

MARCH 2018



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

the Virtual View

Happy Spring!

It is always such a beautiful time in Florida; with the cold weather behind us and the awesome display of new blooms on trees and bushes; reminding us of the beauty of the earth! I hope you can take some time during your district’s “Spring Break” to rest and rejuvenate; preparing yourselves for the last stretch of school before the school year ends.

The Legislative Session ends this week and it looks like another big education bill is before us—CS/HB 7055. We will let you know how it affects virtual education.

We continue to send prayers of healing to our friends in Broward; we stand in support of keeping our precious children safe in schools.

Let us know how we can serve you; we are only a phone call or email away!

Thanks for all you do for Florida students!

Sandy, Lisa and Savannah

Exciting Opportunities at St. Johns!

Mrs. Baker and Ms. White’s Spanish Club held their second family dinner and enjoyed authentic cuisine from La Nopalera while Mrs. Kline joined her students at their elementary family outing at the Jacksonville Ice and Sportsplex!



SJVS registrar and FLDVIPN Board Member, Ryan Erskine; Spanish Instructor, Ginger Baker Sanhueza; Spanish Instructor, Sarah White; Math Instructor, Cherie Stucki; Social Studies Instructor, Victoria Guttinger; and Science Instructor, Mary Maddox celebrate the success of the 2018 FLDVIPN Symposium in Orlando! A special thank you from SJVS to the FLDVIPN Board for another amazing Symposium!

Submitted by: Michael Eisen

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“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

-Nelson Mandela

St. Lucie Shows #OWL Pride

St. Lucie Mosaic Digital Academy students are really showing up in the community in big ways! From Regional Science Fair Awards to Community Youth Leadership, there is virtually no stopping these OWLS! Students who attended live day sessions each week have shared the top reasons they come into the facility: to be in a distraction-free environment, to work alongside peers, and to get in-person help from instructors. St. Lucie is proud of the 4.59 out of 5 stars students have given the team for their live day experiences on campus! St. Lucie is #VirtuallyUnstoppable!

OWL TEACHER'S MAKE IT REAL SO THAT... DEEP LEARNING HAPPENS!



Students learned about new Brain research on how to GROW their intelligence with Mr. Goulet and Mrs. Kahr during our Student Success Skills Day!



Civics students team up to play a friendly game using Quizlet to prep for the End-of-Course Exam in Mr. Goulet's Live Day Session.

TOP 3 REASONS STUDENTS REPORTED THEY ATTENDED LIVE DAYS:

#1 A Distraction-free environment

#2 To work alongside other virtual students

#3 To get in-person assistance from instructors

Which reasons fit why you attended live day today? Choose any that apply.

Reason	Percentage
I have falling behind in one or...	36
I needed to complete a collect...	35
I needed to work in a distract...	62
I needed some instructor assi...	30
I needed to work alongside ot...	30
I have to be on campus when...	23
I am currently on an Administ...	7
I am having computer or inter...	7
Student Success Skills Day	46
Other	19

OWL STUDENT IS SWORN IN AS TREASURER FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN ST. LUCIE




MOSAIC DIGITAL ACADEMY STUDENTS TAKE 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD AT REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR !!



Mallory M., Geoffrey W. & Leo K. (Gr. 8)
2nd Place Intelligent Machines, Robotics & Systems Software



Elizabeth B. (Gr. 8)
1st Place Behavioral & Social Science



Trevor G. (Gr. 8)
1st Place Biomedical & Health Science



Anjali G. (Gr. 8) [not pictured]
3rd Place Behavioral & Social Science

Submitted by: Jeanne Ziemba

A Whole Lot of New For Volusia!

Volusia Online Learning (VOL) is excited to reveal a new logo that was voted on by students, faculty, and staff!



VOL is happy to announce 4 new members to the team: Amy Chalfant, Elementary Teacher; Sydney Jenkins, Math Teacher; Vander Outlaw, Middle School ELA Teacher; and Gina Connelly, Science Teacher. Gina Connelly is VOL's First Year Teacher of the Year nominee for Volusia County Schools! Mrs. Connelly formerly worked for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) in their crime laboratory as an expert in the field of Toxicology. She became an instructor for FDLE and that is where she discovered her love for teaching!

Next year brand new courses created by VOL will be offered: Middle School Creative Writing, Middle School Introduction to Art History, High School Creative Writing, High School African American History, and High School Marine Science. The window for full-time enrollment for the 2018-19 SY will open April 23 and will stay open until July 22. For more information, families can go to VOL's website: www.volusiaonlinelearning.com.

Submitted by: Dr. Amy Blowers

Pinellas' OneBlood Field Trip!

Pinellas Virtual School HOPE (Health Opportunities through Physical Education) students took a field trip to the OneBlood Laboratories in St. Petersburg for a behind the scenes look at the blood donation process. Thanks to Mr. Daniel Eberts ("Dan the Blood Man") students were able to don white coats and follow the blood into the lab to see how it is processed!



