



Seasons Greetings!

Can you believe how fast this school year is going? It seems like only yesterday we felt the excitement of a new school year and we wished you and your student much success and joy in learning this year. Now we are already approaching another holiday season and the end of the first semester. We can see from the newsletter articles you submitted that your students are indeed experiencing success and joy in learning. We are proud to share your accomplishments and events with the larger virtual world through this newsletter.

As we end this year we are happy to introduce Lilly as our new addition to the virtual department. She will be your point of contact for district updates, legislative tracking and publishing the Virtual View. She can be reached at Lillian.withers@fldoe.org.

May you, your family and your students have a wonderful winter break and experience many blessings and much success in the new year.

Sandy, Stephen, Lisa and Lilly



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*“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all”
—Aristotle*

K¹² News!

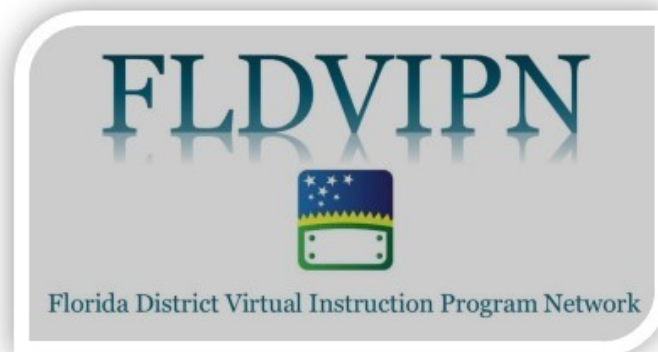
Great news! K¹² now has a **NEW** semester elective that is available in their catalog! **M/J Coding Fundamentals** is a middle school course that introduces students to coding. Coding is quickly becoming one of the most important and versatile skills of the future. Coding can be used in many different industries and sectors including healthcare, business and technology. We are excited about the opportunities this course will offer to our students and their future!

Submitted by Brenda MacDonald



K¹² is happy to be a Sponsor of the Florida District Virtual Instruction Program Network (FLDVIPN) conference again in 2020. FLDVIPN's 8th Annual Symposium will be held in Orlando, Florida. This is a three day conference hosted at The Florida Hotel and Conference Center January 29 - 31, 2020. There will be an event featuring exhibitors, speakers and participants that are excited about virtual learning and the impact it is having in the world of education. K¹² is proud to partner with FLDVIPN this year to share our best practices, teacher experiences, and successful resources to be a part of the future of education. We look forward to learning from many of our colleagues throughout the virtual education world to gain greater knowledge to share with our students and our staff!

Submitted by Kristen Randolph



FLVS Stays Busy in December!

Student events are abound all year long at Florida Virtual School, with December bringing a flurry of science activities. FLVS celebrated Computer Science Education Week and Hour of Code with engaging online events and activities which explored coding and gaming. The FLVS Science National Honor Society is also sponsoring an international “Virtual Science Fair” for Kindergarten-12th grade students. Coming January 27-31, FLVS looks forward to Celebrate Literacy Week, as well as World Fest 2020, which will be held on Jan. 30, from 6-8 p.m. For more information, visit <https://flvs.net/student-resources/clubs-activities/clubs>.

FLVS is proud to offer a new course for middle school students: M/J Coding Fundamentals. In this half-credit elective Career and Technical Education (CTE) course, students will learn about the technology they use in day-to-day life and will be introduced to the basics of computer science. M/J Coding Fundamentals is now enrolling for students to start in January 2020. Check out a sample [video](#) from the course and learn more about [M/J Coding Fundamentals](#).

