

SEPTEMBER 2019



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 want to take this opportunity to welcome the many new faces in our Florida virtual community. We hope to get to know each and every one of you soon. Let us know how we can assist you. We were new to the virtual world at one time, too, we remember being excited and overwhelmed at the same time and wanting to know everything instantaneously. You also have many wonderful virtual colleagues around the state who have so much expertise to share.

This newsletter puts real faces of excitement, learning, and opportunity on what is happening virtually in Florida to generate more understanding and knowledge about the great things you do for Florida students. Consider sharing your good news quarterly!

Best of luck in the new school year! We are only a phone call or email away!

Sandy, Stephen, Lisa and Savannah

Florida Online Course Catalog

The Florida Online Course Catalog has been updated with a new enhancement! The Single Sign-On (SSO) functionality has been successfully added. No more trying to remember your username and password! Your local district LEA will be able to provide district admin and district users with user credentials for logging in. It is our hope that the catalog will now be easier to access so that users can find the course(s) they are looking for.

We currently have over 19,000 courses from all 67 districts and Florida Virtual School along with 10 approved providers; so make sure that your courses are updated to showcase what your district offers! If you need assistance with updating course offerings and/or providers, please let us know and we will gladly make it work for your district!

Inside this issue:

K ¹² , Clay	2
Seminole	3
FLVS	3
Apex	4
Bay	4
Santa Rosa	5
Orange	5
Broward	6
Lee	6
Palm Beach	6
Hillsborough	7
Pasco	7

**“An investment
in knowledge
pays the best
interest.”**

Benjamin Franklin

K¹² Is Looking Forward To Another Great Year!



K¹² Florida Virtual Instruction Program students and teachers are off to a strong start! Instructors hosted online Meet the Teacher sessions and Learning Coach Homeroom sessions to support students and families. September is a busy month with the launch of Student and Class Connect sessions, in addition to diagnostic testing for every student. Online school might seem overwhelming at first, but the Engage site is a one stop shop for families. 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! K¹² National Clubs offer Chess, Makers, Minecraft, Photography, and much more for students! There will also be the first of many statewide Field Trip days this month. In September, K¹² teachers will be hosting face-to-face field trips across the state for students, families, and teachers to connect with each other. K¹² looks forward to another great year!

Submitted by: Odalys Rodriguez

Clay's Changes For The New Year!

Clay Virtual Academy (CVA) is excited to announce their adoption of the Edgenuity platform for the 2019-20 school year.

Edgenuity is an innovative online curriculum that CVA will offer to their full and part time students in conjunction with the FLVS learning platform for all 6th-12th graders. CVA strives to encourage and challenge students to excel academically.

Edgenuity will help them to achieve this goal because it gives teachers the ability to work with the curriculum in courses to meet and exceed the educational needs of students.



During the summer, many teachers were given an opportunity to pilot this innovative program and they were able to make adjustments to the curriculum to meet the many diverse needs of the students CVA proudly serves. During the Edgenuity pilot, CVA received a lot of positive feedback from students and parents. As excited as teachers are to work with this new platform, they are equally as excited to welcome many school lab facilitators to the CVA team this year. Over the past year, CVA has extended the boundaries of Clay Virtual to brick and mortar schools and have seen the benefits of being more active in these schools. This year Clay Virtual is continuing this program by providing training for facilitators for all of their virtual program offerings.

CVA is also using the K¹² Inc. (FuelEducation) Virtual Instruction Program curriculum to work with elementary students. The elementary team is very excited to use this new platform in the district to enhance the virtual education experience.

Finally, CVA is pleased to announce that based on this past year's state exams, they were ranked #1 in the county in Biology and #3 in the county for US History. CVA applauds their students and teachers for their great work and looks forward to utilizing these changes and accomplishments as a springboard for success in the coming academic year!

Submitted by: David Bishop

Seminole Is Getting Social!



Seminole County Virtual School (SCVS) is stepping up their social game! They are excited to offer full and part time students activities for team building, getting to know you, and volunteer opportunities. The first event will be offered to full time students who want to come out and socialize and work together. This will be a great chance for full time students to expand their circle of friends and make some “virtual connections.”

This year SCVS started a volunteer program for full and part time students. SCVS is arranging monthly volunteer opportunities to help students give back to their communities and earn volunteer hours.

SCVS is passionate about giving students these opportunities and believes these interactions to be vital to their success!

