



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Back to School at Miami Lighthouse Academy

Students attending our Miami Lighthouse Academy for pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, first grade and second grade went back to school this month after summer break. We were happy to welcome more than 70 students for the start of the new school year.

Miami Lighthouse Academy is a collaboration between Miami-Dade County Public Schools, The Children's Trust, and the Early Learning Coalition. It offers a meaningful inclusion environment for pre-kindergarten visually impaired students, from 1 to 4 years old, to learn along-side their sighted peers.

Our visually impaired kindergarten, first and second grade students learn from both their regular classroom teacher and from specially trained teachers of the visually impaired. These classes offer an extremely low student to teacher ratio as a means of providing an important learning environment that will help to empower students to successfully be mainstreamed into their neighborhood schools by the third grade. We welcome all our students, teachers and staff back for an exciting year!

Our Miami Lighthouse Academy is shaping the future and creating an environment that fosters play and educational collaboration between visually impaired and sighted youngsters. More than seventy five percent of our students are low income and face food insecurity. Help educate our blind children and [make a donation](#) today by visiting www.miamilighthouse.org.



President and CEO Virginia Jacko welcomes back Miami Lighthouse Academy students

Miami Lighthouse Academy Promotes Empathy

Resounding results from a University of Miami four year longitudinal study are in and they exceed the national average in the domains of emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support for both toddler and Pre-K programs. Notably, our emotional support domain for toddlers scored 6.8 out of 7—more than two points above the national average of 4.62 out of 7!

Results of our Early Childhood Research Demonstration Project were published in the May 17, 2022 issue of the [Early Childhood Education Journal](#) titled “Associations between Peer Play Interactions and Empathy within an Early Childhood Inclusion Program for Children with Visual Impairment.” [Click here](#) to read the manuscript published in the *Early Childhood Education Journal*.



Young Professionals of Miami Lighthouse Host Networker

The Young Professionals of Miami Lighthouse hosted a networker on Thursday, August 25th at Jaxson Maximus, a bespoke custom clothier and fine men's luxury salon. Guests enjoyed wine, light bites and live music. The event was generously sponsored by Panorama. We thank everyone who attended and supported our important mission.



Young Professionals of Miami Lighthouse Chair Alex Nostro, Austin Hollo representing sponsor Panorama and Madison Boehm of Jaxson Maximus

In the News:

- [South Florida Hospital News, August 8, 2022 – "FREE EYE EXAMINATIONS FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED SCHOOL CHILDREN OFFERED BY FLORIDA HEIKEN CHILDREN'S VISION PROGRAM"](#)

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Contributed by Joan Spector

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