



NEWS

**AS PROPOSED BY BOARD MEMBER PERLA TABARES HANTMAN, SCHOOL BOARD
ENDORSES MARCH 2009 AS 'ARTS IN OUR SCHOOL MONTH'**

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NEWS RELEASE FROM PERLA TABARES HANTMAN

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As proposed by Board Member Perla Tabares Hantman, District 4, the Miami-Dade School Board voted to celebrate the arts in all Miami-Dade public schools next month by proclaiming March 2009 as "Arts in Our Schools Month." Miami-Dade County Public Schools has long been a major supporter of the arts in education.

"The arts and art education play an important role in providing students with a complete, well-rounded education and are proven to increase student achievement," said Ms. Hantman, a long-time patron of the arts. "Students, who consistently participate in rigorous and comprehensive arts programs, are more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, be elected to class office, participate in math and science fairs, and win awards for school attendance and their writing skills."

The arts help to develop skills such as critical thinking, literacy, problem-solving, and effective communication. These programs help students build the skills necessary for success in the workplace, lead to overall improved academic performance, and have a positive influence on their lives.

South Florida's diverse community also has prospered because of the many historical, cultural, social, and economic benefits that the arts and arts education provide to Miami-Dade County Public Schools students.

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