Submitted by: Courtney Kavanaugh

Florida Virtual School News!



Florida Virtual School (FLVS) participated in many back to school and preplanning events throughout the state, which included a school supply and backpack drive for the Alachua Ronald McDonald House, a beach cleanup at Spanish River Beach, Boca Raton, and a Fun 4 Gator Kids bash in Gainesville to name a few! Starting off the new school year on the right foot is important at any age, and the virtual school environment is no exception. Visit the [Virtual Voice blog](#) to see how FLVS is helping students and families head back to school.



The Florida Department of Education released school grades for 2019 Spring Assessment and FLVS celebrated earning its first ‘A’ for Middle School. Congratulations to all the teachers, staff, and administrators who worked so diligently for the success of students!



Whether in elementary, middle, or high school, FLVS students can explore extracurricular interests outside their classes and interact with other FLVS students through the 55+ clubs FLVS offers. From languages to video production, to coding and geography, there’s something for everyone regardless of age or grade. FLVS recently hosted two Virtual Club Rush information sessions for students and parents. To learn more, visit [FLVS Student Clubs](#).

Submitted by: Suzan Kurdak

Students On The Path To Graduation With Apex!

There's more than one path to graduation and many students benefit from learning options other than the traditional classroom. For struggling students, just getting through one course can be daunting and frustrating. But it doesn't have to be this way. In this [podcast](#), published in the Tampa Bay Times, Jackson, a senior in Pasco County Schools, talks about how Apex Learning helped him overcome obstacles in his journey to graduation. This is just one of many students who have benefitted from a rigorous, yet accessible digital curriculum that helped them get back on grade level and on track to graduation. Students who are considered behind academically in grade levels often spend more time on "catching up" and less time on challenging and complex problems. All students deserve time to practice and develop critical thinking skills. This is where high quality digital curriculum can really help—students can work at their own pace and work on topics targeted for additional instruction.

"I can sit down and focus. [With Apex] you really absorb it and it teaches you a lot. It's important for me to graduate because it's kind of a goal for everyone in life." -Sean, 10th Grade, Gulf High School

Keeping struggling students engaged and motivated is a challenge for educators. In a survey of students who dropped out of high school, 69% said they were not motivated or inspired to work hard, yet 66% said they would have worked harder if it was demanded of them.

"Apex helped me build my confidence up by showing me that it's ok to be scared but it's also ok to believe in yourself, show that you are worthy of doing these things, that you can push yourself to the max and prove to people that you can become what you want to be." -Jervon, 12th Grade, Gulf High School

Learn how implementing Apex Learning digital curriculum in your district can provide more opportunities for struggling students to get back on grade level and on track to graduation. Contact Marcia Philosophos, Florida Account Executive, at 904.631.9565, and visit <https://www.apexlearning.com/florida>.

Submitted by: Marcia Philosophos

A Fresh Start For Bay!

Bay Virtual School (BVS) was recognized as an 'A' school for the 3rd year in a row. BVS is proud of their students and teachers for this achievement during a difficult year. Bay continues to work hard to rebuild the community, schools, and homes following Hurricane Michael, and are thankful for the level of parent support that continued even when families faced the loss of their homes and jobs.

The entire BVS administrative and instructional staff are excited to start fresh on a new school year. BVS welcomed many new families to their school and looks forward to bringing teachers, parents, and students together at the upcoming Open House in September!

Submitted by: Diane Fields



Santa Rosa's Fantastic Start To The Year!



On August 13th, over fifty full time virtual students from Santa Rosa Online Academy (SROA) stormed the campus of Locklin Technical College for their annual orientation meeting. The students were hosted by the staff of Santa Rosa Online Academy, who had multiple interactive activities planned for them to learn how to be successful as virtual students.

Referred to as, “Boot Camp,” there was a full day of instructional groups for the students, culminating with a parent meeting at the end of the day. The 2019-20 SROA students started the day with STEM activities, which was an excellent way for the new group to get to know one another. Both students and faculty enjoyed activities centered around the skills the students would need to be successful as virtual students.

Small group instructional groups on netiquette, using Blackboard for live lessons, note taking, academic integrity, collaboration, ClassLink, Discussion Based Assessments, communication skills, and organization and planning were just some of the topics covered. After an exciting Escape Room activity to assess retention of knowledge, returning SROA students addressed the new students and provided advice on how to be successful in their virtual courses. It was certainly a fantastic start to a new year!



Submitted by: Rachel Wade

Orange Had A Huge Opening!

