



Herbert A. Ammons Middle School

An International Baccalaureate
Middle Years Programme World School



Frequently Asked Questions

Key people you should know:

Ms. Maria Costa	Principal	CostaM@dadeschools.net
Mrs. Maria Masso	Assistant Principal	MMasso@dadeschools.net
Dr. Francisco Sauri	Assistant Principal	FSauri@dadeschools.net
Mr. David Wilson	Magnet Lead Teacher/IBMYP Coordinator	DavidWilson@dadeschools.net
Ms. Ana Gibb	Magnet Secretary/Transportation	AnaGibb@dadeschools.net
Mrs. Lisette Dobson	6 th Grade Counselor	LJDobson@dadeschools.net
Ms. Suzanne Perlman	7 th Grade Counselor / Trust Counselor	SCurtiellas@dadeschools.net
Mrs. Ronda Carey-Gore	8 th Grade Counselor	RCarey@dadeschools.net
Mrs. Cristina Gonzalez-Brito	Media Specialist	CGBrito@dadeschools.net
PTSA	Email Address	AmmonsPTSA@gmail.com

School phone number: 305-971-0158

School Webpage: Ammons.Dadeschools.net or AmmonsEagles.com

Ammons PTSA Webpage: AmmonsPTSA.org

Magnet Program: International Baccalaureate - Spanish / French

International Baccalaureate (I.B.) Mission Statement: The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Transportation

Question #1: How do I know if I have transportation and the location of my child's bus stop during the summertime?

Answer #1: Bus information comes out in August. Please check the Parent Portal for this information. All 6th graders are automatically assigned to a stop if they are eligible for transportation by Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Please note: The Florida City and Leisure City area, as well as the two-mile radius surrounding them are NOT eligible for transportation.

Question #2: Where do I drop off and pick up my child at school?

Answer #2: The parent pick-up/drop off is on the EAST side of the school. There is a driveway on the east side of the school which allows for two lanes. This drop off point is right next to the Media Center and the Cafeteria.

Drop off and pick up times

Question: How early may I drop off my child? How can I arrange for after school care?

Answer: Security guards arrive at 8:30 AM. In Middle School, there is no before school or after school care. The security guards leave at 4:30 PM unless there is a designated meeting, sports activity, etc. If a student stays after school for a sport or club activity, supervision is provided by the teacher or sponsor until that activity is over. It is the parent's responsibility to pick up their child in a timely manner. The school is not responsible for students who stay beyond the end of a school activity.

Getting Involved and Staying Informed

Question #1: As a parent, where can I expect to get information?

Answer #1: Keeping parents informed about general school information, school events and activities is a priority at Ammons. We value the partnership between school and home and provide a variety of ways to maintain communication with parents and students.

Some of them include:

Check the school webpage (AmmonsEagles.com). Joining the PTSA. Sign up on the BLOOMZ app for information (most popular). Attend PTSA meetings. Make sure your email address and phone number are updated on the Parent Portal. This is the information the school uses to send emails with information. Listen to connect-Ed phone messages from the school. Notice the school marquee. Check your child's agenda. Look up your child's grades on the Parent Portal. Attend morning and evening events at the school. Post the monthly calendar on your refrigerator or refer to it on the school webpage.

Making Teacher Contact

Question #1: How do I contact my child's teacher?

Answer #1: There are a number of ways to contact teachers. Keeping in mind that during the school hours we try to protect the instructional time as much as possible. Therefore, the best way to contact a teacher is through email. You can also call the school and leave a message for the teacher. You can also use your child's agenda to write a note to the teacher.

To find a teacher's email address go to:

1. Ammons.dadeschools.net or ammonseagles.com
2. Click on the "Faculty" tab on the top of the page
3. Scroll down to find who you are looking for. Note: Teachers are separated by department alphabetically

Question #2: How do I schedule a conference with my child's teacher?

Answer #2: Contact the grade level counselor. See first page for contact information.

6th grade counselor: Lisette Dobson

7th grade counselor: Suzanna Perlman

8th grade counselor: Ronda Carey-Gore

Homeroom on the first day of school

Question #1: How do I find out which class is my child's homeroom?

