



DOWNTOWN ACADEMY
CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL
OF
TECHNOLOGY AND ARTS
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Proud to be 2007 National Charter School of the Year!

March 10, 2008

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students, Members of the DATA Board, Teachers, and Staff:

Greetings from the Downtown Academy of Technology and Arts; we hope you and yours are all happy and well.

There will be no Park Day this week; all students are expected to be in full uniform while attending school each day this week.

Tuesday, March 11th will officially start the FCAT testing. Students will be testing in the morning on both Tuesday and Wednesday this week. Thursday and Friday are make-up days, with Thursday being the test date for the 8th grade Science FCAT testing. **Students are not allowed to enter the test late, please make sure that your student is on time.** In order to be ready to do their best, please make sure that students are getting plenty of rest and eating a good breakfast. All students are welcome to order and have breakfast here at school. Electronics (such as cell phones, MP3 players and PSPs) are strictly prohibited; please make sure students are not in possession of these devices during FCATs.

As discussed in the last PTRG meeting, **parents are welcome to volunteer during the FCAT and NRT testing.** This week and next, while the students are testing; **volunteers will assist in the testing by escorting students through the halls on bathroom trips.** The students are not allowed to talk to each other about the test, escorts allow for added security. **Please call the school if you are interested in volunteering during the testing.** The next PTRG meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday March 11th. Please plan to attend, agenda items to include Book Fair, Open House, skate party, and the commencement ceremony. **Remember that you all are expected to fulfill twenty hours of community service to the school.** Please contact the office if you have questions.

The Board of Directors has their next meeting scheduled for Wednesday March 26, beginning at 6 P.M. These meetings are open to the public and you are all welcome to attend.

We are scheduled to **begin serving hot food to the students next week.** The menu will be coming to me later this week. **This is a pilot program and there may be some flaws in the system until everything can be worked out.** Remember to let your children know that they should not be ordering food that they do not want to eat themselves. **Many parents are receiving bills for meals that students were ordering without the family's knowledge.** Please talk to you students about what they are doing at school about food.

Students have no school on Friday March 21, 2008; Broward County Public schools are closed.

Thank you for your continued assistance, input, and support.

David Jett, Principal