



Doral Academy resumed all classes through Colègia and Zoom once the pandemic took place. As a school who values academic integrity and perseverance, we believed in our students who showcased their ability to maintain their code of conduct and uniform virtually. We implemented a variety of sessions to help them for their AP tests, such as the AP English Liaisons run by the students and encouraged virtual collaboration among all—especially when social interaction became a thing of the past. Doral doesn't stop when challenges arise. Doral Academy will still maintain its excellence in athletics as athletes continue practices of course socially distanced. On top of that our students continue their extracurriculars online. Clubs such as National Honor Society and Key Club have provided multiple virtual volunteering opportunities whilst competition clubs like Future Business Leaders of America and the Model United Nations plan to come back stronger than ever despite the possibility of not being able to compete. This year, Doral Academy will be pushed to be stronger and better than ever!



## CALENDAR



### August 10th – 14th

- Middle School Football Skills Camp
  - 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### August 13th – 14th

- AP World Bootcamp
  - 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

### August 13th – 14th

- Innovate 2020
  - 11 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

### August 13th – 19th

- Computer & Book Distribution
  - 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

### August 15th

- New Student Orientation
  - Middle School: 9 a.m.
  - High School: 11 a.m.

### August 24th

- Start of School
  - Middle School: 7:30 a.m.
  - High School: 8:30 a.m.

## Orientation

By: Gabriella Behar

Orientation was extremely successful. Doral Academy was able to greet all its new students; although they did not get their typical walk around the school they got a heart felt welcome.

The orientation not only provided this welcome but also spoke on the subject of academic teams and clubs, recommendations, colegio, lunch, athletics, aftercare, and important dates such August 24th the first day of school.

The most interesting aspect of that presentation being the reopening of schools. Students were exposed to the three options first proposed in the original back to school plan those being: brick and mortar, remote live instruction (RLI), and 50/50. Brick and mortar has students returning back to Doral's halls full time with social distancing procedures and maximized use of technology to reduce the spread of Covid-19. RLI had a full online curriculum that has students continue their education from a safe distance at home. Finally, the 50/50 plan offered a unique scenario dividing students into a red and blue group. Red students having the last names A – L and blue students having M – Z. Students would attend school in the traditional, in-class setting for two consecutive days and participate in Remote Live Instruction for two consecutive days.

In the end, the future converging covid-19 is uncertain, but something is sure. Our firebirds will come back stronger than ever in time for the new school year.

# 2020-2021 School Calendar



## DORAL ACADEMY PREPARATORY 2020-2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR



AUGUST 2020					SEPTEMBER 2020					OCTOBER 2020					NOVEMBER 2020							
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F			
3	4	5	6	7		1A	2B	3A	4B				1A	2B	2B	3	4A	5B	6A			
10	11	12	13	14	8A	9B	10A	11B	5A	6B	7A	8B	9A	9B	10A	12B	13A					
17	18	19	20	21	14A	15B	16A	17B	18A	12B	13A	14B	15A	16B	16B	17A	18B	19A	20B			
24A	25B	26A	27B	28A	21B	22A	23B	24A	25B	19A	20B	21A	22B	23	26A	27B	28A	29B	30A			
31B					28	29A	30B			26A	27B	28A	29B	30A	30A							

DECEMBER 2020					JANUARY 2021					FEBRUARY 2021					MARCH 2021				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
	1B	2A	3B	4A						1A	2B	3A	4B	5A	1B	2A	3B	4A	5B
7B	8A	9B	10A	11B	4B	5A	6B	7A	8B	8B	9A	10B	11A	12B	8A	9B	10A	11B	12A
14A	15B	16A	17B	18A	11A	12B	13A	14B	15A	16A	17B	18A	19B	15B	16A	17B	18A	19B	
21	22	23	24	25	19B	20A	21B	22A	22A	23B	24A	25B	26A	22A	23B	24A	25B	26A	
28	29	30			25B	26A	27B	28A	29B						28	29	30		