Answer #1: Logging into the portal, after 5pm on the Friday before school begins, informs students which building they need to report to on the first day of school. Since the portal does not specify which room to report to (A, B, C, or D), there will be a class list posted on the side of the building. Students are to look for their name on the list and report to the room specified at the top of the list. This will be their homeroom class for the year. Any student who does not know where to report on the first day of school can find out where to report by asking an adult with a student locator on that day. These individuals will be posted around the school.

Classroom School Schedules

Question #1: When will students receive their classroom schedules?

Answer #1: On the first day of school, during homeroom, each student will be given their personalized classroom schedule for the school year. It is possible that student's may see their schedule on the Student Portal, after 5pm on the Friday before school begins.

Switching Electives

Question: Is there some type of waiting list for the elective classes in case there are openings due to students changing their mind or deciding a course is not for them once school starts?

Answer: No, there is no waiting list for elective classes. Students will have a chance to switch electives the following school year if he/she decides that their current course is not for them.

School Agenda

Question #1: When will my child receive the school agenda and what happens if they lose it?

Answer #1: EVERY student will receive an agenda on the first day of school. Students should carry their agenda with them every day. It is meant to assist students in keeping track of their assignments and activities as well as a way to remain organized. At times, agendas can be a way for teachers and parents to communicate. If a student loses their agenda, there are no extras to replace it. You can still get a copy of the agenda insert pages from the school's website. To access the agenda insert pages go to AmmonsEagles.com and click on the "students" tab on the top of the page.

Cafeteria

Question #1: Does the cafeteria offer breakfast to students?

Answer #1: Yes. Breakfast is offered every morning and it is FREE for all students.

Question #2: My child received Free/Reduced lunch last year, but I have not reapplied this year yet. By when should my application be in so that my child continues to receive free/reduced lunch?

Answer #2: The application should be in by the 21st day of school for your child to continue to receive free/reduced lunch. Applications must be completed online every school year; information is sent home with a letter to parents/guardians the first week of school.

Question #3: What is my child's lunch number?

Answer #3: Your child's lunch number is their ID number. It is a good idea for your child to memorize this number. A child may also SCAN the barcode that is located on the student ID if they don't remember their number to also receive lunch.

Question #4: How can I add money to my child's lunch account?

Answer #4: There are two ways to add money to your child's account.

1. Bring in a check payable to Herbert Ammons Middle School to the Cafeteria Manager before school.
2. Use the PAYPAMS online system. There is no cost to register, browse the website and check account balances. A service fee will be charged per online transaction.
- About PAYPAMS: MDCPS Department of Food and Nutrition allows parents/guardians the convenience to pay online or by telephone for their child's meals with accredit or debit card. The parent/guardian will create a lunch account online for the child and will be able to access the following: account balance, schedule automatic payments, receive low balance email reminders and view a report of daily spending and cafeteria purchases.
- To log in to PAYPAMS go to: www.paypams.com and register for a new account or login if you already established your account.

Question #5: Are there any rules in the cafeteria?

Answer #5: Yes. The rules are listed below:

1. When you are in the lunch line, keep a single file.
2. Always be courteous to the cafeteria workers.
3. Always use acceptable table manners.
4. Clean up after yourself and discard all your trash appropriately.
5. You may sit wherever you want.

Sports

Question #1: What sports are offered at Ammons Middle School?

Answer #1: Ammons Middle School has been recognized for having the best overall middle school sports program in the district for varsity and junior varsity athletes. You may view information about what sports are offered on the school website. Go to AmmonsEagles.com and click on the "Students" tab on the top of the page. Click on the link titled "Athletic Program."

Clubs

Question #1: How do I get information about after school activities such as clubs?

Answer #1: After school activities, such as clubs, are advertised on the morning announcements and afternoon announcements, sent out via the BLOOMZ app, emailed in the parent email tree (please make sure you information is up to date in the Parent Portal), placed in the monthly student/school calendars, and posted around the building. Each club sponsor will create their own schedule. If you have questions about a specific club please contact the individual teacher or sponsor. You may view all the clubs offered at Ammons by going to AmmonsEagles.com and clicking on the "Students" tab on the top of the page. Click on the link titled "Clubs"

Service and Action Hours

Question #1: What is all of this I hear about "Community Service?"

Answer #1: To encourage students to think of themselves as thoughtful members of the local community and the larger world and for your child to obtain their "IB Certificate," Ammons students MUST acquire service and action hours. They are also required to reflect on the question, "How can I help others?"

Question #2: How does my child achieve community service hours?"

