

September 2016



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# the Virtual View

## Welcome Back!

Welcome back to another school year filled with opportunity and growth for Florida students! Because of you, Florida students have access to more choices than any other state. Because of your time, talent and treasures Florida students are exposed to endless learning possibilities. Just peek into the Florida Online Course Catalog that boasts over 12,800 virtual courses listed! That is because you continue to give 110 percent to your passion; educating students who are our future.

We are here to support you this year; hosting five virtual education regional workshops to work with districts and providers and provide clarity and understanding of Florida statues, virtual options, database and FTE reporting; continuing our Meet and Greet Calls with each district to connect and collaborate as needed, and sending Welcome Packets to our newest virtual coordinators in the districts. We are a phone call or an email away!

We hope this year is filled with great experiences and lessons learned as we continue to work together to give Florida students the tools they need to grow and succeed.

Sandy, Nicolle, Lisa, Meagan and Pradeep

## The Future of Virtual Art Exhibits

The art department is often the first to be affected by school budget cuts. Virtual exhibits can be created with little to no costs and, with fund raising opportunities, can actually make money to support art programs.

Children are gaining technological experience at very young ages. As virtual art exhibits gain popularity in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools, the students will be able to create and manage the exhibits on their own rather than the instructor doing it.

Effort is a main component of art class. Students feel a heightened sense of accomplishment when they see their finished work on display. Virtual art exhibits encourage students to take pride in their work. Also, the virtual exhibit can act as a journal for the students, showing their progress throughout the year.



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*“Education must not simply teach work— it must teach life”*

W.E.B. Du Bois

## **K<sup>12</sup> Strong Start Team Creates and Distributes Toolkits for Schools!**

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Before the school year started the K<sup>12</sup> Strong Start team was preparing not only families for a successful year but school administrators as well! Client Service Managers and Client Achievement Coordinators worked with the school administrators on school specifics for the year, such as any policy changes and timelines including grades and when report cards go out. School administrators also received toolkits to assist them in thinking about the new school year and planning how to make it a successful year. The Administrator Toolkit includes topics, such as; ideas to welcome new and returning students and families, setting up expectations for a successful year, planning school events to help build a community and growing their enrollment.



The Teacher Toolkit gave teachers sample letters and notes they can use, ideas on how to plan events, what the day in the life of a teacher and student look like, and planning and organizing their school year. K<sup>12</sup> encourage schools to use these toolkits and also to ask questions or ideas they might have to help their students succeed. The partnerships K<sup>12</sup> has with the school administrators enables them to work together as a team to put students first!

### **Live Sessions for K12 Students**

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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 K<sup>12</sup> has 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. Students are encouraged to use all the tools that have been provided for their success. Some of these sessions include resources like the Office 365 PowerPoint, Q & A open forum, Online Orientation and the Curriculum Overview. Families are also encouraged to take time to go through and get familiar with the Strong Start Program. Good preparation leads to a successful outcome and will ease the jitters when students begin their school year.

### **Virtual Field Trips**

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Science is fun when making homemade bouncy balls. Who knew simple household items could turn into hours of fun! Students from all over joined Natalie's Virtual Field Trip for a bouncing good time, meanwhile learning about polymers and chemical reactions. Although these bouncy balls are temporary, the memories are not!



Submitted by Traci Hill

## First Week Back at St. Johns

St. Johns Virtual School (SJVS) kicked off the 2016-2017 school year with a week of professional development focused on relationship building, best practices, and direct instruction. At the back to school orientation, SJVS proudly introduced its 11 new full-time faculty members to the SJVS community! SJVS will serve over 160 full-time students and support thousands of part time students throughout St. Johns County.

Submitted by Michael Eisen



## Pinellas Virtual School Provides Orientation and Internet Safety

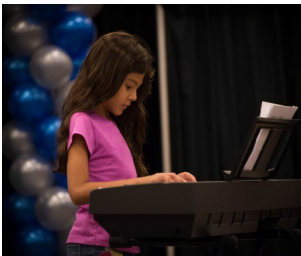


Pinellas Virtual School is off to an excellent start for the 2016-17 school year. There was an opportunity to provide face-to-face orientations to get everyone off to a great start. Students and teachers were able to meet and begin building relationships.

Additionally, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office hosted an Internet Safety Night for Pinellas Virtual School. They provided fantastic information on how to keep students safe on the Internet and handed out free Parental Monitoring Software.

Submitted by Mandy Perry

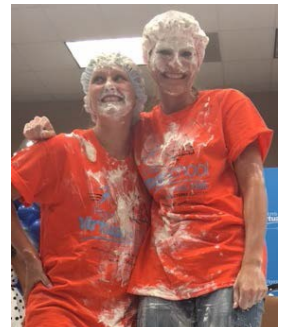
## FLVS FT Ends the 2015-16 Year with Fun



FLVS Full Time celebrated the end of the 2015-16 school year with the 9th Annual Talent Show. Dancing, singing, karate, and playing instruments are just a few of the many talents Kindergarten – 8th grades students showcased on this special day. Also, FLVS Full Time took this opportunity to celebrate participants of the Science and Art Fairs by displaying their great work.