APRIL 2021					MAY 2021					JUNE 2021				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
					3B	4A	5B	6A	7B		1B	2A	3B	4A
5B	6A	7B	8A	9B	10A	11B	12A	13B	14A	7B	8A	9B	10	11
12A	13B	14A	15B	16A	17B	18A	19B	20A	21B					
19B	20A	21B	22A	23B	24A	25B	26A	27B	28A					
26A	27B	28A	29B	30A										

- New Teachers Report
- Teacher Planning Day
- Teacher Planning Day NO OPT
- Legal Holiday
- Recess Day
- Beg/End of Grading Period
- Black Out Days
- Early Release Days

**Blackout Days**

- September 4, 8
- October 28
- November 10, 12, 20, 30
- December 18
- January 4, 15, 19
- February 12, 16
- March 26
- May 28
- June 1

**Holidays**

- September 7
- November 11, 26
- January 1, 18
- February 15
- May 31

**Days in Grading Period**

- 1-42
- 2-48
- 3-43
- 4-47

**Teacher Workdays**

- \* August 17-21 NO OPT
- \* September 28 NO OPT
- \* October 23 NO OPT
- \* November 3 NO OPT
- \* June 10, 11 NO OPT

**\* NO OPT DAYS ARE CONSIDERED BLACKOUT DAYS**

# Virtual Schedule

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## HIGH SCHOOL

### "A" DAY

**1st Period:**

- 7:30 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.

**3rd Period:**

- 9:00 a.m. – 10:33 a.m.

**5th Period:**

- 10:38 a.m. – 12:03 p.m.

**Lunch:**

- 12:08 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.

**7th Period:**

- 12:45 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

### "B" DAY

**2nd Period:**

- 7:30 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.

**4th Period:**

- 9:00 a.m. – 10:33 a.m.

**6th Period:**

- 10:38 a.m. – 12:03 p.m.

**Lunch:**

- 12:08 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.

**Teacher Office Hours Only on "B" Days:**

- 12:45 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### "A" DAY

**Teacher Office Hours Only on "A" Days:**

- 7:30 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.

**3rd Period:**

- 9:00 a.m. – 10:33 a.m.

**5th Period:**

- 10:38 a.m. – 12:03 p.m.

**Lunch:**

- 12:08 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.

**7th Period:**

- 12:45 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

### "B" DAY

**2nd Period:**

- 7:30 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.

**4th Period:**

- 9:00 a.m. – 10:33 a.m.

**6th Period:**

- 10:38 a.m. – 12:03 p.m.

**Lunch:**

- 12:08 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.

**8th Period:**

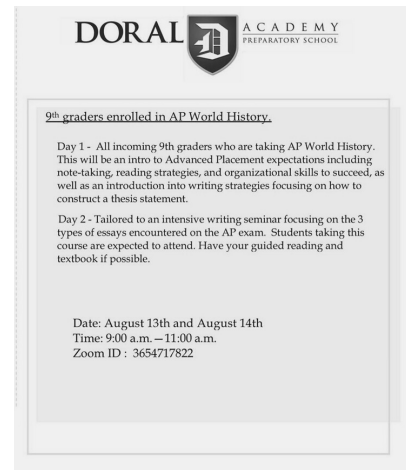
- 12:45 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

# 9th Grade AP World Boot Camp

By: Lauren Cordero

The AP World Boot Camp is a three day introduction to the Advanced Placement World History course for the incoming freshman. This three day camp provides the students with an opportunity to become familiar with the endeavors of the course, as well as shine a light on what is expected throughout the year from the students. This boot camp is extremely beneficial for the incoming freshman, as they will devise reading strategies, become more comfortable in a group-learning environment, and develop the confidence to work with new peers. During these three days, the students are expected to bring their summer projects, as well as their AMSCO books.