The students asked some great questions as Mr. Eberts explained how each component of blood is used to save lives. And, of course, he also went over the health benefits—sharing several stories of how donating actually saved a donor's life. The HOPE course encourages advocacy and teaches the students to promote personal, family, and community health, and



blood donation is a practical way for them to do all those things. Given that high school and college students are the populations most likely to donate, we need to educate and encourage them to do so. Pinellas is fortunate to have these young people who are armed with the knowledge and desire to save lives!



Submitted by: Michelle Starrett and Mandy Perry

Santa Rosa Online Is Prepared!

On February 22nd several Santa Rosa Online students took part in a Writing Workshop. Students who participated did so in order to prepare for this year's upcoming ELA/FSA Testing. Jerilyn Hughes, Laura Austin, and Sean Tomey worked with the students on persuasive writing, explanatory writing, diction, sentence structure, sensory language, transitioning, and a variety of other writing components.

During the five hour workshop, students engaged in interactive activities and learned how to create an effective argument, structure a thesis, develop strong topic sentences, and how to effectively use evidence to support main ideas. Students also learned how to prioritize their time for the 120 minutes they have for the writing component of the ELA/FSA test. Students who took part in the Writing Workshop were able to count it as the Collaboration Component of the Santa Rosa English/Language Arts class. The teachers at Santa Rosa Online thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to meet with students and prepare them for success!



Submitted by: Rachel Wade

Duval Virtual Makes An Impact!

Duval is excited to have played a large part, along with other district initiatives, in impacting the Duval County graduation rate numbers to an almost 6% increase since 2015. Duval Virtual part-time program continues to grow, which now includes a DVIA operated lab at 19 high schools.

Beta Club is busy planning community service opportunities hoping to encourage elementary students to participate in a shared gardening and butterfly hatching project! The project also seeks to thank the host school by beautifying an undeveloped courtyard into a seating area to be used by students.



Duval Virtual English and Math teachers are holding in person and online Boot Camps to strengthen testing skills for students, including those struggling to gain graduation testing scores and college ready minimum scores. Senior English teacher, Leslie Jones, secured a number of donations, including 10 family pack tickets to a Jacksonville Jaguar game, for students participating in FSA. PERT, SAT, and ACT testing. The DVIA teachers continue to seek creative ways to encourage families to engage in preparation and assessment activities. Elementary students practiced with sample rubrics, writing passages, sharing of writing attempts, and practice scoring opportunities.

Kudos to Duval Virtual elementary teachers for creating quarterly opportunities for students to gather with their peers and families to experience fun and learning around Jacksonville! Their latest trips to the Jacksonville Zoo and Sweet Pete's Candy Factory included science lessons aligned to Florida state standards. The candy lessons included a candy making class that covered physical and chemical changes, temperature, units of measurement, math equations, properties of matter, and most importantly tasting opportunities. Way to make learning fun Mrs. Jumber and Mrs. Dake!



Submitted by: Kristin Smith

Field Trips for K¹²

K¹² students and teachers have been having fun around Florida on field trips! From going to a museum, farm, and fort, students have been making new friends and memories! Each quarter, teachers host in person field trips that help foster a love for learning and encourage families to make life long friends. Recently, students were able to visit the Sweet Seasons Farm for a corn maze, learn about pumpkins, ride a cow train, jump on the corn popper jumping pillow, and visit the animals. Families went to The Young At Art Museum to ride a subway, visit a cave, and build sand sculptures! Students also enjoyed a beautiful day at the 315 year old St. Augustine Fort. Students viewed rooms that housed soldiers and prisoners as well as a wonderful view of the city! More field trip fun is coming up in the fourth quarter!



Submitted by: Kristen Randolph

Lee's Second Semester Events!

This past holiday season, the Lee Virtual School National Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society joined forces to support the Salvation Army Angel Tree Toy Drive! These students sponsored 15 children. They had a candy sale to raise money and donated their own money to buy gifts to fulfill the wish lists of the children who would not have had a holiday without support! It was a very worthwhile service project; the students felt that their efforts made a difference in the community!



Second semester started with the usual “first day” events for returning and newly enrolled students, with enrollment now topping 350! Students in the Culinary Arts Program assisted their instructor with providing lunch to their classmates as various groups attended over the course of three days. In February they were again called into action during the annual Manatee Park field trip, assisting with serving students and their families pizza after their canoe ride with the manatees. The students also participated in two “taste of the town” fundraisers where they honed their skills with real experiences. Most recently, the LVS math teachers have invited some of the more gifted math students to lend a hand with Math Academic days as Math Mentors, working with fellow students in study groups to share the knowledge they have gained. LVS is excited to watch the program develop and set an example to other subject areas within the curriculum!



It is hard to believe that the end of another busy and productive school year is rapidly approaching. This year's graduating class of 51 will be the largest ever, as the merits and opportunities of online learning become more commonly known. LVS is proud to be a part of this exciting, ever evolving educational path!

