

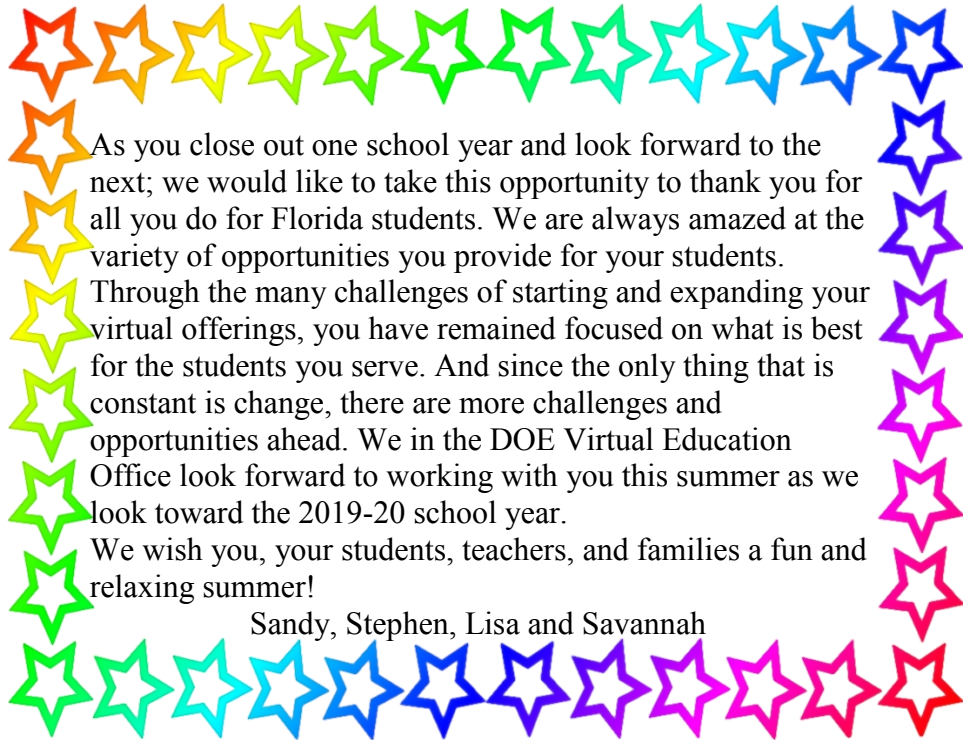
JUNE 2019



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

the Virtual View

Summer Is Here!



As you close out one school year and look forward to the next; we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all you do for Florida students. We are always amazed at the variety of opportunities you provide for your students.

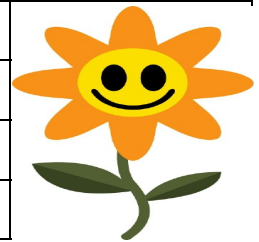
Through the many challenges of starting and expanding your virtual offerings, you have remained focused on what is best for the students you serve. And since the only thing that is constant is change, there are more challenges and opportunities ahead. We in the DOE Virtual Education Office look forward to working with you this summer as we look toward the 2019-20 school year.

We wish you, your students, teachers, and families a fun and relaxing summer!

Sandy, Stephen, Lisa and Savannah

2019 Virtual Graduates

Palm Beach — 33	Hernando — 32	Orange — 40	Pasco — 28
Marion — 70	Brevard — 33	Pinellas — 28	Hillsborough—50
Manatee — 21	St. Johns — 13	FLVS — 715	
Collier — 6	Bay — 52	St. Lucie — 25	
Leon — 17	Santa Rosa — 18	Duval — 55	
Highlands — 9	MDVS — 16	Broward — 113	



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“The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled.”

-Plutarch

Volusia Is Doing Some Amazing Things!