Day one covers the certain skills that students will develop as the year continues. Tips and tricks for organization, writing, and analyzing excerpts will be given by the teachers, in hopes that students will take them into consideration and it will lead them to success in the course. Day one also covers the foundation of the class, and partially gets the students familiarized with the content. Day two, is strictly focused on the writing portion of the class, which is extremely significant and will be required for the AP Exam. Students will be taught the three different writing prompts that they will carry on for other rigorous courses such as AP European History and AP U.S. History as well. Day three, the last day of this camp, covers the content for the entire year. Students that are taking AP Human Geography are also encouraged to attend this day to brush up on content, and review their skills.



Overall, the AP World History Boot Camp is a great way to become familiar with what the students will be faced with during the year, as well as what is expected from them. Everything learned during this camp serves as a foundation for what the rest of the year will look like. And will also set the students up for a great year in this class. The students will have a much better understanding of the specific writing styles, and will then be on the road to success.

## Zoom Policies

By: Samantha Alvarez

Among the deadly coronavirus pandemic, many schools were forced to delay the opening as to when students would return to schools physically as opposed to virtually. As articulated by Alberto M. Carvalho, the superintendent of Miami-Dade Schools "the start of the year will begin under Stage 1 which entails all education online". A variety of factors differentiate face-to-face classes and online classes. However, this has not in any way shifted Doral Academy's ultimate goal which is to make all classes a promising experience for all students while still maintaining order virtually.

First, students should wake up somewhat earlier to ensure they are the best version of themselves prior to logging on. This guarantees students will never be late and on time to their first class of the day.

Next, students shall be certain their internet is stable before class begins, to avoid running into any internet problems. Following, all students must remember to dress appropriately in school uniform and adjust the camera to where we can only see their uniform versus their pajama pants.

While in class, all students are recommended to keep all distractions away from their learning space in order to maintain their concentration throughout the school day. Distractions include phones, tablets, video games, pets, and many more. Also, students ought to stay comfortable but not too comfortable, to the point where it begins to intertwine with your ability to comprehend what is being taught.

In conclusion, the opening of schools has been divergent to what we consider our usual beginning. However due to the circumstances, it had to be postponed to all virtual rather than Brick and Mortar. Although a variety of factors alter face-to-face classes and online classes. The ultimate goal will remain constant throughout the year.

Scan our QR code using your smart phone's camera to see how Doral's TV Production students explain the new policies

 SCAN ME



# Innovate 2020

By: *Kassandra Mirabal*

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The Innovate 2020 Conference is a conference that is usually held face to face but was moved fully virtual due to Covid-19. This conference is held by the Online Learning Consortium (OLC), Academica, and MERLOT in order to spread the knowledge of how to thrive in this rapidly changing learning environment. This year's approach had to do with how to fully use all of the resources offered through the online learning world and how to deal with issues that may arise during this change in learning environment. Doral Academy was one of the participants of this conference in order to provide and inform teachers and administrators with all the resources needed to make this online learning experience as simple and efficient as possible.

The resources included in this year's online conference package were the same as last year except for a few additions. Like last year, there is live-stream and on-demand recordings, keynote sessions, featured sessions, education sessions, and industry showcases; except this year, they offered double the amount of sessions along with 4 targeted summits (HBCU, Research, Community College and the Leadership Network), access to on-demand recordings of all sessions for 1-year post-conference, 45 minute workshops, and social and networking activities. The conference took place from August 13th - 15th, but is still available through recordings when you purchase the package. Prices for the package range due to the amount of people per package and whether or not they're a previous virtual attendee member.



Teachers from Doral Academy attended the conference to be more educated on how to take different approaches in their virtual classrooms this new school year. Since they've already been exposed to the virtual learning environment at the end of last year, the conference was more of a way to expand their knowledge rather than teach them how to navigate from scratch. Programs such as Google Classrooms and Edmodo were used last year and are being used again because they allow teachers and students to stay connected with each other and perform assessments like if they were in the actual classroom. As much as this pandemic has affected all of us, it's relieving to know our teachers and administrators are doing everything in their power to keep our minds rich in education.



