



Dr. Warren Burchell, Principal

Dr. Burchell Speaks Out

Carlos Portela

As South Miami starts its third year, students may well wonder who is behind it all. What Shula is to the Dolphins, and what Pete Elliot is to the UM Hurricanes, Dr. Warren G. Burchell is to SMSH. He's our principal and has helped us along from the very beginning.

Dr. Burchell thinks the school has come a long way. It's grown from 1,400 students to almost double that and has a 9-period, multi-shift day.

"Historically, when schools change to split shifts, school

spirit drops, but here in South Miami, it has improved which can be seen at the pep rallies and games," Dr. Burchell said.

The shifts are necessary to accommodate the large numbers of students, Dr. Burchell explained and the shifts will probably remain for 2 or 3 years when school boundaries may be changed.

Even though there are a lot more students this year, there were not as many as expected. About 100 fewer students showed up than were expected. Since teacher allocation is based on enrollment, four teachers would

have had to leave but when Dr. Burchell was hiring teachers last summer, he left 5 teacher positions open. This planning paid off and no teachers had to find another school.

This year most of the seniors will turn 18 which means they will be the first legal adults as high school students. Dr. Burchell commented, "I hope this will improve relations between teachers and students because the students will have more responsibilities as adults. I am very proud of our students and our school and feel we have come a long way since our opening."