Volusia Online Learning (VOL) attracts some of the best employees in the district! One of the counselors won VCS Middle School Counselor of the Year. VOL is so proud of the attention Mrs. McQueen gives her students. She is always thinking of what is best for kids and that mantra guides her daily. It



shows, Mrs. McQueen! On that note, Forensic Science teacher Mrs. Connelly, who has a background in CSI (so cool, we know!) took her students on a field trip to the Seminole County Forensic Laboratory where they had a tour of the facility and services they provide including crime scene, impression evidence, facial reconstruction, fingerprint analysis, biological testing, firearms analysis, and testimony. She also had a NASA representative talk to Earth Space Science students at Atlantic High School. They discussed the LCROSS Mission that impacted the moon in search of water. Related to that was the engineering design challenge called On Target. Students had the opportunity to design a system to drop a payload onto a target remotely. Thanks for bringing real world application to virtual science students, Mrs. Connelly!



Submitted by: Christa Chapple

The Future of St. Johns Seniors!



The St. Johns Virtual School (SJVS) Class of 2019 included 13 graduates. SJVS held its graduation on May 14th on the campus of the First Coast Technical College. In addition to their academics, two members of the graduating class will continue their academic career online as they work as apprentices at the Milwaukee and the New York City Ballet Theaters. The SJVS Valedictorian will be attending the University of South Florida Honors Business Program and the Salutatorian will be attending the University of Florida to study Biology. Other student accolades and interests of study included numerous Bright Futures scholarships, a golf scholarship to Montreat College, work at the World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms, Molecular Biology, Equine Sciences, and Zoology! Way to go Seniors!!!

Submitted by: Michael Eisen

Santa Rosa Students Can't Wait to Return!

Santa Rosa Online middle school science and math students had the opportunity to take a field trip to the Flight Adventure Deck at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola! The field trip was designed to increase student interest in mathematics and science through the avenue of flight. Students participated in hands on activities such as in-flight simulators, a virtual reality launch to the moon, and a tour of a Naval Carrier to relate math and science to real world applications. Students used data charts, identified variables, analyzed information, and carried out scientific investigations during their time at the museum. Students left excited to return next year!



Santa Rosa Online Academy Class of 2019!

Submitted by: Rachel Wade



Collier Has An Artist On Their Hands!



This year Collier Virtual School (CVS) had 3 Seniors who graduated mid-semester in December with two of them already completing their first semester of college!

CVS also had 3 more graduates this May, with one accepted to Columbia University.

Exciting news for one of CVS's Sophmores! She was awarded a full scholarship from National Geographic to spend 2 weeks in Bhutan studying the culture and photography. This budding artist will use the photos to illustrate a book she is writing on Bhutan's culture. She is also an up and coming artist who was chosen to be a featured artist at the Naples art show. This young lady is going places!

Submitted by: Lisa Garby

Highlands Opens Their Virtual School!

After losing students to programs with more flexibility, Highlands County School District in Florida decided to open their own virtual school. Highlands Virtual School (HVS) has 53 full-time students and over 1,400 enrollments where students are taking advantage of online courses to accelerate their learning, provide more flexibility in their schedule, satisfy their Florida online course requirement, and recover credits. The HVS staff of local educators fosters relationships between the students and their teachers because they both live in the same community and can meet at the local schools for one on one tutoring as needed. The ability to provide students with online options within their school district is not new, but HVS has learned a few lessons that may help others interested in opening a virtual school within a district.



Program Administrator Lorie Layfield emphasizes the importance of coordinating with the administration and counselors at the schools that the virtual school is serving to establish a positive working relationship. It is important to note that opening a virtual school within a district will not steal students away from the local schools, but rather work with them to better serve the students and retain those who would have dropped out for more flexible options.

To be successful in an online environment, students need to be self motivated and independent learners. So for those desiring full time enrollment, the administrators at HVS have an interview and application process in place to ensure that students are prepared for the rigors of online learning. They also provide a grace period where the teachers can reach out to students and parents if either party feels the student is not going to be successful in this environment. “Every day we work to improve the quality of education of the student, so it doesn’t do anyone any good if the student is not making progress,” says Layfield. And they are quick to communicate with parents, school counselors, and students when roadblocks arise.

