



MEDIA ALERT

MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE AND MIAMI MARLINS PROVIDING VISION CARE AT NO COST TO STUDENTS AT KIPP MIAMI SUNRISE ACADEMY

WHAT: No Cost Vision Examinations for Students from Low-income Households

WHEN: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 9:30am-11:00am

WHERE: KIPP Sunrise Academy
6745 Northwest 23rd Avenue
Miami, Florida 33147

WHO: KIPP Sunrise Academy Students
Raquel "Rocky" Egusquiza – Miami Marlins Foundation Executive Director and Miami Marlins Vice President, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Dannielle Dixson – Miami Lighthouse Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program Manager
(Available for Interviews)

DETAILS: **Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired** is teaming up with the **Miami Marlins Foundation** to improve financially disadvantaged students' eye health equity by providing no cost vision examinations at KIPP Miami Sunrise Academy. **Billy The Marlin**, the official mascot of the Miami Marlins, said "good vision helps keep your eye on the ball" and will be in attendance to entertain participating students.

Eye examinations will take place in a fully equipped mobile optometric unit, donated by the Miami Marlins to the Miami Lighthouse **Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program**, which features baseball-themed graphics including Miami Marlins logos and images of Billy The Marlin.

ABOUT THE FLORIDA HEIKEN CHILDREN'S VISION PROGRAM

The mission of the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program is to ensure that all financially disadvantaged schoolchildren who fail their vision screening have access to a comprehensive eye

examination including dilation and glasses, if required, to give them the best chance at academic success. These services provided at no cost are offered statewide, either on-site at schools via five mobile eye clinics or by the Heiken Program's network of more than 1,100 participating optometrists.

Of **10,349** schoolchildren from low-income households who received a comprehensive eye exam during the 2019-2020 school year, **320** were referred for medical intervention for retinal tears, glaucoma and other eye abnormalities. Approximately **58** percent of all children examined required and received prescription eyeglasses, confirming the importance of a follow-up eye exam after a student fails the state-mandated vision screening.