FLVS shared a new initiative to spotlight amazing teachers who go that one step further to help students. Teachers who provide more than encouragement and support; teachers who provide Works of Heart. Four teachers were highlighted in November at the FLVS In-Service Training Days. View their [Works of Heart](#) video stories



The December issue of Florida Trend focused on the Floridian of the Year: Florida Teachers. Lisa Fabulich, FLVS 2019-20 Teacher of the Year, was one of the teachers selected to be spotlighted! Fabulich, an FLVS Full Time Biology teacher, masterfully uses the online classroom to create rich, thematic environments for her students to discover new ideas and explore their understanding of complex scientific concepts. In addition to her role as a teacher, she has become a subject matter expert in 6-12 grade level sciences and has made significant contributions by coaching and supporting her peers as online educators. To read more about her, visit [Floridian of the Year](#).

Submitted by Suzan Kurdak

BVS Works and Plays Hard!

Happy holidays from Broward Virtual School (BVS)!! We are excited to share that we have completed our academic seminars in math and Language arts for the months of September, October, and November. We had over 100 students attend the sessions, where they engaged and collaborated with their teachers and peers in math and writing skills. After the seminars, students had the opportunity to participate in live science labs, including water property labs and a sweet vs sour food lab where students “tricked” their taste buds using The Miracle Berry and discovered the acidity levels of fruits.



At BVS, we also make every effort to give back to our community. Throughout October and November, BVS conducted a food collection for the Harvest Drive, through which we were able to help families in need and provide some holiday joy! We are also in the midst of a toy drive, all items collected will be donated to the Endeavor Primary Learning Center.



BVS teachers and club leaders have provided our students with some exciting opportunities this semester. The Science Department took 30 students to “I-Fly”, an indoor skydiving facility, through which they participated in hands-on STEM activities and had the chance to experience indoor skydiving! The World Language team celebrated “Spanish Heritage Month” with an on-campus field trip. Students were able to indulge in authentic Spanish cuisine and also learn about the multiple Latin cultures, including art and dance activities. The Birding Club brought in exotic birds to our facility to educate students on the natural habitat and care of tropical birds not native to Florida.

We are also very proud of our growing senior class, which currently has 115 students, and will expand further after our next admission period, ending December 19th. This year, we held our first Senior Meeting in October, during College and Career Awareness Week. At this event, seniors represented their favorite colleges and earned raffle prizes for completion of FAFSA and the Bright Futures Scholarship applications. We had an amazing turnout and we are looking forward to our spring events!



We would like to celebrate one of our seniors, Jillian Bourdage, who has been accepted to the University of Ohio on a full athletic and academic scholarship to play golf for the school. Currently ranked #2 in her senior class, Jillian has worked hard to not only become a championship caliber athlete, but also to pave the path to her ultimate goal of becoming an airline pilot. We are excited to see what other amazing accomplishments the Class of 2020 will achieve!

We wish you a happy and safe holiday!
See you next year!

Submitted by Antonette McGregor

Pinellas takes a Field Trip!

This fall, Pinellas Virtual School M/J Health and HOPE students took a field trip to the Johns Hopkins All Children's Education and Conference Center in St. Petersburg. Registered Dietitian, Megan Armstrong, guided the students through the process of preparing a delicious, nutritious, kid-friendly meal of Veggie Quesadillas, "GO" Tacos, and Black-eyed Pea Salad (yes, that's right, they ate black-eyed peas and loved them!). During the cooking class, students were able to get hands-on experience with topics they've studied in health class such as food safety and reading nutrition labels. After enjoying dinner, Megan then explained how the meal was far more filling and cost-effective than fast food. Before leaving, the students had one final activity to



complete. They took a bottle of their favorite sugary drink (Coke, Mountain Dew, Gatorade, Sunny D) and did some quick math to figure out how many scoops of sugar each drink contained. They then had to scoop that amount of sugar into a cup. It was a great visual for the students. As we continue to

fight childhood obesity, arming students with this knowledge is essential, and Pinellas County is very fortunate to have access to Johns Hopkins resources and professionals who are dedicated to doing just that.