Layfield says that her amazing staff is her biggest success at HVS. “We are fortunate to have teachers that have worked out perfectly,” she affirms. The dedicated staff wants to see their students succeed, so they work together in creative ways to get their students to the finish line. The flexibility of an online program allows the teachers to use “all sorts of strategies” to help students learn since they do not have to create



lesson plans or deal with many of the discipline issues that plague traditional classrooms. “Edgenuity® allows our teachers to know exactly where a student is and to understand what they can and can’t do. So even though our teachers don’t see students face-to-face they actually know more about them than in a traditional setting,” Layfield says.

Most of the students taking courses through HVS are only enrolled in a few classes to help augment their schedule at a traditional high school . This year, HVS will have their own graduation ceremony to honor the 9 seniors who will receive their high school diploma. As word of the more flexible options in the district spreads, school leaders hope to serve more students who need something different than the traditional school, but still want the benefit of staying within the Highlands County community.

Submitted by: Lynette McVay and Lorie Layfield

Eventful First Year At Connections!

Florida Connections Academy (FCA) has had an eventful first school year! FCA is pleased to announce the approval of a chapter of the National Junior Honor Society; plans are underway to hold an induction ceremony in September. The first kindergarten class graduated on May 22nd and FCA celebrated the end of the first school year by welcoming families to school events in Tampa, Jacksonville, and Miami. Students and their learning coaches met FCA teachers and enjoyed field day activities organized by the Physical Education Team.



With the school year coming to a close, FCA has turned their attention to enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year. Florida Connections Academy is now open for students in grades K-9 and is working on achieving new milestones for next school year!

Submitted by: Marcie Trombino

K¹² Algebra Nation Winner and Advisors!

K¹² Florida Virtual Instruction Program is excited to announce Briana M. from St. Johns County as one of Algebra Nation's Algebra 1 winners for Karma Points! She won an Algebra Nation prize pack including pencils, stickers, and more for being in the lead with her Karma Points! Students can earn Karma Points for helping other students. They do this by pointing students to specific Algebra Nation videos for help or by starting to explain the steps in solving a problem to another student. This is a great way for students to share what they have learned and practice math. Congratulations Briana M!

Full time Florida students in grades 6-12 are assigned an advisor. The advisor position is a key role in the success of students, as these individuals directly oversee the progress and engagement of students. K¹² advisors are highly trained, FuelEd and platform experts with a background in education, specializing in the virtual world. Advisors will holistically identify solutions for student needs and coach students towards academic success. Advisors work closely with families to help with navigation and acclimation to the online environment. They assist parents with monitoring their students and guide them with tips and tricks for a successful school year. Communication is key and the advisors make sure students are kept in the loop with upcoming events, testing dates, and provide success plans if students are struggling. With the help of advisors, K¹² Florida Virtual Instruction Program students can meet their true potential!



Advisors (from left to right):
Sonia Mosher, Jayme,
Mitchell and Suzy Sivley

Submitted by: Kristen Randolph and Brenda MacDonald

Virtual Foreign Language in Holmes!

Wesley Mahan is beaming and his grin stretches wide. The Ponce de Leon High School senior just found out he passed his virtual foreign language course, and his teacher's smile matches his. He and virtual Spanish teacher Lori Stade shake hands and talk about graduation, work, and the senior trip. Stade is a contracted virtual teacher with the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC) Florida Virtual School (FLVS) Franchise and has taught virtual Spanish classes for the past four years. Stade has been in Holmes County schools since 2004 when she began as a substitute teacher and Ponce de Leon principal Brian Morgan feels this connection is key to student success. Like so many other rural school districts, it is difficult to recruit and retain qualified foreign language teachers willing to serve in small Panhandle districts. There has not been an on site Spanish teacher at Ponce De Leon High School (PDLHS) during Morgan's 7 year tenure.

