



# FLORIDA CONFERENCE *of* SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

June 1, 2018

Dear Parents,

As the 2017-2018 school year closes, we would like to share that we have updated our curriculum for the 2018 – 2019 school year with major changes we believe will enhance the learning experience of your children.

Next year, all Florida Conference elementary schools will be shifting to the *Encounter Bible Curriculum*, for First to Eighth grades. All teachers have already received in-service training and will be ready to implement this program in August 2018. *Encounter Bible Curriculum* is based on the same philosophy as *Encounter Bible* for Academies that was introduced several years ago which has been well received by students and teachers.

For many years, the Florida Conference has administered the Iowa Assessment (formally known as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills) once a year. Beginning in 2018-2019, all Florida Conference students from third to 12th grade (K-2 optional) will be switching to **MAP** (Measures of Academic Progress). This two-hour, on-line, math and reading assessment will be conducted three times during the year (September, December, and April) and will provide current and specific learning data to inform students of what they are *ready to learn* at each point in time as well as provide guidance to teachers and parents on how best to support students' academic progress. Your principal and staff will receive training on the implementation of MAP throughout the next couple of years.

The third change will be the implementation of the *Innovation and Robotics Initiative* led by Mr. Robert Henley. This three-year program is designed to engage students in authentic learning experiences to help prepare them for life and career in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The first year of the program will feature the conference-wide implementation of the Innovation and Robotics Academy. This school-within-a-school program is a theme-based academic program that focuses on academic fields such as science, engineering, and math through the use of technology. The goal is to make this a part of the curriculum and program at your school. The second and third year of the program will focus on the development and implementation of the Innovator Program. The mission of the Innovator Program is foster student-led innovation that will result in the creation of solutions/products that will meet the needs of the local community.

Finally, the 2018- 2019 school year will start a week later than usual. On August 6-9, 2018, all teachers in the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists will gather in Chicago for Teachers' Convention. This important event takes place every six years and is very useful for the professional development of all teachers. Please check with your school for the actual start date.

The Florida Conference Office of Education wishes you all the best for a wonderful summer as you spend time with your children. We look forward to enhancing the educational experience of your children as we partner with you again in 2018-2019.

Florida Conference Office of Education