

# HOMESTEAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

WELCOMES

## MILITARY FAMILIES



### WELCOME

It is an honor to welcome you to Homestead Middle School. We hope you find the resources listed helpful in getting acquainted with our school and the Miami-Dade County Public School System.

- Transition Planning for Military Families
- Academic Planning for Military Families
- Resources and Educational Opportunities for Military Students
- Student-led Transition Services
- Exceptional Student Education Services
- Mental Health Services
- Military Recognition Events





# TRANSITION PLANNING FOR **MILITARY FAMILIES**

## **SCHOOL MILITARY POINT OF CONTACT**

The Military Point of Contact (MPOC) at our school is [Mrs. Johanna “Jo” Manzanares-Rodriguez](#). The MPOC assists military families with student enrollment, record transfer, and accessing district school and community resources available for military students and their families. You can contact [Mrs. “Jo” Manzanares-Rodriguez at \(305\) 247-4221 and/or \[jo.manzanares@dadeschools.net\]\(mailto:jo.manzanares@dadeschools.net\)](#).

## **GETTING STARTED**

We understand that military transitions for children include much more than school plans and enrollment. If you are transitioning to the Navy, Marine Reserve Center, Miami Recruiting Battalion, or U.S. Southern Command with school-age children, every address in our school district is served by a residentially zoned elementary school, one residentially zoned middle school, and one residentially zoned high school.

If you are interested in enrolling your student at Homestead Middle School, [please contact Ms. Davis at \(305\)247-4221 and/or \[cpnixon@dadeschools.net\]\(mailto:cpnixon@dadeschools.net\)](#).



# TRANSITION PLANNING FOR **MILITARY FAMILIES**

## **ENROLLING IN M-DCPS**

Enrolling your child in our school system shouldn't be the toughest part of your transition to our area! Let us help you with a step-by-step guide!

- To begin, you may need to complete an "online enrollment application" if your child has never received public school services in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. If your child already exists in our school district's student information system, please DO NOT create an additional record. However, if your child does not already exist in our system, proceed to the online enrollment application to begin the process.
- Items you'll need to help you create a simple record of your child in the online enrollment application system are:
  - Emergency Contact Information
  - Health Insurance Information
  - Medical Information
- Documents you'll need to have with you to register at the school include:
  - Proof of Address (Any ONE of the following will suffice):
    - A current utility bill—either water, electricity, or gas (These are the most used proofs of residence.)
    - A copy of a signed lease or housing agreement. (If your family is staying with another family and consequently does not have proof of address, use the address verification form and attach one of the aforementioned proofs of residence to the notarized address verification form.)
    - If you reside in temporary housing (such as the Navy Lodge, etc.), please bring a copy of the most recent bill/invoice/receipt.
  - Recent Physical (within the past 12 months).
  - Current immunization records.
  - Verification of Age (most commonly, an authorized copy of the child's official birth certificate).
  - Social Security Number(if applicable).
  - State- or Government-Issued Photo ID of the parent/guardian enrolling the child.

# ACADEMIC PLANNING FOR **MILITARY FAMILIES**

## **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

Homestead Middle School offers a rigorous and engaging curriculum that supports critical thinking, creativity, and personal growth. Through the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP), students engage in challenging coursework, earn up to five high school credits, and study a second language in Spanish or French.

Our school is also home to the Verizon Innovative Learning Lab, a state-of-the-art facility that provides access to advanced computers, virtual reality, coding, robotics, and multimedia tools, preparing students with skills for the digital future.

In addition, students have opportunities to explore diverse subjects such as Agriscience, Music, Art, Theater, Mindfulness, Multimedia/Podcasting, and to participate in leadership and enrichment activities through Student Government and the National Junior Honor Society





# RESOURCES AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR **MILITARY STUDENTS**

## **AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING**

Homestead Middle School offers afterschool tutoring in Reading and Mathematics, with additional support for students taking high school courses and for English Language Learners. Tutoring is led by our teachers in a supportive, small-group environment where students can review lessons, complete assignments, and receive individualized help. The program is open to all students and takes place after school Monday through Thursday.

## **MILITARY ONESOURCE**

OneSource is your 24/7 connection to information, answers, and support to help you reach your goals, overcome challenges, and thrive. As a member of our military family, you can use this Department of Defense-funded program anytime, anywhere. Turn to Military OneSource for tax services, spouse employment help, webinars and online training, relocation and deployment tools, and more.

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/>

## **MILITARY KIDS CONNECT**

Military Kids Connect is an online community for military children ages 6-17, and provides access to age-appropriate resources to support children dealing with the unique psychological challenges of military life. MKC offers informative activities, helpful videos, and an online community that can build and reinforce understanding, resilience, and coping skills in military children and their peers.

<https://militarykidsconnect.>

# RESOURCES AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR **MILITARY STUDENTS**

## **MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION**

MCEC works to ensure that every military-connected child is college, workforce, and life-ready through inclusive and quality educational opportunities. MCEC® delivers programs and services to meet the needs of military students and parents. Providing educational resources, support, and connections to empower military children.

<https://www.militarychild.org/>

## **TUTOR.COM**

[Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families](#) makes live tutors available online 24/7 to help with more than 40 core subjects and standardized test preparation.

## **KHAN ACADEMY**

A personalized learning resource for all ages Khan Academy offers practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard that empower learners to study at their own pace in and outside of the classroom. We tackle math, science, computer programming, history, art history, economics, SAT and more.