Answer #2: There are two ways to achieve Service & Action hours:

1. Your child may participate in the **many** Service & Action projects here at Ammons (walk-a-thons, toiletry drives, holiday baskets...) and be awarded Service & Action hours for their participation
2. The student may get involved with activities in our community along with family/parents/guardians. Most non-profit organizations sponsor a variety of service activities that will allow you to earn hours. You must receive permission from Mr. Wilson or Ms. Perlman before participating in Service & Action outside of school. In addition, a letter from the organization must be obtained containing the number of hours you completed and an explanation of the Service & Action you provided.

Question #3: How many community service hours does my child need?"

Answer #3: The minimum required hours are as follows:

- 6th grade: 10 hours
- 7th grade: 15 hours
- 8th grade: 20 hours

Question #4: Can Service & Action hours be obtained during the summertime?

Answer #4: The short answer to this question is "yes." Your child may work on Service & Action hours during the summer to get a head start for the school year. However, the MOST important thing is that they obtain a letter, certificate, t-shirt, picture... for documentation purposes. The summer hours will count as long as HALF of the required Service & Action hours are completed during the school year. Please refer to the Service & Actions "Do's and Don'ts" documentation of the Ammons website for more information or refer to the student agenda.

*For a more complete look at the "Do's and Don'ts" of Service & Action at Ammons, go to:

1. Ammons.dadeschools.net
2. Hover your mouse over "IBMYP Magnet Program"
3. From the drop-down menu select "IB Portfolio"
4. Click on "Service and Action Reference Sheet and Log"

Grade	Total Service and Action Hours Requirement	Minimum requirement during the school year	Hours allowed in the summer
6th	10 hours	5 hours	5 hours
7th	15 hours	7.5 hours	7.5 hours
8th	20 hours	10 hours	10 hours

The Ammons Portfolio

Question: What is the Ammons IB Portfolio?

Answer: The Ammons IB Portfolio is a very important part of attending an IB school. The IB Portfolio is a collection of work designed to showcase a student's growth from 6th grade to 8th grade. The portfolio includes a collection of sample assignments, projects, extra-curricular activities, service and action hours, and a series of reflections that the students are proud of. Furthermore, each assignment is classified according to the IB Global Contexts. For your child to obtain their "IB Certificate," Ammons students MUST turn in a portfolio and receive a passing grade.

*To find out more about the portfolio process go to:

1. Ammons.dadeschools.net
2. Hover your mouse over "IBMYP Magnet Program"
3. From the drop-down menu select "IB Portfolio"

MYP Progress Report

Question: What is the Ammons IB Middle Years Progress Report?

Answer: The MYP Progress Report is a document based on the IB Assessment Criterion. This report is distributed once a semester to familiarize our students with the type of assessment that the IB Program will monitor.

*To gain a better understanding of the Ammons MYP Progress Report go to:

1. Ammons.dadeschools.net
2. Hover your mouse over "IBMYP Magnet Program"
3. From the drop-down menu select "IB Portfolio"
4. Click on "MYP Progress Report"

I.B. Learner Profiles

Question: What are the I.B. Learner profiles?

Answer: The I.B. Learner Profiles are personal attributes and descriptors that the I.B. Programme strives to develop in students with the purpose of producing responsible citizens in a global society. Is your child a good communicator? Does he/she know how to balance their schoolwork and extracurricular activities? Do Ammons students show empathy, kindness, and respect towards others?

I.B. Global Contexts

Question: What are the IB Global Contexts?

Answer: Ammons teachers develop holistic learning and international mindedness in students by actively engaging students in each subject in the six Global Contexts. These serve as "lenses" through which students explore ideas, investigate connections across and between subject areas, and apply their knowledge to *real world problems*. There are SIX Global Contexts. The six Global Contexts are:

1. Identities and Relationships
2. Orientation in Time and Space
3. Personal & Cultural Expressions
4. Fairness and Development
5. Globalization & Sustainability

Scientific & Technical Innovation

Summer Reading Books (6th grade)

Question: Are there specific summer reading books for incoming 6th graders?

Answer: YES. The 6th grade required summer reading books are the same for every level (Regular/Advanced/Gifted). Every 6th grader is required to read one book from the "Individuals & Societies" (Social Studies) selections listed and one book from the "Language and Literature" (Language Arts) selections listed. Specific book information is located on the school webpage (once it becomes available from MDCPS).