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For graduating seniors across the country, COVID-19 has had a profound impact and led to the cancelation, modification or postponement of annual high school milestones, including prom, grad bash, awards and scholarship celebrations and most importantly, commencement ceremonies. Graduation is the most important academic rite of passage for students who have worked so hard to complete a 12-year education and it is a meaningful moment for families as well, having supported these efforts through their academic journey. In an effort to recognize and honor the Class of 2020, this Special

Senior Edition has been created to showcase some of the graduates who have excelled in every imaginable way, many with compelling stories to tell. Miami-Dade County Public Schools hopes you will be inspired by these students. In addition, the District launched a robust social media and media outreach campaign to highlight seniors. The Miami Herald published a special edition recognizing the Class of 2020 on June 14. For more inspirational stories on our graduates, search #MDCPSGrad and #MeetMDCPSGrads on social media. The Class of 2020 is one of a kind!



ANQUINCIA JONES

**BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

Born and raised in the historic neighborhood of Overtown, scholar-athlete Anquincia Jones has risen to the top of her class as one of Booker T. Washington's most dynamic student leaders. Driven by hard work, dedication and selfless service, Anquincia dedicated more than 950 hours of service to her local community. She did this while maintaining an astounding 4.5 GPA, serving as President of the Engineering & Robotics Magnet Club, Publicist of the National Honors Society, and captain of both the varsity girls' basketball and flag football teams. Rooted by her love for God and close-knit family, Anquincia plans to become the next powerhouse on the basketball court at Cornell State College in Iowa this fall, and intends to eventually serve our nation in the Army Corps of Engineers as a premier civil engineer.

Julio Jaramillo-Mora is an extremely hard-working and dedicated student. His sense of maturity and responsibility are revealed not only through his commitment to his schoolwork, the avionics certification program, and his job; but also, through his meticulous life planning and dedication to ensuring the well-being of his family. When his family moved out of Miami, Julio opted to stay behind on his own so he could complete his certification at George T. Baker Aviation Technical College and continue working at his two jobs to send money to his mother. Julio has accumulated more than 900 community service hours and maintains a 3.9 GPA at Homestead Senior High.



JULIO JARAMILLO-MORA

**HOMESTEAD
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**



SCHERAZADA LOZADA

**JOSE MARTI MAST
6-12 ACADEMY**

Scherezada Lozada has an impressive academic record, beginning with being ranked in the top five percent of her class. She received the AP Capstone Diploma, the Gold Bilingual Seal, Scholar Designation, Merit Designation, Superintendent's Diploma of Distinction and is the school's Silver Knight nominee for General Scholarship. Several years ago, she founded a non-profit organization, "Silver Knights Take Action," named for the school's mascot. This organization has helped various charities, such as St. Jude's Children Hospital and the American Cancer Society. It has also assisted with various beautification projects around the school, provided the funds to begin several honor society and service club chapters each year, and even collected used student uniforms to wash, mend and resell at the beginning of school to families for a minimal cost. Additionally, she was president of the National Honor Society and co-captain of the school's MAST relay team, which is associated with the American Cancer Society - Relay for Life. She has been a pillar of the school for community service, logging in more than 2,000 hours. Scherezada plans to attend the University of Florida.

Throughout Mark Coiras' life, he has been battling an autoimmune illness that causes debilitating pain and has greatly impacted his vision. He is grateful for the kindness and care of medical professionals and countless giving souls who have helped in his most challenging moments. Mark pays it forward through his Mark's Miracles community service mission. He and his family devote volunteer hours, helping the less fortunate by preparing meals, bringing music to nursing homes and teaching music to middle school children. Mark is graduating in the top 15% of his class and is a University of Miami President's Scholarship Recipient.



MARK COIRAS

**MIAMI ARTS STUDIO 6-12
AT ZELDA GLAZER**



HEAVYN LEE

**MIAMI BEACH
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

Heavyn Lee is the type of dedicated student who goes above and beyond to be her best self. In middle school, she decided she should learn Spanish, and did so well that she took the AP Spanish test in 8th grade and passed it with a top score. During her time at Miami Beach Senior High, she joined both the IB and Dual-Enrollment programs. Heavyn will receive her associate's degree in political science from Miami Dade College. She has also been also very involved in student government since the 10th grade. Currently, she serves as Student Council president. Outside of school, Lee spends her time volunteering with the Nyah Project, Breakthrough Miami, and Florida International University's National Achievers Society. She is also a water safety instructor at Riverland Park. Heavyn was awarded the Gates Scholarship and will attend Harvard University in the fall.



SYLUS MILLER

**MIAMI CAROL CITY
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

Sylus Miller was enrolled in the iPrep program at Miami Carol City Senior High. He was a member of the Chiefs Marching Band for four years as a Section Leader, Vice-President, and most recently, President. He also participated in the JROTC program and became a Corporal. Syllus was accepted to Iowa State University, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, North Carolina University, Michigan University and Penn State University. He received a \$41,000 merit-based scholarship from Michigan State University. Syllus is a Florida Medallion Scholarship recipient who plans to attend Penn State University and has also enlisted into the Army Reserves.



BONI ABDULALI

**MIAMI SOUTHRIDGE
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

Boni Abdulali enrolled in high school as an unaccompanied minor through the Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program. Much of his biological family was displaced or killed during the ongoing ethnic and land disputes in northwestern Myanmar. Despite these challenges, Boni has chosen to persevere. He was active in the World Languages Club, art programs and JROTC. He currently aspires to join a branch of the U.S. military to serve the nation that has provided him refuge.

Anna Bellas has proven her academic success can translate to great things in and out of the classroom. She has been involved in Student Government for four years, serving as the Senior Class President this year. Anna was also the President of the National Honor Society, a member of her school's student health organization (HOSA), and a member of the track and field, swim and cheerleading teams. She placed second at HOSA Regionals for Community Awareness. This accomplishment, along with her work with the American Heart Association during their annual walk, has brought to light her passion for medicine. She plans to enroll into the United States Naval Academy this fall on a \$400,000 scholarship. Her goal is to become a doctor in the United States Navy. Anna has accomplished all of these feats, while also maintaining a GPA of 5.08, the highest in her graduating class.



ANNA BELLAS

**MIAMI SPRINGS
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**



LUISMEL ROQUETE

**SOUTHWEST MIAMI
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

Luismel Roquete arrived in the United States only four years ago and enrolled at Southwest Miami Senior High as an ESOL student. He will now be graduating in the top three percent of his class, and will also be earning his associate's degree from Miami Dade College. He was hired by the South Florida Educational Federal Credit Union after completing an internship, where he was part of a student team that created a winning software application called SmartCash. The app earned him a finalist ranking at the 2019 National Lenovo Application Development program. Luismel has more than 800 hours of community service and received top honors in his school's Academy of Finance and Banking. He is the first member of his family to achieve his dream of an education and as he puts it, is "glad to be the test pilot - this way my younger cousin has a much steadier flight." He looks forward to continuing his education.



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