Lab coordinator Barbara Brannon knows just what support these rural students need to be successful. When students are given assignments that are outside of their reference frames or present a hardship, she intervenes, advocates, and identifies alternatives to help them complete the work successfully. Lori Stade thinks virtual learning is a perfect option for students in small rural districts and agrees with Morgan. "The pace depends on the student. Some like online school and work right through and complete on their own. Some really need us to stay on them." That's where her collaboration with lab coordinator Brannon comes into play.

Stade plans to retire in three years and Morgan knows he will have to cross a difficult bridge then. "I hope to find a virtual Spanish teacher through PAEC who lives in the Panhandle," he says. "I want someone who can continue to make occasional visits to see our students in person."

Submitted by: Bonnie Wertenberger

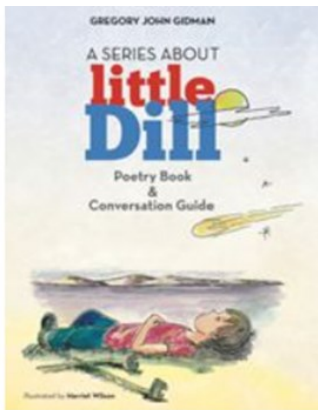
The Smiling Seniors of Leon!



Leon County Virtual School's smiling Class of 2019! Congratulations!

Submitted by: Jessica Lowe

Palm Beach Virtual School Author!



Author Gregory Gidman is a seasoned educator with over 30 years of experience teaching in diverse settings. He has taught in 5 universities and in both private and public schools in the US and internationally. He currently teaches for Palm Beach Virtual School.

In Gidman's book, Little Dill cannot hear, speak or see, but communicates better than most. In 31 poems he creates alter-egos and friends that become everything he wishes he could be. At the same time Little Dill teaches his imaginary friends everything they need to know about the most basic elements of human existence: respect, love, forgiveness, perseverance, and fear. <https://littledillbook.com/>

33 seniors graduated and 19 chose to wear the regalia and walk across the stage!

Submitted by: Juliana Davis



Pinellas' First Graduation Ceremony!

Pinellas Virtual School (PVS) held their first ever Class of 2019 graduation ceremony on May 24. PVS graduated 28 students and had 14 students participate in the graduation ceremony. So proud!!!!



Submitted by: Mandy Perry

Orange Student Rocks American Idol!



Orange County Virtual School (OCVS) is very proud of American Idol star Alyssa Raghu. Alyssa takes courses with OCVS. She recently competed on the popular network show on ABC this season where she sang and performed her way to a Top 8 finish. Orange looks forward to watching her career blossom!

Congratulations Class of 2019! Orange County Virtual School (OCVS) is excited that 40 seniors graduated on May 22nd. Principal Brandi Gurley welcomed friends, families, and students to the commencement ceremony held at Edgewater High School. Dr. Christopher Bernier, Associate Superintendent, School Choice Services and School Board Member, Dr. Karen Castor Dental both spoke to the Class of 2019 and wished them success and best wishes in their future endeavors!



Submitted by: Zundra Aubrey

Bay Conquers The Storm!



Bay Virtual School is proud to announce the largest class of graduates! 52 seniors received their diplomas on May 21st. Guest speaker, Mr. John Mercer, Vice President Administration and Finance at Gulf Coast State College, along with student speakers, Mason Legg and Mia Salaveria, discussed triumph over adversity when weathering a storm, or as in Bay's case,

Hurricane Michael. In their speeches they focused on how virtual learning prepares students for their next journey in life by going beyond the curriculum requirements and teaching time management, initiative, and the importance of a long term vision. The class includes four Graduates with Distinction (GPA 4.0 or Higher), two Graduates with Excellence (3.75-3.99, and six Graduates with Honors (3.5-3.74). In addition, nine students were Scholar Designation Graduates. Congratulations to the Bay Virtual School Class of 2019!

Submitted by: Diane Fields

Great Happenings at FLVS!

Florida Virtual School (FLVS) was honored to celebrate the FLVS Full Time Class of 2019 with a projected 715 students graduating. FLVS livestreamed the commencement ceremony as more than 400 seniors walked across stage to receive diplomas. Over the past month, FLVS has been featuring the 2019 graduates and their future plans on social media. You can follow @floridavirtualschool on Instagram or check out graduation fun on [Facebook](#).