Submitted by: Ann Taylor

K¹² at FLDVIPN Symposium

K¹² attended the 7th Annual FLDVIPN Symposium and hosted several sessions. Supporting Struggling Readers in a Virtual Environment, Jessica Hawkins and Jessica Charlton, Instructional Services team, shared both the interventions used to support struggling readers and how to document student progress per the state model. Maximizing Professional Learning through Teacher Led PD and Micro credentials, hosted by Gila Tuchman Director of Academics, shared detailed information on the teacher-led professional development program, which serves hundreds of teachers nationwide with more than 3,000 workshop attendees in a single year. Finally, Helping Virtual Students Become Web Savvy Detectives, Client Service Managers, Jessica Richardson and Lisa Wimmers, presented a session designed to help virtual educators develop students who will become strong critical thinkers with the skills and abilities to evaluate online sources. K¹² felt privileged to share their ideas and resources with a strong group of colleagues!



Submitted by: Kristen Randolph

Broward's Ray of Sunshine!

The flowers are blooming, the weather is changing, and Broward Virtual School is preparing to start the second semester with a ray of sunshine! The wonderful Language Arts and Math Teams put together face to face workshops for students to attend on campus. The students had an opportunity to practice for the state-wide mandatory testing with their teachers and classmates. BVS had a wonderful turn out for each session! Science Team Leader, Mrs. Michelle Krug, put together a wonderful on campus field trip experience for 6-9 grade students. The students had an opportunity to board the Science Bus and learn about Florida's agriculture. The activities included soil and planting crops, pollination, as well as, corn and wheat production. Students were provided with seeds to begin their own garden at home!



BVS 7th grade Civics students are working on their service project to collect items for the Humane Society. Students and staff are dropping off items to help pets in need!

BROWARD VIRTUAL SCHOOL
Broward County Public Schools

We will be collecting items for the Humane Society for Service Part 8. Please bring your donation to the BVS Office when you are there for workshops/testing, etc. Please make sure you label your donation with your name and then email me for submission instructions. Donations will be accepted until Spring Break.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

- Harnesses (mesh harness preferred), Collars, Leashes (NOT retractable leashes) (Small/Medium/Large/XL)
- Towels, Sheets, Blankets, Pillowcases*

*New or used, but must be clean

Toys, treats, dog bowls and food are NOT needed at this time.

www.free-veterinarian.com



Submitted by: Antonette McGregor

Once again, Blended Learning Labs are actively serving over 30 schools with 18 subjects. Teachers are providing unique opportunities for students to learn the online material in the classroom setting!

FLVS Full Time

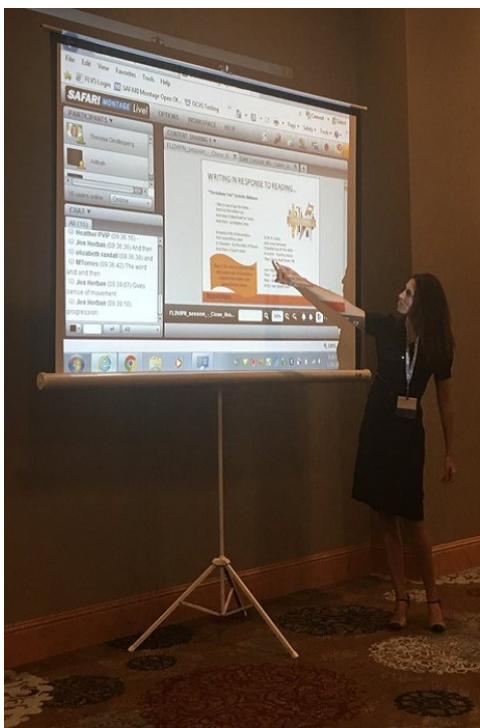
Florida Virtual School Full Time (FLVS Full Time), recently opened enrollment on March 5 for students in grades Kindergarten-12. Those interested in enrolling their students in grades Kindergarten-12 should visit: www.flvs.net/full-time.

Submitted by: Diana Furey



Orange County Virtual School!

Orange County Virtual School celebrated Black History Month with a night exploring and celebrating history. Spearheaded by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the focus was to present African-American History through an interactive museum. To create this experience classrooms were transformed and each room featured different themes from education, entertainment and politics; sports and art. Students explored Africa before slavery and the Middle Passage to slavery in America. Additionally, students were able to learn about how the Civil Rights Movement has changed America. Kudos to the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for putting on a phenomenal program. To view the Interactive museum go to: <http://youtu.be/rvBH8dILWUM>



Submitted by: Zundra Aubrey

The Florida Districts Virtual Instruction Program Network was a treat! Orange County Virtual participated in a three day symposium with other school district's virtual schools around the state. Virtual educators and vendors shared their knowledge and expertise about best practices and current trends in digital learning. This collaboration between virtual educators was invaluable and the networking long-lasting!



The Graduation Edition of the Virtual View will be published in June. We look forward to receiving your graduation numbers, as well as pictures of the ceremony and the beaming students! We will send requests for articles and pictures in May.