[KhanAcademy.org](https://KhanAcademy.org).





# STUDENT-LED TRANSITION SERVICES

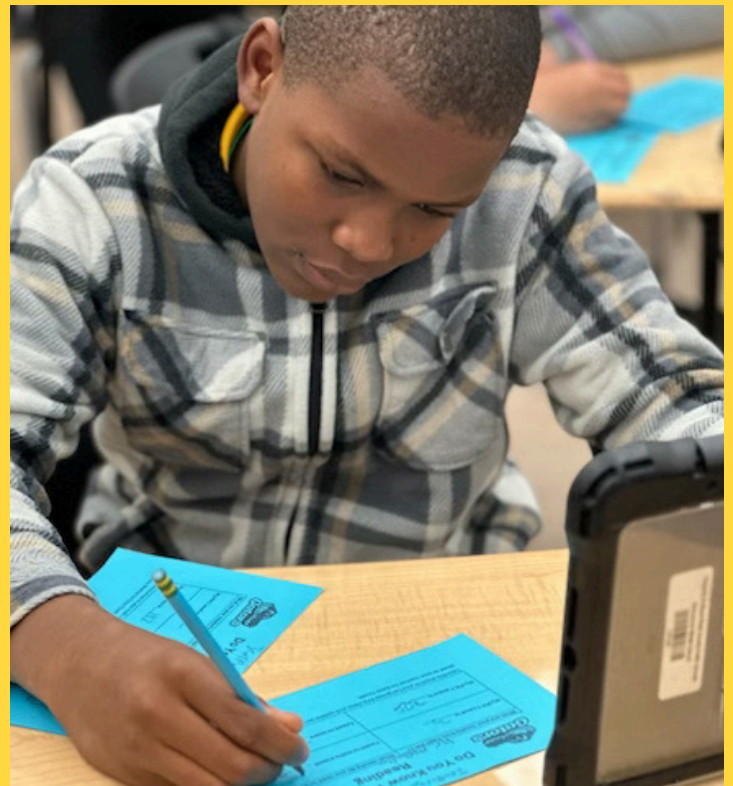
## AMBASSADOR/PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

At our school, we support all new students through our Peer Ambassador Program. This program is designed to help students transition smoothly, become familiar with the campus, and feel welcomed into our school community. Each new student is paired with a peer ambassador who serves as a friendly guide, answering questions, introducing them to classmates, and ensuring they are comfortable with daily routines and school resources.

For more information about the Peer Ambassador Program, please contact:

- [Ms. Jo Manzanares at jo.manzanares@dadeschools.net](mailto:jo.manzanares@dadeschools.net)
- [Ms. Wilson at wilsonc@dadeschools.net](mailto:wilsonc@dadeschools.net)

They are available to provide details and connect students with our ambassadors.



# EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION SERVICES

## EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION (ESE)

Students with disabilities are welcome at all Miami-Dade County Public Schools as it is the mission of the Exceptional Student Education Department to support and sustain educational structures and practices, to be inclusive of all students with or without disabilities, and to empower them to become responsible and productive citizens in today's global society. Each student will be welcomed, valued, given access to rigorous teaching, and appropriately supported to access the general education curriculum.



At Homestead Middle School, we are dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of all students through our Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services. We offer specialized classes for students with Intellectual Disabilities (IND) and Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities (EBD). In addition, we provide a full inclusion model for students with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD), Autism Spectrum Disabilities (ASD) and other exceptionalities, ensuring they receive support in the general education setting.

For more information about ESE services, please contact:

[Ms. Augustin - ESE Department Chairperson email: f.augustin@dadeschools.net](mailto:f.augustin@dadeschools.net)



# MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

## MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

Positive mental wellness is essential to a child's healthy development. School and community mental health services can improve academics, provide access to building social skills, promote leadership, increase self-awareness, and help children make caring connections in school and the community.

Military-connected students face unique challenges, including extended parental deployments, frequent school transitions, and leaving behind friends. These experiences can impact their academic and emotional well-being. To support your child during these times, the school's Student Services staff— such as the School Counselor, Mental Health Coordinator, School Psychologist, and School Social Worker—are available to offer assistance and provide resources to ensure that military-connected students and their families receive comprehensive care and support.. They can help your child navigate the emotional and social difficulties associated with these challenges.

Additionally, families are encouraged to explore the Miami-Dade County Public Schools [Student Services website](#) and [Mental Health website](#) for further support, which includes tools and resources tailored to the needs of all families. The site offers guidance on coping strategies, mental health awareness, and community resources.

For additional support, contact our Student Services Department.

Mrs. "Jo" Manzanares-Rodriguez, TRUST Counselor at (305) 247-4221 and/or [jo.manzanares@dadeschools.net](mailto:jo.manzanares@dadeschools.net).

# MILITARY RECOGNITION EVENTS

**PURPLE UP DAY! – APRIL 10, 2026**

**MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD – APRIL**

At Homestead Middle School, we proudly support and recognize our military community throughout the school year. We honor service members through events such as Veteran's Day (November 11, 2025) and Memorial Day (May 26, 2026), as well as special programs like Career/Truck Day, which features military representatives sharing their experiences and career pathways.

Through our Community Partnership Schools model, we also collaborate closely with the nearby Air Force Base to provide students with opportunities to learn about the military, explore career options, and gain a deeper appreciation for the sacrifices of our service members.