## S.T.E.M Is Taking Over

By: *Marian Navarro*

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SNHS/Green Club Newsletter Amid the Coronavirus pandemic, many school events and activities have been cancelled. This, however, does not stop the clubs at Doral Academy. Recently the presidents of Green Club and Science National Honor Society have spoken about how they were handling this trying time. Needless to say, they both provided an inside look into how the clubs in Doral Academy have proceeded this school year.

First, Celeste Delgado-the head of Green Club- provided a very clear image as to how they plan to adapt. Right off the bat it was made apparent how their passion for the environment has not faded. Their sponsor, Ms. Viyella, has always been passionate about being eco-friendly and helping care for the earth. This has spread to the members of Green Club seeing as they still have things they hope to achieve even with social distancing. "Having more members than before and spreading awareness I think would be our biggest goal." Delgado stated, shedding light on the fact that they will take advantage of digital activities- like webinars and columns- to spread their message of environmental consciousness.

Continuing, Laura Scarpelli-the head of SNHS- shared their plans for adapting to the new conditions. Regarding the events this year, they will proceed to do their labs via zoom. There will still be some physical events like beach cleanups but they will be pushed back into the second semester. They have added special emphasis on guest speakers to keep things engaging and safe. When asked what they would like to achieve when school opens up again, "I definitely want to meet everyone! But club related I really want to get members helping Bon with the school garden." This way, students can get as close as possible to interacting with organisms and take care of nature in school as well. SNHS's ambition has not faded either. They aim to participate in the Miami Dade Science Fair if all goes well regarding the virus.

All in all, Green Club and Science National Honor Society have proved very efficient and driven even throughout the virus. They have goals set and plans in motion to make their clubs as interesting and impactful as possible. If they are an accurate depiction of the other clubs at Doral Academy, students can expect an incredible time this school year.

# Doral Still Has Pep

By: Lauren Cordero

From our sixth grade spirit to our senior spark, Doral has come forth in a dark time and shined it's bright light for all the students, staff, and administration. The countless days and effort from the administration and teachers have made this new change something everyone can manage and thrive in. Though it has been challenging, Doral has never ceased to lack school spirit, and has assured a light at the end of this tunnel. By keeping students and parents updated on all social media platforms, as well as preparing online meetings, this new adjustment has been much more feasible.

Our middle school has conformed to the new school system remarkably well, and has exceeded the expectations. They truly have gone above and beyond with their performance, attendance, and enthusiasm for the new school year. All highschool has also done exceedingly well, especially the upperclassman. Juniors with their Js, and Seniors with their Senior crowns have been filled with school spirit! Although it has been rough to adapt and accept the thought of going through their last highschool year(s) online, they have come up with tons of ways to celebrate in a safe way, including showing off their crowns on the Doral Academy instagram page.

With all the different celebrations the previous seniors have been able to have, it is definitely upsetting for the seniors who might not be able to have the same experiences before they go off to college. It has certainly been a bit unmotivating for our seniors, but nonetheless they have pushed forward and shown their school spirit. With the unexpected visits and positive words from administration, students have been able to start off the year with a smile on their faces. Doral Academy staff have also shown their school spirit by taking account of our current situation, and wearing firebird approved face masks!

Overall, Doral Academy has done a tremendous job in motivating the students, and assuring school spirit. It is great to see all students, staff, and administration working together in times of uncertainty like this. This pandemic has clearly struck the world with confusion and chaos, however it is easy to say Doral still has pep.



SCAN ME

# Rubies on America's Got Talent

By: Victor Giraldo

America's Got Talent is a popular American reality competition show that has been running for about 14 years. It features various acts from dog training to dancing. Recently, members from our very own dance team, Firebird Rubies, competed on AGT with their studio, Dance Town, as the act "Dance Town Family". The group dances in the ballroom fusion style. Their style is quite unique as it is primarily ballroom, yet it infuses styles such as jazz. Their moves are quite creative and are so precise and seamless. Their dance team utilizes dancers from as 8 years old to the age of 35.

