

April 2020



Florida Department of Education

the Virtual View

## Marching Towards Greatness

This school year is moving along at lightning speed! Second semester is well under way. Little did we know that instead of a relaxing spring break for students and teachers, we would be facing a pandemic with fear, health and safety at the helm of our concerns.

As we adjust to COVID-19 and social isolation; virtual has the critical role of keeping students on pace, teachers teaching and connecting us with family and friends far and near. We knew virtual was special; now the whole world knows too! So proud of all of you!

We will end the year with our big graduation newsletter. Please remember to send in pictures of this happy occasion even if it looks different this year. Until then, stay safe and keep marching towards greatness!

**We will get through this together!**

Sandy, Stephen, Lisa and Lilly



### Inside this issue:

Duval ,and Santa Rosa	2
Pinellas	3
Mosaic Digital	3
FLVS	4
K <sup>12</sup> and Lee	5
Hillsborough	6
Broward	7

*“Spring brings new growth, weed out the bad and make room for something beautiful”*

*Unknown*

# Duval Virtual Instruction Academy

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Duval Virtual Instruction Academy had a very busy season of field trips, social events, and extended learning opportunities. The English department sponsored a trip to see a live play called, “Shadowlands,” Mr. Avery hosted a Science Fair for our virtual students, and Mrs. Fanning and Mr. Barlow provided a hands-only CPR live lesson open to students of all grade levels.

Mr. Avery hosted a school Science Fair that might sound small, but three middle school students partook in a non-mandatory academic endeavor, and that is HUGE. The students’ projects were exceptionally impressive. The Science Fair took place at our Live Campus with the participating students having the chance to show off their hard work to a few of their peers and many of their teachers.



The “Shadowlands” play was a wonderful excuse for students to get dressed up and go to the theater. This was a cultural experience as well as a social event that helped to inspire students to see a literary text translated into a performance— a very literal encounter with one component of an author’s purpose: to entertain! This field trip was made possible because of Mrs. Harland, Mrs. Jones, and Mrs. Maranto.



Our HOPE teachers opted to equip students with a “hands-on” experience for the “hands-only” CPR lesson. Students learned about the bystander effect, the steps for hands-only CPR, how to use an AED, as well as the Heimlich maneuver. Our students who participated now have the knowledge to help save a life!

**Submitted by Kelly Fanning**

## Santa Rosa is Staying Busy!

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Santa Rosa Online is excited to announce that our Social Studies/Japanese full time instructor was a finalist for Santa Rosa County Teacher of the Year.

Santa Rosa Online had their annual face-to-face FSA writing workshop for their full time students. Students focused on rubrics, how to make their writing better, and collaboration activities.

**Submitted by Rachel Wade**



## Pinellas Virtual inducts First NHS Members!

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A milestone year for Pinellas Virtual as they induct their first National Honor Society members. Congratulations to Haley Perry, a sophomore, and Alex Pelletier, a junior, in the full-time program with Pinellas Virtual School. Students are required to have a 3.2 GPA and meet the national standards that follow the tenants of NHS, Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. These students will be part of the school's first year as a recognized chapter for National Honor Society. Students and family members took part in an induction ceremony on March 25, 2020 at Bayside High School. Principal Mandy Perry, Advisor Dr. Patricia Thomas, faculty, and staff attended. Congratulations to both students!

**Submitted by Mandy Perry**



## St. Lucie's Star Students

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Katherine Biegner, a 7th grader won multiple Science Fair Awards at the St. Lucie Public Schools Award Ceremony! She was supposed to go to the state level competition however this was canceled.

Shout out to Ms. Carrie Kahr, Science Teacher at Mosaic Digital Academy, who mentored all 7th and 8th Grade students through their scientific inquiries this year!



Adam Morgan, an 11th Grader, serves on our School Advisory Council which provides him with an understanding that students can struggle when separated from their peers. Adam asked Principal Ziemba what kind of project ideas might positively impact the student body. After brainstorming, they created a set of hands-on experiences organized in 25 "Project boxes" that encourage them to build, experiment, and collaborate as they deeply engage in science, engineering and tinkering while on campus. The response to the project boxes have been positive and students look forward to more opportunities to come together to enjoy the hands-on experiences with their peers.

**Submitted by Jeanne Ziem-**

# FLVS

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Florida Virtual School (FLVS) supports schools and teachers with an online learning environment to ensure students stay on track with their education despite potential COVID-19 disruptions. As Florida Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran announced on March 10, FLVS is partnering with schools and districts to offer a new training course, [Virtual Teacher Training for COVID-19](#), to train their brick-and-mortar teachers in the FLVS platform. For information, read [10 Ways Schools Can Prepare for COVID-19](#).

Congratulations to FLVS Flex student Augustin Speisman—the National Geographic Society named the 7th-grade student as one of the semifinalists eligible to compete in the 2020 National Geographic GeoBee State Competition! Geo Bee Club Sponsors David Fellows and Elise Harris and FLVS are very proud of August and wish him luck in the next competition level.



With 55 student clubs and activities to choose from, students have had many opportunities to learn and make connections while joining in the fun. Here are some recent events:

**American Sign Language (ASL) Spirit Week**, March 16-20 – FLVS invited all students to participate in a full week of themed activities and live sessions to introduce students and families to ASL. Visit the [ASL Spirit Week website](#) to learn more.

