



# 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   | <a href="mailto:CostaM@dadeschools.net">CostaM@dadeschools.net</a>           |
| Mrs. Maria Masso    | Assistant Principal                               | <a href="mailto:MMasso@dadeschools.net">MMasso@dadeschools.net</a>           |
| Mr. Rodney Wright   | Assistant Principal                               | <a href="mailto:RWright@dadeschools.net">RWright@dadeschools.net</a>         |
| Mr. David Wilson    | Magnet Lead Teacher/IBMYP Coordinator             | <a href="mailto:DavidWilson@dadeschools.net">DavidWilson@dadeschools.net</a> |
| Mrs. Renata Merjam  | Magnet Secretary/Transportation                   | <a href="mailto:RMerjam@dadeschools.net">RMerjam@dadeschools.net</a>         |
| Mrs. Lisette Dobson | 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor                   | <a href="mailto:LJDobson@dadeschools.net">LJDobson@dadeschools.net</a>       |
| Ms. Suzanne Perlman | 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor / Trust Counselor | <a href="mailto:SCurtiellas@dadeschools.net">SCurtiellas@dadeschools.net</a> |
| TBD                 | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor                   |  |
| PTSA                | Email Address                                     | <a href="mailto:AmmonsPTSA@gmail.com">AmmonsPTSA@gmail.com</a>               |

**School phone number:** 305-971-0158

**School Webpage:** [www.AmmonsEagles.com](http://www.AmmonsEagles.com)

**Ammons PTSA Webpage:** [AmmonsPTSA.org](http://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.

### **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? Please go to the Ammons website and check out the IB Learner pictures and videos!

Directions:

1. Go to [Ammons.dadeschools.net](http://Ammons.dadeschools.net)
2. Hover your mouse over "IBMYP Magnet Program"
3. Click "IB Mission Statement & Learner Profile"

## **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
6. Scientific & Technical Innovation

\*For a more complete look at the Global Contexts, go to:

1. [www.ammonseagles.com](http://www.ammonseagles.com)
2. Click on “Students”
3. Scroll to the bottom of the page
4. Under "IB RESOURCES, Click “Global Contexts”

**Transportation:** see "Transportation Information 2023" page for more information

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

**Answer:** Bus information comes out in August. Please check the Parent Portal for this information. All 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**Answer:** 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:** How do I contact my child's teacher?

**Answer:** There are a number of ways to contact teachers. Keep 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. [www.ammonseagles.com](http://www.ammonseagles.com)
2. Click on the "Staff Directory" 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:** How do I schedule a conference with my child's teacher?

**Answer:** Contact the grade level counselor. See first page for contact information. 6<sup>th</sup>

grade counselor: Lisette Dobson

7<sup>th</sup> grade counselor: Suzanna Perlman

8<sup>th</sup> grade counselor: TBD

## **Homeroom on the first day of school**

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

**Answer:** Homeroom is part of first block (period 1). Logging into the portal, after 5pm on the Friday before school begins, informs students of their period 1/ 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:** When will students receive their classroom schedules?

**Answer:** 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 students 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:** When will my child receive the school agenda and what happens if they lose it?

**Answer:** 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](http://AmmonsEagles.com) and click on the "students" tab on the top of the page.

## **Cafeteria**

**Question:** Does the cafeteria offer breakfast to students?

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

**Question:** 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:** 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:** What is my child's lunch number?

**Answer:** 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:** How can I add money to my child's lunch account?

**Answer:** 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](http://www.paypams.com) and register for a new account or login if you already established your account.

**Question:** Are there any rules in the cafeteria?

**Answer:** 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:** What sports are offered at Ammons Middle School?

**Answer:** Ammons Middle School has been recognized for having the best overall middle school sports program in the district for varsity and junior varsity athletes. All tryouts are advertised on the morning announcements and afternoon announcements, sent out via the BLOOMZ app, placed in the monthly student/school calendars, and posted around the building. Each coach will create their own practice schedule.

## **Clubs**

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

**Answer:** After school activities, such as clubs, are advertised on the morning announcements and afternoon announcements, sent out via the BLOOMZ app, 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.

## **Service and Action Hours**

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

**Answer:** 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:** How does my child achieve community service hours?"

**Answer:** 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:** How many community service hours does my child need?"

**Answer:** The minimum required hours are as follows:

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

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

**Answer:** 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 8<sup>th</sup> 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"

### **Summer Reading Books (6<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**Question:** Is there a specific summer reading assignment for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders?

**Answer:** YES. Every 6<sup>th</sup> grader is required to read one book and complete an assignment. Specific book information will be located on the school webpage by June 1.