Welcome to Coral Reef Elementary!

We are thrilled to welcome you to the vibrant CRE community. You are joining a diverse group of involved parents, caring teachers and experienced administrators that together have helped make CRE an 'A' school for 18 years in a row. Additionally, CRE was designated a "School of Excellence" by the Florida State Board of Education for the second consecutive year. Other awards earned this summer include: Gold Designation in S.T.E.M., Golden Apple School Award, Fairchild Challenge Awards, Odyssey of the Mind and SECME Science Competition Awards. This brochure is designed to help you learn more about CRE as a school and to provide you with the information you need for a smooth transition to elementary school. You are encouraged to reach out to the CRE PTA Board with any questions and to learn more about how you can get involved with our great school. Our contact information is available at the end of the brochure. We look forward to meeting you and to a successful school year.

The Coral Reef Elementary PTA

Get Ready for the Upcoming School Year

School Start Date: School officially begins on August 31st for all students using My School Online for the remainder of Phase 1 in Miami Dade County. Orientation on the new platform K-12 will be provided by the district during the week of August 24th—videos will be asynchronous so you can view them at your convivence.

School Meet and Greet: Traditionally, CRE holds a meet and greet on the Friday before the start of school so that parents and students can acquaint themselves with their teachers. This year the "Meet & Greet" will take place via Zoom on August 28th (details will be provided by the school). There will be a "Drive By Meet & Greet" for our "Baby Dolphins" to meet their teachers in person for Pre-K and Kinder on August 19th (details will be provided by the school).

Device Pick Up: Students who need computers to use at home for My School Online may pick them up at the front window of the school beginning on August 17th.

Set up your account on the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) Portal: You and your child have access to the MDCPS student and parent portals through which you can access textbooks and grades along with other important information.   To access the portals, you must first visit CRE's main office (open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. during the summer) to obtain your child's student ID number and your parent 6-digit PIN number. You must present proper photo identification to receive this information. Due to Covid you may also call the main office to get the Parent PIN. You will be asked a series of questions to verify your identity.

- Access the student portal (http://www.dadeschools.net/students.asp) and log in using the student ID number. The password is your child's birth date (MMDDYY) and first name initial and last name initial. Example: John Doe, birth date January 1, 2014, would use 010114jd as his password.
- Access the parent portal (http://www.dadeschools.net/parents.asp) and select **Create Account**.

Download the Dadeschools App: Miami-Dade Public Schools has an app that will allow you to easily access your child's grades, the school breakfast and lunch menu and other important information. Search for

Dadeschools Mobile on your phone's app store. Your login credentials will be your 6-digit parent pin and the password you use when creating your parent portal account.

Buy Uniforms and Uniform Patches: Students attending CRE must follow the school's uniform policy all students should be in uniform during My School Online (https://coralreefes.org/uniform-policy/). Uniform tops, bottoms and dresses may be purchased from a wide array of retailers including Old Navy, Target and The Children's Place. The uniform top must have a CRE patch, which is available at the following retailers. These retailers will also attach the patch to your child's top/dress:

Ibiley	Miami Uniform and Embroidery
https://www.ibiley.com/	https://www.miamiuniformspb.com/

Purchase School Supplies: View the 2019-2020 school supply list: https://coralreefes.org/2020-2021-supply-lists/.   In addition to purchasing supplies on your own, CRE PTA has partnered with Get Smart to allow parents to order school supplies online and pick them up at the store. Parents who already purchased the bundles during the pre-sale can pick them up at the store beginning on Aug 24 (8824 SW 131st St.) The link to purchase bundles will be re-opened on September 24-27 in anticipation of the target re-opening date of October 5th. https://cre-pta.membershiptoolkit.com/packet/15120528

Things to Know Before the First Day of School

School Security: For the safety of our children, CRE is a closed campus. Visitors to campus must have their ID checked by the Raptor security system before gaining entry to campus. Once successfully checked in, all visitors to campus must wear the visitor sticker provided by security for the entirety of their visit.