Their latest performance was during the quarter-finals where they performed an insane, upbeat Latin ballroom number. They performed to Celia Cruz's iconic "Bemba Colorá." The dance was so clean, energetic, and in synch that it would be near impossible to see someone out of step. The dance garnered much praise from the judges. Judge Sofia Vergara called the dance "perfection" while Heidi Klum said the team was "beautiful" and "on fire".

It instantly became a smash on YouTube and a hit among fans of the show, which was why it was so devastating and quite shocking to see them get eliminated during the cuts. However, three days ago the judges revealed that "Dance Town Family" is the season's first wild card and they will be back to compete with another spectacular number in the semi-finals, which airs live this Tuesday, September 8th, at 8:00 PM.

Scan our QR code using your smart phone's camera to see "Dance Town's" breathtaking performance



▶ SCAN ME



## Book Distributions

By: Gabriella Behar

Doral continued its normal curriculum despite the circumstances presented. Students ranging from 6th – 12th grade came from 9 a.m. – 3p.m. through August 13th – 19th. Middle school collected their books in our "A" building office whilst highschoolers picked up their books in the cafeteria near the "B" building. Students were also able to pick up a computer, laptop, or tablet. Students who needed to borrow technological supplies also needed to pay a Technology / Insurance Fee of \$50 (cash only). Administrators happily helped wearing their masks and keeping a safe 6 feet apart from their students to help students prepare for their new virtual school year.



# Coming Back

By: Marian Navarro

Amid the Coronavirus pandemic, there is much speculation about how the students and faculty of schools will stay safe. While schools have begun the year virtually, Doral Academy has been hard at work making sure everything is flawless by the time students return. When schools reopen, Doral will make sure they're safe through their newly implemented precautions and rules.

There are "one way" arrows in the hallways to prevent major crowding during the commute to class. This eliminates the risk of having the virus spread through the contact of students and staff walking the halls. Also, there have been signs put up in the bathrooms and around the school to provide helpful reminders as to how to stay safe. Besides the physical additions to the school, there have also been new rules implemented to help keep you safe.

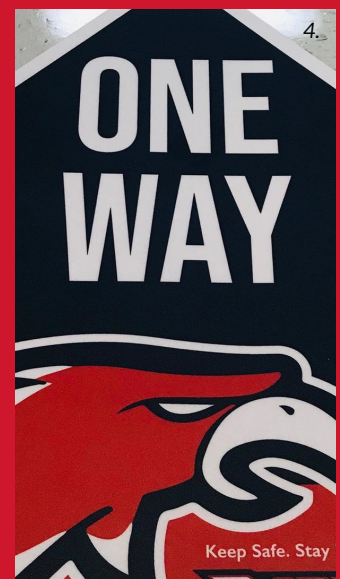
Some of these rules include mandatory face masks and staying 6-feet apart from people at all times. With these new precautions, the school is minimizing the spread of the virus through contact and air. The janitorial service is also working to clean surfaces regularly. Doral Academy prides itself on making sure all who enter it are safe in the learning environment which is why these regulations have been put in place.

As another special addition, Doral Academy is selling face masks. Face masks aren't readily available to everyone so for \$10 Doral will give you a reusable one. They can be picked up in the office and come in a design specific to the school. This is a simple way that students and faculty can show their school spirit. From regular disinfecting to Doral face masks, the school has made it so that our return will be as safe and seamless as possible.



Graphic announcements as shown above will be displayed on one of the many digital boards present on the campus.

## Safety Precaution Gallery



1. Cafeterias will now have clear glass dividers between each table. 2. The "B" building dance room now divides our firebird rubies, so they can practice for their new season safely. 3. These posters will be displayed in each bathroom to ensure students are clean at all times. 4. One way arrows will be pasted to the ground of each hall in hopes of containing the spread of Covid-19.



