

Relationships are the glue that bind us together in moments of challenge and beyond

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I am lucky to work with some of the most exciting, creative, and energetic people in any industry; and I am speaking of my students and my team. The most wonderful part about my campus is that as a team we aim to focus on the little things that build relationships as a part of our daily work, and that focus leads exciting success stories and a sincere feeling of family on the campus.

This past year my campus experienced the following:

- A move to a brand-new campus location
- Hurricane Dorian
- An ACCSC site visit with no findings

Any one of these events could present levels of challenges individually, but Miami Media School encountered all of these within a 60-day window and I am proud to report that my students and teams weathered the storm (pun intended)!



In fact, my team used the hurricane as a catalyst for a deeper learning activity. Students created a series of news videos, graphics and messages that were shared with the student body as the hurricane approached that updated the campus status and how to prepare for the storm.

Dorian constantly changed tracks and provided constant challenges to know when our campus would reopen. The instructional team was communicating with each other through our WhatsApp channels on story angles, breaking information that someone should be covering and approaches to present to the students.



All of this discussion led to an impromptu lesson to provide our students with a simulation of what they would face as they enter the unpredictable world of professional broadcasting. When the campus reopened on Wednesday, we challenged the students on how they would cover the storm's impact on Miami and abroad. The devastation that Dorian ravaged

upon the Bahamas is unparalleled and locally relief efforts organized immediately to assist.

Our instructors worked together to plan student production teams that spread out across the city to document and capture all this activity and return to our campus to produce packages that were then aired upon our campus media networks. The instructional team did not stop at planning the teams and assigning the tasks to students, they took the extra steps to create and confirm transportation for students who did not have any in order to ensure they took part in this activity. The campus was bustling on Wednesday as students prepared to cover their tasks. Thursday morning there was not a single student or instructor on campus; all were in the field applying their skills to gather information for stories.

Miami Media School is a small campus with 78 students; and we are growing. Our campus team is very focused on maintaining the feeling of family among our students and staff. We believe that this approach, and the relationships that develop as a result are vital to our deliver a high-quality education to our students; and based upon our ACCSC survey results, our students agree. We have scored over 90% satisfaction in the last two cycles of surveys.



I started the article stating that my team focuses upon the little things as a part of their daily flow. Recently, instructors gathered to serve coffee and donuts to students as they entered the campus for breakfast. This alone is a nice gesture, but where the instructors took it to the next level is in the handwritten messages of motivation and encouragement on each of the cups that they served to the students. The genuine smiles that the faculty shared with the students at the entry of campus carried on through the remainder of the day. Our

team never takes it for granted that it will carry on that way and works together daily to create a sense of caring that makes our campus a very special place.

Genuine relationships are cultivated and nurtured one day at a time, every day. They allow us to share in our students success and to have those



challenging discussions during the hard times that all students face along the way. Our passion and caring lead us to an approach that allows both the student and the school to achieve the final goal – **To change lives.**