

September 2017



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# the Virtual View

## Welcome Back!

What an exciting time of the year—new and returning students and teachers embarking on a new virtual journey together. We hope everyone is off to a great start!

We are excited that after four years of pressing our legislators to remove student eligibility, it was accomplished in HB 7069. Our next challenge: to remove the three option requirement in Section 1002.45, Florida Statutes—Virtual Instruction Program. If your district is required to have three options, start speaking to your local lobbyist. Session begins in January.

Our prayers go out to all Floridians affected by Hurricane Irma. Tallahassee fared well. We hope the healing and rebuilding begins soon.

And on a final note, we would like to welcome Savannah Currie to our virtual team. She is an OPS Senior Clerk that will help our office run smoothly and efficiently.

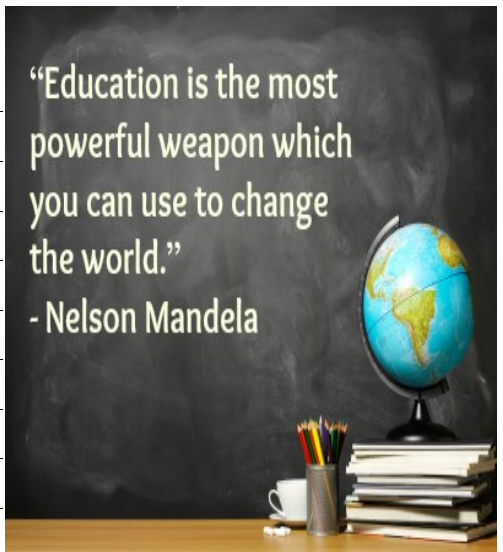
Have a great school year; we are here for you!

Sandy, Nicolle, Lisa and Savannah



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# We are.....Lake Virtual

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Lake County Virtual School provided professional development (PD) geared strictly to virtual school teachers during the County-wide PD day. The PD assured that a consistent, effective and results-driven implementation of online virtual instruction occurs. Several Lake Virtual veteran teachers developed and delivered PD on the topics listed below:

- Blackboard Collaboration: Jamie Berry
- Use of Google Slide and Google Docs: Carolyn Mendez
- Activating, withdrawing etc.
- Organizing a virtual teacher's week: Bridget Stratton
- Data on student achievement: Paul Miller

Congratulations to Lake County Virtual School for receiving an "A" for the 2016-2017 school year. The dedication of staff and amazing attributes of online virtual education led to this accomplishment.

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## Florida Virtual School Star!

Florida Virtual School (FLVS) Full Time sixth grader Savannah Elmer succeeds on and off the big stage with online school. Savannah of Orlando, may only be 11 years old, but she is already a Broadway star. The sixth grader is a rising actress, singer, and dancer and just recently wrapped up the first national Broadway tour of Matilda the Musical as the leading role! Check out the full release [here!](#)

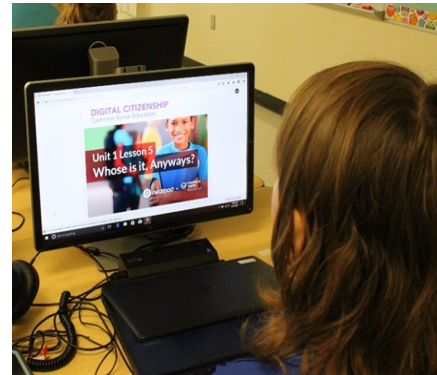
### Elementary Restrictions Lift

On June 15, 2017, Governor Rick Scott signed a bill into law that removed the last of the eligibility requirements placed on FLVS Elementary students in the Flex (part-time) program. Thanks to these restrictive requirements being lifted, all students can continue or begin their education in the FLVS Flex program instead of having to deviate from the education path of their choice! This measure opened access to FLVS Flex and supports school choice!



# St. Lucie #VirtuallyUnstoppable!

Mosaic Digital Academy K-12 (St. Lucie) students and faculty are excited for the new school year! They are entering their 6<sup>th</sup> year since opening in Fall 2012 and have experienced increased full time enrollment by learning how to serve their unique school community in new and exciting ways! They have experienced *owlstanding* success with increasing student achievement in all tested subjects in grades 3-10 this past school year! With the Spring 2017 Assessment results, the lower school has improved to a school grade of B and the upper school is now an A! Congratulations!