Breakfast & Lunch: **Free food distributions will continue during My School Online. Details will be provided once they are available on how to pick up pre-packaged meals once they are available.**

Once on campus learning resumes: Lunch is provided daily. MDCPS has a free and reduced-price meal program (http://toolkit.dadeschools.net/free_reduced_price.asp) for qualifying students. For families paying for lunch, the easiest way to do so is to create an account with Pay Pams (http://www.paypams.com) which allows your child to pay by providing his or her student ID in the cafeteria. Pay Pam accounts function like SunPass, with your credit card being charged once the balance hits a low threshold. **Breakfast is provided free daily starting at 7:45 a.m. for all students, regardless of income.**

Parent Volunteer Registration: After registering and logging into one of the MDCPS portals, including the student or parent portals, follow these steps to register as a volunteer:

- Click the **Apps/Services/Sites** tab at the top then click on **Be a School Volunteer**
- Fill out your personal information and click **Submit**
- Choose your school(s) and the activity(ies) for which you wish to volunteer and click **Submit**. A background check will be completed at this time. A message will appear at the bottom showing your status. It may take a few days to complete your background check
- Once cleared, visit your school and show your photo identification for final approval.

Note: Volunteers will need to submit to a new background check every year; therefore, you will need to re-register each year to serve as a volunteer on campus. To re-register, log into the parent portal and update the information in your application including school(s) and activity(ies). Click **Submit**.

Get in Touch and Stay in Touch

Join the PTA: You can become a member on our website (http://www.cre-pta.org) or by filling out a membership form that can be obtained from the main office. Member dues help pay for the following:

- After School Clubs
- Classroom Supplies and Technology Upgrades
- Fun Family Programs

- School Beautification
- Skeegie Science Academy
- Student Services Programs

PTA membership does not obligate you to volunteer or attend meetings but does allow you to support the school and vote at general meetings. PTA memberships are good for one year. You must become a member each school year. The cost of membership is $10 per adult or $15 for two adults.

CRE PTA Weekly Email: Stay in the know by reading the weekly CRE PTA email sent out each Friday. To subscribe, create an account at http://www.cre-pta.org. Manage your subscriptions by clicking "My Account" and then "My Event Subscriptions."

CRE Facebook Page: The PTA maintains a closed Facebook page accessible only to PTA members: (https://www.facebook.com/groups/coralreefelem/). This allows the PTA to post information relevant to parents in a secure manner.

Other Social Media: PTA maintains a public Instagram (@coralreef_pta) and Twitter (@coralreef_pta).

School Newsletter: *Treasures from the Reef*, CRE's monthly newsletter, is an award-winning publication distributed via social media, and a great way to stay informed on all the latest school-wide projects and news.

Getting Involved

CRE has one of the most active PTAs in the county – and we have the awards to prove it! PTA provides a wide array of services, from classroom projects like Discovery Lab STEM projects and the International Day festival to free after school programs including chess club, coding club and run club. It also hosts several school-wide events that bring the community closer. This cannot happen without parent volunteers. In addition to joining the PTA, we ask that you take some time to consider being a more active participant at CRE. PTA's broad range of involvement means there are opportunities available that will suit your talents and availability. Many of our volunteers work full- or part-time and we can help identify roles that will work well with your schedule as well as your interests. If interested in getting involved, please contact Pam Penn (pamela.cre.pta@gmail.com).

Learning More about CRE

Academic Tracks: CRE has three academic tracks: college prep (beginning in 1st grade), EFL: extended foreign language (beginning in kindergarten via a lottery; 1st grade and beyond via a language exam); and gifted (beginning in 1st grade via gifted testing).
Before/After School Care: Care is available, for a fee, before and after school. For more information, contact CRE at 305-235-1464.

School Clubs: Pending local health conditions: After school clubs are offered through CRE or the After School Care program. Clubs include cheerleading, chorus, Lego, yearbook, robotics, samaritans365, math, science, Future Educators of America, safety patrol, WCRE News Team, Odyssey of the Mind, art, knitting and crocheting, and Youth Crime Watch.

PTA After School Programs: Pending local health conditions: In addition to school clubs, the PTA sponsors after school programs which are offered free to students. Many of these programs are limited by grade and are subject to a lottery for entry due to limited spots. More information will be provided by the PTA once school begins.

Looking Ahead: PTA Events—Pending local health conditions

Each year is filled with exciting, community building events. We hope to see you there!

Fall Festival	**Science Night**	**Book Fair**	**Career Day**	**Fun Fair**
Holocaust Survivor Visit	**Talent Show**	**International Day**	**Reading on the Reef**	

Contact Us

As new parents once, we recognize the challenges that face families when they come to a new school. There is a lot of information to synthesize and while we hope this handout helps to do that, we know you will likely have additional questions. We are here to help. Please feel free to contact any one of us with questions – no matter how big or small – about CRE. We look forward to hearing from you!

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