Submitted by Michelle Starrett

FOCC's Newest Update!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

The Florida Online Course Catalog (FOCC) has gone through another update this year! As you all may know, we have gone to a single sign-on (SSO) functionality which requires district admins and district users to gain access from the district LEA before connecting to the department single sign on page to access the FOCC. It sounds like a lot of extra work just to get into the catalog doesn't it? But in the long run, it will be much easier and you won't ever have to remember a username or password again!

We have received the data to load the completion and passage rates into the catalog for the 2018-19 school year, per s. 1002.321. We will be contacting the districts to ensure that what each district reports is in fact the same data that displays in the FOCC and in the PERA spreadsheet. We have over 20,000 courses listed in the catalog and we look forward to seeing how many students have completed and passed those courses!

I would like to thank you all for the work that you do for the students in Florida and it is always my pleasure to work with each of you! I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a blessed New Year!

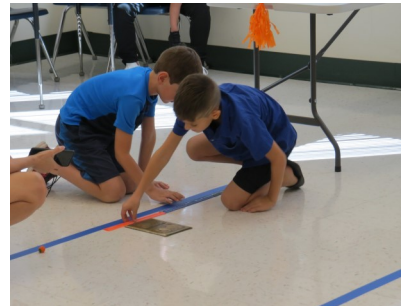
Submitted by Lisa Luna

HVS Celebrates its 10th Year!

Hillsborough Virtual School is celebrating its 10th anniversary in big ways! HVS teachers have been super busy this fall to provide our students with some awesome experiences! To honor Hispanic Heritage month in September, our students took a walking tour of historic Ybor City, and our foreign language and math teachers hosted a cross-curriculum activity allowing the students the opportunity to learn how to make Arepas.



In October, we inducted new students into our honor societies, and our elementary students attended a fall festival where they practiced skills such as measuring, estimating, planning, predicting, listening and collaboration while tie dying shirts, building gumdrop towers, and catapulting candy pumpkins! Meanwhile, our secondary students got to meet some new animal friends and learn about the different animal kingdoms thanks to one of our science teachers!



November brought Great American Teach-In guest speakers from USF Health for a face-to-face session where students got to upcycle some old t-shirts to create individual tote bags, along with some awesome guest speakers in online sessions!



Our civics teacher provided a community service activity where students wrote letters of appreciation to our troops for the holidays, and some of our elementary Spanish students learned how to make piñata cakes!

It's been a hectic, but rewarding first semester at HVS! As we count down to the end of 2019, we would like to wish everyone a relaxing winter break!

Submitted by Sherri Hillgruber

Exciting News for St. Johns Virtual School!

In the Fall of 2019, SJVS had some turnover at the top. Our very own Ryan Erskine was promoted to Assistant Principal and we brought on a new Registrar/Testing Coordinator, Kimberly Lippo. We also had the privilege of being recognized for the first-time as a Florida School of Excellence for our elementary program. Our secondary program was recognized as a Florida School of Excellence for the second year in a row.



Lastly, we have finally received permission to have our own logo/mascot. SJVS is now proud to say that we are Home of the Rams!!!

Submitted by Ryan Erskine



Lee Virtual Now Provides SEL!

This year, we took on a new concept required by the State of Florida to provide “Social Emotional Learning (SEL)” to students. Lee Virtual is the first online program in the state to utilize SEL to its full extent meeting the requirements set forth by the state. The SEL curriculum became a part of our homeroom meeting process. We began in October and we are happy to report that it has been well received and has fostered positive discussions between students and teachers alike.

We are well into planning our 10 year anniversary celebration. We’ve secured a date and location. With the help of our National Honor Society & National Junior Honor Society members, we were able to reach out to LVS alumni to not only invite them to the celebration but also ask them to be a part of the planning.

For the holidays, our wonderful SAC Committee put together a breakfast for our staff. They were also able to provide a gift for all 41 members of our LVS staff. We are so very grateful for all their hard work and dedication to making sure our staff feels appreciated!

Submitted by Cynthia Vasquez