There are three intentional strategies they feel are key to success with students. One strategy is that all full time students are invited to attend Student Success Skills live days at the start of each semester on their school campus. Students learn how to structure their daily schedules and to use customized pace guides designed to help them successfully complete their course segments within a semester. Students learn about Academic Integrity and how to

The second strategy is offering three live days every week with the highly qualified instructors on campus for students to get personalized support because "*no significant learning occurs outside of significant relationships*" [Dr. James Comer].

The third strategy is their continued commitment to Digital Citizenship and maintaining school wide certification through Common Sense Media by offering at least two Digital Citizenship lessons per year per grade level. As a team they are committed to sharing best practices to keep kids safe online. Please consider becoming a Digital Citizenship Certified school too (click here to learn more: [www.common sense.org/education/](http://www.common sense.org/education/)).



Please like St. Lucie on Facebook to follow all of their events and celebrations throughout the school year: [www.facebook.com/SLPSMosaicDigitalAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/SLPSMosaicDigitalAcademy)



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K<sup>12</sup> Florida Virtual Instruction students and teachers are off to a strong start! Instructors are hosting online Meet the Teacher sessions and Learning Coach Homeroom sessions to support students and families. Here students meet their teachers and learn more about the year ahead. September is a busy month with the launch of Student and Class Connect sessions, in addition to diagnostic testing for every student.

K<sup>12</sup> knows that using an online program can be very overwhelming for both the student and the learning coach. That is why they have developed the Strong Start program that includes various live sessions. These sessions give students and families an overview of what to expect and how to navigate through the program even before school starts! Students are encouraged to use all the tools that have been provided for their success. Some of these sessions include resources such as a Q & A open forum, Online Orientation and the platform overviews. They also hosted back to school pep rallies with fun experiments, tips and tricks for the new year. Families are encouraged to take time to get familiar with the Engage program and website for upcoming events and information. Good preparation leads to a successful outcome and will ease the jitters when students begin their school year.

Students are also looking for ways to have fun and meet new friends this year. K<sup>12</sup> National clubs offer chess, Legos, Minecraft, photography and much more to students! They are also hosting the first of many state-wide Field Trip days this month. On Friday, September 29th, K<sup>12</sup> teachers will be hosting face-to-face field trips across the state for our students, families, and teachers to connect with each other through a day of learning and fun. The K<sup>12</sup> team is excited for the launch of another successful school year!

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## Broward Virtual School Is Ready!

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Happy New School Year from Broward Virtual School (BVS)! BVS is delighted to begin the 2017-2018 school year with an expanded faculty. There are now 80 teachers and 12 staff members ready to serve the students, families and schools of Broward County. They will be facilitating the learning of over 5,000 students in 25 middle and high schools hosting virtual learning labs in addition to their full-time and part-time student program. This year, BVS is excited to offer Guitar 1 as a new elective and to continue with their Japanese distance learning program called Tomodachi. They are off to a great start and looking forward to a tremendous year of teacher growth and student success!



# Orange Collaborates with FLVS

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## Virtual Learning Lab (VLL) Partnership

Orange County Virtual School (OCVS) and Florida Virtual School (FLVS) have come together to collaborate on a pilot program that focuses on positioning 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in Title I schools to be successfully accelerated through virtual education. OCVS and FLVS have also partnered with Lockhart Middle School to launch this initiative during the 2017-2018 school year. Approximately 70 students will participate during this inaugural year. The students will take the HOPE (Health Opportunities through Physical Education) class; online in the computer lab, at Lockhart Middle facilitated by both OCVS and FLVS teachers. This opportunity will allow the students to meet two high school graduation requirements prior to entering high school. OCVS and FLVS are excited to be “Kicking It At Lockhart!”



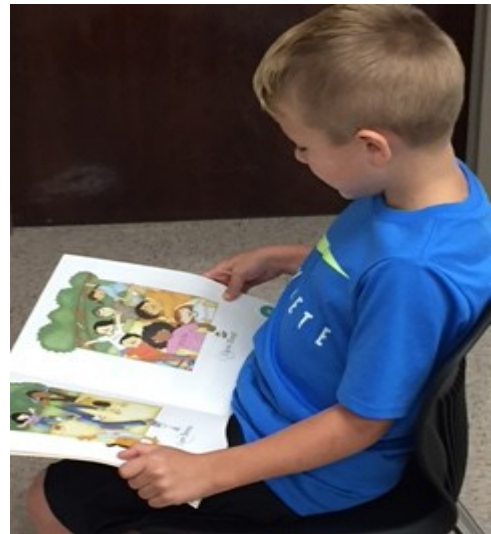
The next edition of the Virtual View will be published in December! Please send us your news and pictures. Email: [virtualeducation@fldoe.org](mailto:virtualeducation@fldoe.org)

# First Week in Clay!

Here are some pictures from the first week of school in Clay County. Students working in labs with teachers and elementary students on their first day of school meeting their teachers.