**Black History Month Celebration** – FLVS hosted 11 sessions in celebration of Black History Month this year. Visit <http://bit.ly/FLVSBHM20> to view the presentations.

**Club Awards Day** – FLVS held the annual Club Awards Day to recognize student leaders nominated by FLVS Club Sponsors. More than 200 students and families attended the celebration. [View our photo album on Facebook](#). Several student groups performed including Cheerleading, American Sign Language, Glee, and the Fine Arts Club. [Watch the FLVS Glee Club perform “This is Me.”](#)

**Game Jam** – FLVS student Steve Berdy and the FLVS Coding Club created “Game Jam” to celebrate National Digital Learning Day for a day-long game-building competition extravaganza. Set to the theme, “Everyday Heroes,” 60 students joined in the fun and formed 15 teams. Awards were given to teams who displayed best overall, funniest, most artistic, most realistic art, most unusual, and best use of theme.

**Virtual Science Fair** – Science National Honor Society Club sponsors Marti Dayton and Dr. Joshua Strate held a special presentation showcasing the FLVS Virtual Science Fair winners. Ten students presented their Science fair projects. From trains, simple machines, and mold, to egg drops, recycling, and wildlife, these students shined. [View the recorded presentations](#).

## FLVS Full Time Enrollment Now Open

FLVS Full Time enrollment is now open for the 2020-21 school year. Learn more at [flvs.net/fulltime](https://flvs.net/fulltime).

# K<sup>12</sup> Provides Opportunities to Connect

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Last month, two of our K<sup>12</sup> teachers coordinated field trips in the Palm Beach & Tampa areas.

The first was at The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, a center for Japanese arts and culture located in Palm Beach County. It was a beautiful day trip to meet with several families. They had a nice time walking and reflecting on what they all had accomplished and what they are working on now.

The second was to Advent Health Center Ice, an ice skating rink in the Tampa Bay area. They had so much fun skating and getting to meet with their teacher face-to-face.

Everyone was thrilled to have been able to get away and share in the moment! We are looking forward to our next trip!



## Science Fair Success at Lee Virtual School!

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Two of our sophomore students, Lucas Lima and Junwei Tan, recently competed in our Regional Science Fair and both won first place in their divisions.

Lucas' project category was Mathematics and Computational Science and Junwei's was Behavioral and Social Science.

They both received the grand award in their categories which gives them an all-expense paid trip to compete in the State Fair in Lakeland. Students competing on the state level hope to advance to the International Science and Engineering Fair in Anaheim, CA in May.

Both Lucas and Junwei's projects were so impressive that they both advanced directly to the International State Fair all expenses paid.

Both students also received other prizes including scholarship money, tablets, cameras and a computer.

We all are so proud of Lucas and Junwei and wish them the best on the international level!



# Hillsborough Virtual School

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In January, we attended the Florida District Virtual Instruction Program Network (FLDVIPN) conference. It is a great time to collaborate with other districts, compare practices and share ideas. We are so proud of our faculty who presented and our District Gem Award recipient, Stephen Marra. We are also especially happy to announce that our Supervisor, Denee Upshaw, received the much-deserved 2020 Virtual Trendsetter Award!



**Stephen Marra**



**Denee Upshaw**



In February, to honor Career Tech Education month, our elementary students learned about fire safety and the skills required to be a firefighter. As we approach our fourth nine weeks, our secondary students are learning about their elective options through a Curriculum Fair to plan their schedules for next year and celebrating Pi Day. We had a student recite 47 digits of Pi! That's amazing!

**Submitted by Sherri Hillgruber**

★ 10<sup>th</sup> ★  
**Anniversary**

# Broward Virtual School

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Here at Broward Virtual School (BVS), we are springing forward to a new semester of exciting learning opportunities and activities for our students. As part of our equity initiative within the district, our Equity Liaison coordinated a field trip to the Holocaust Museum in Dania Beach, FL. Students were enriched with the history of Israel Then and Now. They had an opportunity to speak with a Holocaust survivor and to hear his personal experiences during this horrific time in history.

To represent BVS at the Broward County Student Leader Conference held at Nova Southeastern University, four outstanding students were selected by their teachers to attend. Students learned many real-world skills such as how to network, how to build a resume, finance, and interviewing skills. In addition, our World Language Department showcased a Spanish Heritage luncheon for the second semester. The focus was on Latin culture, food, vocabulary and crafts. Students learned how to Salsa dance and Merengue.



We are proud to say that our students are continuing to excel academically. BVS hosted a free SAT school day on March 4<sup>th</sup> for our juniors. We had 52 students in attendance, which is 70% of our junior class. Our FSA/ELA academic seminars are continuing to attract face-to-face engagement with teachers and peers. They have been practicing online reading and writing skills. Students had the opportunity to stay for the full day to not only partake in the academic seminars, but to participate in live science labs with their online teachers. The middle school students finished a lab making homemade root beer and the high school students studied the phases of the moon.



We are excited to announce our Silver Knight Nominee, K. Walker, for the category of Digital and Interactive Media. We will be celebrating her accomplishments at the award ceremony in Miami, FL.

**Submitted by Antonette McGregor**