FLVS announced the launch of a new course for the 2019-20 school year, American Sign Language (ASL) 1. This full-credit, high school course counts as a world language credit and this elective introduces students to the basic elements of ASL and broadens cross-cultural understanding of the language and deaf culture. The FLVS Digital Publishing team created a video practice tool that is embedded throughout the course for students to have the ability to practice their ASL skills. In addition to the video recording practice tool, course highlights for ASL 1 include 800 custom vocabulary and dialogue videos created for use in Instruction and Assessment, and interactive vocabulary practice. Students can enroll in the American Signage Language course today for a start date in August. Learn more at FLVS.net/ASL.



Lisa Fabulich, FLVS Teacher of the Year, was recently honored by the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) with the 2019 K12 Excellence in Teaching Award. The USDLA Awards were created to acknowledge major accomplishments in distance learning and to highlight those distance learning instructors, programs, and professionals who have achieved and demonstrated extraordinary results through online, videoconferencing, satellite, and blended learning delivery technologies.

Liam R. takes Advanced Placement[®] (AP) Computer Science with FLVS. After winning a scholarship to attend Apple's Worldwide Developers Conference, he had the opportunity to chat with Apple CEO Tim Cook! Across all AP courses, FLVS students scored 11 percent above state averages on AP Exams.



FLVS Middle School Flex and Geo Bee Club students enjoyed making new friends and bonding with other students who attended a field trip to SeaWorld in May. There is nothing quite like getting to see one another in person and about 650 students and parents attended participated in a scavenger hunt!

Elementary and middle school students recently participated in FLVS Book Battle Jeopardy (grades K-5) and a Book Battle Competition (grades 6-8). “Battle of the Books” was created as an academic competition that improves reading comprehension, builds vocabulary, and promotes teamwork and sportsmanship by competing and sharing knowledge of the Sunshine State Books. Congratulations to Lydia B. (1 grade) and Hunter C. (5 grade), and to all FLVS students for reading and being the experts on each book! Other recent student activities included Shakespeare Festival, Earth Day celebrations, a schoolwide chess tournament, and a “Breaking Borders Bilingually” event where students from the French and Spanish Honor Societies gave presentations covering topics of global citizenship and shared the benefits of learning languages and bilingualism.

Submitted by: Suzan Kurdak

Brevard's Largest Graduating Class!



Brevard had their largest graduating class, 33! Congratulations graduates!

Submitted by: Heather Price

Hillsborough Has Been Busy!



Hillsborough Virtual School (HVS) had a busy spring season! On May 24th fifty students graduated from HVS. The amazing senior class accomplished the following: 22 graduates earned 82 college credit hours, 28 graduates completed 68 Advanced Placement courses, and the 29 graduates planning to attend college or university earned over \$120,000 in scholarship money! HVS is so proud of the Class of 2019!

In March, teachers showcased their courses during a Curriculum Fair to help students plan for next school year. In April, science students in grades 6–12 explored the Hillsborough River at Crystal Springs Nature Preserve. In May, the fabulous elementary teachers hosted an end of the year celebration for their students.



Submitted by: Denee Upshaw

The Dedicated Graduates Of Duval!



Wow! It is so hard to believe that this school year has come to a close. It seems like just last week that the Duval Virtual Instruction Academy (DVIA) faculty hosted a marvelous Halloween party and they were able to see the true personas of the teachers and administration come out. This has been a record year for DVIA as they started a resource class for gifted students, saw Beta club students participate in many service activities, and had a record number of students participate in testing (over 95.7% of students tested in mandatory tests). Fast forward through testing, a Marine Science Field trip and now graduation! DVIA had 55 students

graduate this year which is the largest group to date. It was exciting to see that 30 students chose to participate in the graduation ceremony. As a school DVIA is so proud of the perseverance and dedication of these graduates!