As a culminating fun activity, students had a blast placing whipped cream filled pies into the faces of their school administrators for meeting their yearly achievement goals! Kudos to the elementary school principal and assistant principal for being such great sports!

Submitted by Sally Fernandez



## St. Lucie Prepares Their Students for the New Year!

St. Lucie's K-12 students were engaged in a school wide strong start approach this year by attending Mosaic Digital Academy's Student Success Skills Training offered on campus the first week of school. Students learned how to log onto their virtual platforms, to navigate courseware, apply time management strategies and study skills strategies, learn about online safety and digital citizenship skills, and to build peer and staff relationships which all contribute to their success! Highlights of the virtual program: on-campus supports provided three days a week, social events, full time teachers are certified Microsoft Innovative Educators, the school is digital citizenship certified since 2014, and they are a Kids At Hope school.



Submitted by Jeanne Ziembra

## Lake County Virtual Family Expands

Lake County Virtual School welcomed four new full-time members to the staff for the 2016-2017 school year. Stacie Clark (Counselor), Jennifer Badeaux (PE Instructor), Jamie Berry (Social Studies Instructor) and Acacia Page (Driver's Education Instructor) joined the "Dream Team" of Lake County Virtual this school year. Paul Miller was the social studies teacher last year, but he accepted the position of program specialist this year. The new members were hired, in part, due to the **over 17% increase in course completions** during the 2015-2016 school year.

Brick and mortar schools have mascots, so they may be able to say things like they know the "Roar" of a lion or the "Growl" of the bear to identify themselves with a single school. Lake County Virtual teachers serve every secondary school in Lake County, so they have come to know the power of the "Click" of a mouse.



Jennifer Brenes, Nicole Carrasquillo, Carolyn Mendez, Natalie Taylor, Jessica Hopperton and Mike Elchenko are also included in the selfie shot.

## Bay Virtual Welcomes a New Principal

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Bay Virtual School is growing! Under the leadership of the new principal, Ms. Shelly Rouse, six full-time teachers have been hired and are working in the blended labs at the district's high schools and offering teaching support to the full-time virtual students in the computer lab at BVS's new location. To go along with the newly expanded programs, there is a new website. Check it out at [www.bayvirtualschool.com](http://www.bayvirtualschool.com).



Submitted by Diane Fields

## Orange County Virtual Teachers Are An Essential Piece of the Puzzle

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Orange County Virtual School (OCVS) teachers started their year off with a bang during their week of pre-planning. “Working Together” is the theme for this year; each teacher is playing their part to be an essential piece of the puzzle.

OCPS has so much going on this year and the excitement is contagious! OCVS will be offering more clubs and activities for students than ever before, including: the Do Something Club, Science Club, Book Club, Fitness Club, International Club, NJHS/ NHS, Campus Activities and Field Trips, Connect Club, Yearbook, Healthy Team, Diversity Club, and many more. There certainly is something to spark everyone's interest!

The OCVS Field Trip Committee already has an exciting field trip planned to start the year off with a historical bang! Students will be traveling to the Orange County Regional History Center, where they will learn about the historical significance of Orange County and all the county has to offer.



The OCVS 'Do Something' Club also has great things planned for the year. Students will have the opportunity to volunteer at Give Kids the World and Second Harvest Food Bank.

It is going to be a GREAT year!

Submitted by Lacey Anderson

## Pasco eSchool Puts Criminal Justice Academy on the Map

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Exciting things are happening at Pasco eSchool! A virtual Criminal Justice Academy is being launched and will offer students the chance to test for industry certifications if they have taken all 4 years of Criminal Justice Operations. An industry certification would mean that upon passing the industry certification exam, a student could obtain employment in the field they have completed the coursework for.



Pasco eSchool currently offers Criminal Justice Operations 1 and Criminal Justice Operations 2. In the works is Criminal Justice Operations 3 and Criminal Justice Operations 4. Industry certifications that will be offered in Criminal Justice Operations 4 will likely be a 911 Telecommunicator industry certification and a Legal Assistant industry certification through NALS, the association for legal professionals.

To the best of their knowledge, Pasco eSchool will be the only virtual school in the state to not only offer courses above Criminal Justice Operations 1, but also to offer a full virtual academy with an industry certification.

Stay tuned for future exciting updates!

If you would like more information about Pasco eSchools Criminal Justice Academy, please contact Principal JoAnne Glenn at [jglenn@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:jglenn@pasco.k12.fl.us)

Submitted by Jill Marie Bopp

## Hillsborough's 2016 Meet-and-Greet

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Faculty and staff at Hillsborough Virtual School are excited to welcome the 2016-17 school year! They kicked off the year with a meet-and-greet session at Barnes and Noble for students and faculty.



Submitted by Tanya Grinnell

## News from the Tower

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We are proud to announce that the Florida Online Course Catalog now has over 12,800 courses with a total of 401 unique courses!

Along with the feedback feature for each course, we now have completion and passage rates posted next to each applicable course in each district.

Thank you to all districts for helping to make this catalog a successful tool for parents and students to search for and learn about the course offerings in each district along with the provider information for grades K-12.