Orange County Virtual School (OCVS) opened the 2019-20 school year with a huge bang! The staff participated in a week of pre-planning, collaboration, and energetic collegial fun focused around culture code and acts of kindness. As OCVS continues in excellence, they are embracing this year's theme of “Grit to Great... Striving for Excellence, One Student at a Time!”



OCVS teachers participated in a Scavenger Hunt during pre-planning!

Submitted by: Dr. Zundra Aubrey



Congratulations!

Teacher of the Year
Dr. Demetra Williams

Support Person of the Year
Mr. Jeff Staneff

Broward Welcomes New Adventures!



Welcome Back to School! Broward Virtual School (BVS) is excited to begin the 2019-20 school year by welcoming an additional teacher to the growing Driver's Education program and offering American Sign Language to full time students. BVS is close to 400 enrollments with two more weeks before applications close for the semester. The brilliant Team leader of BVS, Ms. Lallouz, has already planned the academic seminars for the school year with a western style theme to take the students on a wild exploration of the written language.

Broward Virtual School was rated an 'A' school for 2018-19 school year by the Florida Department of Education. This year has begun like no other year and BVS welcomes the adventures it brings. Wishing everyone an amazing school year!

Submitted by: Antonette McGregor

Lee Virtual Turns 10!

The 2019-20 school year is a very special one for Lee Virtual School (LVS) and they are off to an amazing start! This year, LVS celebrates a decade of online learning success. And to add to the excitement, Lee Virtual School is ranked an 'A' school in the State of Florida for the 5th time! The celebration continued on to the first days of school where Lee welcomed back over 360 students and families among three days. With the success and praise from last school year, LVS also continued with "First Days of Parent School."

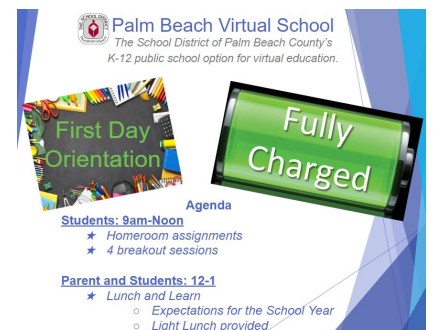


This September LVS will host their first ever Club Surfer Rush. This event will allow students the opportunity to meet and talk with club sponsors and current members about joining the different clubs and activities that are offered. They are even adding the first ever fishing club this year sponsored by Lee's very own Principal, Mr. Al Shilling. LVS hopes that the future success of this event will be carried on every school year in hopes of continuing students' excitement for being a part of the school's unique culture. Lee Virtual School firmly believes that this school year is going to be one of the best ones yet!

Submitted by: Cynthia Vasquez

Palm Beach Is Fully Charged!

Palm Beach Virtual School (PBVS) started the year fully charged! All new and returning students arrived on campus to beautifully decorated and welcoming rooms. To date PBVS has 105 full time 7004 students and 38 VIP students. These students made their way under the fully charged limbo stick, then met with their homeroom teachers. After rotating through various sessions, the students had lunch with their parents and the staff. This was an electrifying way to start the year!



Submitted by: Juliana Davis

Innovation And Interaction For Hillsborough!

Hillsborough Virtual School is off to an amazing start! HVS welcomed over 300 attendees to their face to face orientation before the start of the 2019-20 school year. After orientation, students and parents had the opportunity to meet their teachers and interact with new classmates. HVS is looking forward to a year full of innovation and interaction!



Families enjoyed documenting the start of the new school year through pictures with props!



Thanks to the hard work and dedication of faculty, staff, and students, HVS got an 'A!'



The enthusiastic K-5 teachers couldn't resist the props either!

Submitted by: Sherri Hillgruber

Excellence Everywhere At Pasco!

Pasco eSchool is kicking off year eleven with the theme "Excellence Everywhere!" Most of the Ninja Nation posed for a first-week photo!

This year, Pasco is introducing "Classroom On Demand" - a blended learning solution for several of their partner schools. Pasco is providing the technology, online curriculum, virtual certified teacher, and lab facilitator for schools who were not able to fill instructional positions by the beginning of the school year.

Pasco eSchool is also incorporating the district's focus on Social/Emotional Learning and Trauma-Informed Care, adding new strategies to online teaching in order to help students be successful learners.

Pasco hopes everyone has had a fantastic start to the school year!

Submitted by: Pam Willoughby