Submitted by: Leslie Jones

A Fantastic Year At Pasco!

Pasco is happy to announce that Mrs. Erin Senior is the new assistant principal! She brings a wealth of experience as an elementary learning design coach and educator to the team.



Pasco has had two other great celebrations to end the school year, one for the full-time elementary students and one for the full-time middle school students.



Pasco eSchool graduated 28 Seniors on June 4th. It's the largest class yet!

Hailey Carter is the Valedictorian of the Class of 2019. Please take a few minutes to watch this video of Alanis Sophia Gonzalez, who wrote and performed an original song as a gift to her classmates and teachers:

<https://www.facebook.com/pascoschools/videos/627560157731292/>

It's been a fantastic year, filled with lots of engaging learning and Pasco is looking forward to meeting up with colleagues from around the state this summer!

Submitted by: Pam Willoughby

Dr. Arnett and NHSA!



National Highway Safety Administration (NHSA) has recently teamed up with Dr. Michael Arnett as Director of Client Relations. Dr. Arnett joins NHSA after 23 years of service in public education where he began his instructor's career as an Automotive Technology Instructor and recently retiring as Director of Career and Technical Education. Beginning the school year of 2018/19, Dr. Arnett brought to the School Board of Indian River County an agreement to partner with the NHSA for an Online Drivers Education Course using the school district's instructional staff as instructors.

During this 1st year of implementation, the NHSA Drivers Education course enrollment went from 0 students to 225 students. This rate of enrollment vastly exceeded all projections and as a result the School District of Indian River County is projected to save more than \$40,000 in lost funding during the first year of enrollment. This funding loss would have normally occurred during the recalibration of FTE during the 4th FEFP Calculations at the end of the 2018/19 school year. On a typical school year, the School District of Indian River County loses approximately 600 students to other providers of Drivers Education, which then results in lost funds by recalibration of the FTE which occurs during the 4th FEFP Calculations.

Dr. Michael Arnett retired from the School District of Indian River County as the Director of Career and Technical Education and the Principal of Indian River Virtual. During his tenure with the School District of Indian River, Dr. Arnett established Indian River Virtual School amongst other projects. He led the efforts in Indian River to expand adult and high school students' opportunities for skills and technical education. This resulted in the opening of the Technical Center for Career and Adult Education. Dr. Arnett was also key to the expansion of Dual Enrollment opportunities for the students in Indian River to include adding Embry Riddle University classes to the high schools, expanding dual enrollment opportunities at Treasure Coast Technical College, and adding the University of Florida as a Dual Enrollment opportunity for high school students. Dr. Arnett entered his instructional career at 37 years of age as an Automotive Technology instructor at Titusville High School in Brevard County. While as an instructor, he earned his Associates of Arts from Brevard Community College, his Bachelors of Science in Vocational Education from the University of Central Florida (all of these UCF courses were online courses), and his Master's degree in Education Leadership from NOVA Southeastern University. During the years that Mr. Arnett instructed at Titusville High School, he participated in summer internships with Computer Science Raytheon, United Space Alliance and Boeing. During the summer internship at Boeing he invented a specialized tool to address a servicing issue for the Space Shuttle fleet, that was patented by Boeing. After earning his master's degree, Mr. Arnett entered school administration as an assistant principal at Space Coast Junior/Senior High School. During his tenure at Space Coast Jr./Sr. High School, Mr. Arnett joined a cohort of administrators from six counties to attend the University of Central Florida and complete his Doctorate in Education Leadership. Upon earning his doctorate, Dr. Arnett joined the administrative team at Port St. Lucie High School in St. Lucie County, FL working to turn around the academic performance of the school. This was followed by a tenure as assistant principal Oak Hammock K-8 school. Oak Hammock K-8 is a comprehensive elementary / middle school that also is home of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program that serves St. Lucie County, Martin County, Okeechobee County and Indian River County. Dr. Arnett looks forward to working with all school districts throughout the state of Florida to share with them the successes he experienced implementing the National Highway Safety Administration's Drivers Education Course.

