and write the price you paid for each one. Have a parent or another adult work with you to “BALANCE” your imaginary checkbook, using the cost of six imaginary items that you have bought and the \$300.00 starting balance in your checkbook.

General level of appropriateness:

| K-2 | Grades 3-5 | Grades 6-8 | Grades 9-12 |
|-----|------------|------------|-------------|
| | | ***** | |

Subject: Geography

Title of the Activity: It Takes the World to Make a Chocolate Bar

Brief description of the activity: Look at the ingredients found in a chocolate bar or another type of candy. Research, via the Internet, where the ingredients found in the candy are found throughout the world. Download from the Internet or draw your own outline map of the world and label all the different countries that have been used to produce your candy bar or other piece of candy. Write a paragraph, explaining how “it takes the world to make a candy bar.” Hint: Don’t forget about the countries that produce products for the materials used to create the candy wrapper, as well.

General level of appropriateness:

| K-2 | Grades 3-5 | Grades 6-8 | Grades 9-12 |
|-----|------------|------------|-------------|
| | | ***** | |

Subject: Multicultural Awareness

Title of the activity- Cultures of Our Nation

In this multicultural activity, your child will learn to appreciate ethnic diversity in society. Emphasize your culture, talk about your roots, and let your child know that he/she should always be proud of his/her culture. Ask your child to describe themselves in a positive light. Brainstorm the different cultures that may be prevalent in your neighborhood or community. Encourage your child to learn more about these cultures. Utilize the newspaper to highlight countries from around the world and share stories relating to their cultures. Discuss the different foods and dances that are seen within your community by various cultures. "Two Step", "Hip Hop", "Square Dancing," and "Salsa," just to mention a few. As a field experience:

1. Visit a local historical society or museum to learn more about the contributions of members of diverse culture/ethnic groups in the community to the economic, political, and/or social development of a your community.
2. Visit local neighborhoods to learn about the history of each neighborhood, sample ethnic foods, to observe the day-to-day routines of neighborhood residents, listen to ethnic music, and to native languages being spoken.
3. Attend cultural/ethnic festivals and performances.

General level of appropriateness

| K-2 | Grades 3-5 | Grades 6-8 | Grades 9-12 |
|-------|------------|------------|-------------|
| ***** | | | |

Subject: Character Education

Title of the activity: Character Education and Television

Ask students to list their favorite TV programs or to review comic strips in newspapers. Discuss the attributes and traits of the characters in the television program or cartoon. Ask students to look for evidence of honest or dishonest behavior by observing the words, deeds or actions of the characters. List the negative and positive traits of the characters. Note that people who do not speak the whole truth or omit pertinent information are dishonest as well. Discuss how popular television shows or favorite comic strips develop plot using unfavorable characteristics in their scenarios.

General level of appropriateness

| K-2 | Grades 3-5 | Grades 6-8 | Grades 9-12 |
|-------|------------|------------|-------------|
| ***** | | | |

Useful Websites for Social Studies:

National Geographic: www.nationalgeographic.com

Newsweek Magazine: www.newsweek.com

Time Magazine: www.time.com

Miami Herald: www.herald.com

CNN Newsroom: www.cnn.com

Center for Civic Education: www.civiced.org

Constitutional Rights Foundation: www.crf.org

Florida Council of Economic Education: www.fcee.org

U.S. President: www.whitehouse.gov

U.S. Senate: www.senate.gov

U.S. House of Representatives: www.house.gov

History Channel: www.history.com

Federal and State Laws

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and educational programs/activities and strives affirmatively to provide equal opportunity for all as required by law:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender.

Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA), as amended - prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40.

The Equal Pay Act of 1963, as amended - prohibits gender discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - prohibits discrimination against the disabled.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) - prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications.

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) - requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons.

The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

Florida Educational Equity Act (FEEA) - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin, marital status, or handicap against a student or employee.

Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992 - secures for all individuals within the state freedom from discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status.

Veterans are provided re-employment rights in accordance with P.L. 93-508 (Federal Law) and Section 295.07 (Florida Statutes), which stipulates categorical preferences for employment.

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