



# PRESS RELEASE

## Aventura City of Excellence School For Immediate Release

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ACES Special Projects/Events

## Alumni Return Lunch Reunites ACES Students with Graduates

AVENTURA, FLORIDA — April 15, 2010. Aventura City of Excellence School, (ACES) Student Government Association hosted its first Annual Alumni Return Luncheon. Students from the 2008 and 2009 graduating classes were invited back to visit ACES for a luncheon to share their high school experiences and insights with current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Over 90 former students returned for the event. ACES 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and graduate guests enjoyed reuniting and sharing a lunch provided by Tropical Smoothy. The day held discovery and excitement for graduates and eighth graders alike. The graduate panel of students spoke about their high school experiences. Izaak Lustgarten ('08) and Ivan Levy-Hara ('09) discussed "what they wish they would have known before high school." Chelsea Lawrence ('08) and Alexis Winer ('09) shared their thoughts on the workload at high school. Elianne Klein ('09) and Aaron Dombey ('08) spoke about high school activities. High School students said that high school is much more difficult academically than middle school. It has three times the amount of students and offers many more class choices. They spoke of the importance of keeping up with your studies and maintaining your focus amid distractions. The former students also spoke about how much they appreciated their ACES experience and each said that although it was a bit overwhelming to enter large high schools, they believe that they were well-prepared academically. Aaron Dombey said, "In high school, there are so many activities to choose from that you won't know where to start. However, with these privileges also come responsibilities and commitment. The activities that I participate in enable me to build friendships, but I must also be very disciplined to do my best in school." The program then opened for questions and answers. SGA faculty advisor, Mr. Ostrick and SGA Vice President Adam Brown served as Masters of Ceremonies. They worked very hard with the support of the Student Government Association and ACES staff to make certain that the Alumni Return Lunch was a success. Middle and High School students were moved by the reunion. The Alumni Lunch will become an extraordinary new tradition that all students will look forward to experiencing in the future.