Submitted by: Stephen Lacy

Broward Has A Lot To Be Proud Of!

The 2018-19 school year at Broward Virtual School (BVS) has come and gone so quickly. BVS has had the pleasure of celebrating students and staff throughout this year with many exciting activities and recognitions. One highlight included 10 monthly Academic Seminars in both Math and English Language Arts. The students were engaged in various math skills covered in Pre-Algebra, Algebra, and Geometry. Elementary and middle school students placed 1st and 2nd in both the math team competition and in the individual rounds at the Broward County Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Two students scored in the top 5% nationally! In addition, students sharpened their writing skills with the guidance from their ELA teachers. They participated in Close Reading of Complex Texts, how to use Text Evidence in Short Response Answers, and Argumentative and Informational Essay writing. Always promoting collaboration, middle and high school students had the opportunity to practice peer rubric scoring using exemplars.



The Science Department invited students to attend onsite Science Labs where they studied chemical reactions, properties of water, and much more. Department Chair, Mrs. Krug organized an in-house fieldtrip for students with the Sawgrass Wildlife Rescue and Care center. The center was able to bring and teach students about some native species to the area such as the Screech Owl, Turtles, Possums, an Albino snake, and a baby gator.

Under the leadership of Ms. Wasser, NHS Sponsor, BVS participated in a year-long partnership with Endeavor Primary Learning Center. BVS students volunteered weekly with kindergarten through second grade students to assist them with reading and math. BVS also hosted a toy drive to provide holiday gifts for some of the students at Endeavor. On April 7th, the National Honor Society hosted the second annual BVS student and family picnic. Students, parents, and faculty came together for a fantastic afternoon of games, food, and fun.



BVS is proud to announce that their very own Japanese Instructor, Satoko Fisher, was a finalist at the Broward County Caliber Awards for Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Fisher is a sought-after World Language Instructor reaching students through Distance Learning for multiple elementary classes and online teaching for her secondary students. BVS is proud to have her on staff!

BVS is very excited to brag about the amazing Class of 2019! This year, BVS is proud to have 113 graduating seniors! In addition, the senior class completed over 15,000 service hours showing an unyielding commitment and dedication to local communities. 62% of the senior class earned an Honor Cord this year. This is a true testament to the hard work seniors have put forth since starting their journeys. BVS is eager to see the amazing things that the graduates will accomplish in all their future endeavors. This year, for the first time, BVS participated in the Broward College Jumpstart Initiative, an application drive designed to get graduating seniors a head start to becoming a student at Broward College. There were 23 participants this year, all of who are now registered for college courses and ready to begin their post-secondary education. BVS looks forward to the next Jumpstart Event and continuing to build the relationship with Broward College.

BVS was fortunate enough to have three seniors represent their school at the annual Silver Knight Awards ceremony. Although they do not have any winners this year, BVS is proud of these individuals and the dedication they showed throughout their high school careers.

Submitted by: Antonette McGregor

St. Lucie's Year For The Virtual Books!



St. Lucie Class of 2019

- 25 graduates = 100% Graduation Rate
- 100% have earned Acceleration through Dual Enrollment Program and/or Career and Technical Education
- 88% have earned Honors or High Honors Designation
- 2 early graduates
- 3 scholar designations
- 12 merit designations
- 8 graduates have taken the Superintendent's Promise is a Promise Pledge
- 5 graduates have earned Bright Futures
- \$220,000 in Scholarships awarded

Other Notable News for Mosaic Digital Academy this year: Jonathan Thomas (Grade 8) was recognized and won a Special Award at the State Engineering and Science Fair for his Intelligent Machines, Robotics Systems Software Project: Marine Trash Clean Up and has been nominated for the BROADCOM Masters. Another great year in the virtual books!!!



Submitted by: Jeanne Ziemba

The Welcome Back to School Edition of the Virtual View will be published in September. We look forward to sharing the new and exciting opportunities students will have in the 2019-2020 school year! We will send requests for articles and pictures in August.