These 2 KG student's are reading a book for the first time ever!



# Highlands Virtual Team

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Virtual teachers: Terri Sinclair, lead teacher; Lorie Layfield, Steven Manley, Rhonda Hunter, Margaret Pierce and data operator April Snell.

Highlands Virtual School will offer online instruction by Highlands County teachers for students in grades 6 through 12. Highlands students have been able to take online courses for many years through Florida Virtual School, this will be the first year that the district virtual school will be able to offer different opportunities and benefits for their students.

According to lead teacher, Lorie Layfield, the virtual teachers are here in Highlands and know the community. They will have tutoring and monthly labs where students can interact with each other and their teachers. Students can be full-time or part-time virtual students; and parents who educate their children at home can use the virtual school for some of their curriculum. Students will be able to log in, receive curriculum and instruction, complete assignments, and take quizzes and tests online. Students will have access to their teachers for each subject through email, phone, instant message, or the virtual classroom.

Currently, Highlands Virtual School has 45 full-time students enrolled. Layfield estimates 300-400 courses will be taught to part-time student in the first semester. Way to go!!!



# Pasco Ranks!!!

Pasco has fantastic news to share: Niche just released their new 2018 Best School in America ranking, and Pasco eSchool was named the #2 online high school in Florida! The rankings are based primarily on academics, culture & diversity, parent/students surveys on overall experience, and teacher indicators.

The elementary, middle, and high school programs received "A" grades from the state! This is the first time in Pasco eSchool's nine years that they've received grades for their programs, and they're thrilled with the results. The teachers and students are amazing and having the grades to back up the work they do makes Pasco very proud.

After a full week of teacher pre-planning activities, they kicked off the school year with two special orientation "boot camp" programs. The elementary team lead "Camp Ninja" for students and families, to teach them the ways of Ninja success. The middle school team hosted a full day "Ninja Café" that helped the grades 6-8 learners start the year right.

Last, but certainly not least, Pasco welcomed 12 new teachers to their staff this fall. They're excited to see the innovative and engaging learning that their entire Ninja Nation will be doing this school year, especially with their theme of "All In!"

Eat. Sleep. eSchool. Gymnastics.



We added our hands and goals to our "All In" vision board:



# Duval is Unstoppable!

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## **Expanding Reach**

Duval Virtual is excited about the growth in initiatives affecting both part-time and full-time students as they aid the district's goals for increasing the graduation rate. They await the final numbers for the 2016-17 school year but are extremely proud that, in 2015-16, programs touched 7% of the district seniors thus playing an important part in the 10% increase for the district's graduation rate for that year. Duval Virtual currently operates labs in 22 of the district's high school programs. DVIA labs allow partnering with the district high schools to add additional opportunities for students to earn virtual credits to help students to fulfill their virtual graduation requirement and to catch up on credits if behind.

## **Fall Enrollment**

Duval Virtual welcomed 301 full-time students this fall in grades K-12. Each student was invited to an opportunity to sit down with a faculty member for an in person one-on-one orientation at the LIVE site. Teachers and counselors guided students and parents through the Edgenuity LMS and SIS demonstrating tools while detailing virtual best practices and expectations. Staff have found that breaking the "virtual ice" is easier for many families if they can do it with the reassurance of a faculty member guiding them through the initial exposure.

DVIA was also proud to have 17 students participating in Dual Enrollment this semester. Congratulations to those students seeking acceleration opportunities!

## **Extra-Curricular Clubs**

The 2017-18 school year will see the addition of two extra-curricular clubs to the school program. The Beta Club will gather students with at least a 3.5 weighted GPA for social and academic enrichment as well as community service projects throughout the community. This year's club, sponsored by Katie Maranto and Scott LeHockey, currently includes 11 students who will participate in activities including working at a local food bank, community and beach cleanup, and best of all getting to physically interact on a monthly basis for much needed face-to-face interaction at their LIVE Campus.

The Duval Virtual Science Department is joining the action with a new club sponsored by Kara Cecil. Excited students submitted project ideas, which included creating a sustainable garden at the LIVE campus, participating in physics' challenges, volunteering at a beach cleanup or the zoo, and exploring robotics. DVIA is encouraging students to bring science to life through these LIVE opportunities while also encouraging social engagement for students.