

Demetrio Pérez, Jr., M.S., Member

SUBJECT: INSPIRATIONAL CALENDAR FOR USE IN HOMEROOMS AS A TOOL TO REINFORCE SELF-ESTEEM, GOOD CITIZENSHIP, AND SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS: II-STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION FOR POST-SECONDARY EXPERIENCES
VI - EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
VII- SAFE SCHOOLS**

After months of observation in our classrooms and in response to the horrible school violence in Littleton, Colorado, as well as elsewhere, I was motivated to devise this inspirational calendar for use in Miami-Dade County Public Schools' classrooms. At our last meeting, I said that our students' mental health is crucial to our goal of maintaining and promoting a safe learning environment. Rather than simply spewing meaningless words, I took action on this issue and this calendar is the result.

The content of the calendar was developed through a largely *ad hoc* process, with suggestions from members of our diverse and multiethnic community as well as from the very students whom we seek to help through this endeavor. Part of the inspiration for this project also was derived from the enthusiastic participation and suggestions of thousands of people in the First Annual District 5 Multicultural Fair. It is important to note that this calendar has been developed at no cost to taxpayers.

Every homeroom teacher in our school system shall be provided with the inspirational calendar for use as a resource to begin classes each day. The purpose is to give students an opportunity to analyze and comment on a nonsectarian, inspirational phrase at the beginning of each day. This way, we can help our students develop the creativity and individuality that lies within each of them, along with the hidden potential of each individual to make an impact on our society.

It is not intended for this material to become an additional burden on our faculty; rather, it is meant to provide an opportunity for creativity and free thought, to liven discussions and to promote interaction between teachers and students. Included with the calendar are suggestions to teachers on how to integrate the materials into the curriculum as well as a section highlighting correlations with the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC).

The safety of our students is a priority for all of us. I hope that with this effort, we can take action to ensure that our students are given the opportunity to express themselves and to bring the main actors in the educational process, teachers and students, together in the pedagogic forum.

**REPLACEMENT
B-5**

This inspirational calendar is presented as a salute to the new millennium. It does not include any religious or otherwise polemic connotations. Its purpose is to unite, not to divide. Space on the calendar has been designated for each Board Member and the Superintendent to include a phrase that would inspire our great educational family. After any necessary legal and/or educational revisions are made to the calendar, it can be used and interpreted as a positive salute to the new educational millennium.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR., M.S.:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to provide this inspirational calendar to schools for use in homerooms as a tool to reinforce self-esteem, good citizenship, and safe learning environments.

DP:bd