# Athletics

By: *Nicole Suarez*

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As the new school year commences once again, Doral Academy Athletes prepare for a new season of hard work and dedication to bring home new accomplishments. While this year has been filled with a lot of uncertainty and complications, our Firebirds are always prepared for a few bumps on the road to success. While some sports are still in the midst of deciding if they can return to their modified practices, there's already some sports at this moment practicing and preparing for a successful season. All sports have their own way of conducting practice to ensure they've adapted the techniques, passes, and positions necessary to be on top, but this year our sports variety will have one main thing in common, Rules. It's certainly crucial for our athletes to return to practice as safely and effectively as possible to avoid any contamination from spreading, but with the help of our attentive coaches and athletes and hardworking administration to maintain order our Doral Academy Sports prepare for a safe and prosperous season.

Some of the sports that are still wondering if they will begin is our Varsity Men's Basketball team. As they've recently had a team zoom call to speak upon rules and regulations they must fulfill to be a part of the practices such as entering the gym in two separate groups of six players at a time and conduct independent drills to avoid contact. Another sport that's as well uncertain when they'll begin is our Firebird Rubies, while they did have a week of practice from August 10th-14th from 10 am-2 pm, they're still waiting for approval to begin their official practices to learn and practice their dance routines. They too were forced to split up into two groups and remain in separate rooms and were given designed boxes to enforce the 6 feet distance from one another and were required to wear a mask at all times and only allowed to be removed when drinking water. Another sport whose return will be very soon is our Football team. While they did train during the summer and carefully followed the procedures and maintained a distance from one another as much as possible they will soon start up again their official practices this upcoming week. Considering these sports have not officially begun just yet they've prepared their athletes for the upcoming regulations they must follow.

Some of the confirmed sports that are back into their official practices are our Doral Cross Country Team as they began this past August 31st from 4 pm-6 pm by having a max capacity of 15 athletes and wearing a mask at all times until practice began. Also, our Doral Varsity Baseball team began their practices on August 24th from Monday-Thursdays at 3 pm-6:30 pm and Saturdays at 9 am. They also maintain their distance from each other and are not allowed in the weight room and must conduct safe

outdoor workouts. Lastly, our Doral Varsity and JV Cheerleading teams have had their Strength and Conditioning Camp since June 29th-July 29th and officially began their practices this past August 31st from 3:30 pm-5:30 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays as they are required to wear their mask at all times until practice has begun. While all the sports that have been mentioned have their own different set of rules to help maintain their particular athletes' safe and effective practices there is a general set of rules all sports must follow.

The general regulations all sports must follow is no athlete is allowed inside school property until they have gotten their temperature checked and asked a few questions such as if any symptoms have been present in the last 72 hours to eliminate all possibilities of someone being contaminated. If the athlete is over 100° Fahrenheit they must be sent home. Athletes must wear a mask at all times until they begin to practice. There is no water or anything that may increase contamination provided to the athletes as they must bring their own water and or items without sharing with other athletes. They must maintain the minimum 6 feet distance from one another at all times. If an athlete were to have come in contact with someone with Covid-19 they must report it immediately and take the test to ensure they were not contaminated. If the results come back positive the athlete must quarantine for 14 days and take the test again and can only come back once the test has come back negative. These rules and regulations may have new implementations or less of them, but as of now all athletes and coaches must follow these regulations to ensure everyone is safe.

The Firebird Community has maintained a safe and attentive environment with their athletes to ensure everyone is healthy and getting the practice needed for a successful season. While these are unprecedented times and effective regulations are continuously changing it's important to stay hopeful and positive during these times. Continue the effective hard work Firebirds these are just small obstacles in the way from the end goal.



# Stay Updated!

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Scan our QR code using your smart phone's camera to see all of what Firebird Digital has to offer



**TILL WE MEET AGAIN FIREBIRDS**

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**AUGUST 2020**

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