

SEPTEMBER 2018



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

the Virtual View

Welcome Back!

What an exciting time of 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. You have many wonderful virtual colleagues around the state who have so much expertise in the virtual world and are willing to share. We have started our Meet and Greet phone calls with all the districts and look forward to speaking to each and every one of you soon. It is always so exciting to hear your enthusiasm for your students and the new opportunities you want to provide for them.

The virtual education office is here to assist our virtual friends either by phone, email and if necessary a car ride away. We are committed to working as a team to keep Florida #1 in school choice options for students. Keep sharing your good news and have a great school year!

Sandy, Stephen, Lisa and Savannah

Florida Online Course Catalog

Well... After working for the last 6 months on re-vamping the FOCC, as promised, we are happy to offer the finished product! We are very excited to present this very valuable tool to all the districts. The new user friendly catalog will not only showcase your district course offerings, but you will be able to find any course from any district with just a couple of clicks. With our new filters and drop-downs, I'm sure you will be using the catalog all the time! The selected course details will include the school number and provider code for each course so that we can collect accurate data for the statutorily required completion and passage rates. Thank you all for your patience and I hope that you will enjoy using the new and improved catalog as much as we do!

Lisa Luna

Inside this issue:

FLVS	2
Clay	2
Duval	3
St. Johns	3
Broward	4
Bay	4
Santa Rosa	5
Lee	5
K ¹²	6
Orange	6
Pasco	7
Florida Connections Academy	7

“Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.”

New Opportunities For FLVS Students!

Florida Virtual School (FLVS), a statewide public school district in Florida, is proud to introduce a new 48 course elementary curriculum for the 2018-19 school year! Courses include English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Spanish, Art, Physical Education, and Technology. From Kindergarten through 5th grade, these courses incorporate activities students can do in their own home, encourages them to use their personal experiences to power their learning, and includes plenty of teacher time to support individual students. To learn more about FLVS Elementary options and how to enroll, families should visit: www.flvs.net/elementary.

Also new this year, FLVS is now offering a total of 55 student clubs, including 14 new clubs for elementary students! Whether in elementary, middle, or high school, FLVS students can explore extracurricular interests outside their classes and interact with other FLVS students. From languages to video production; to coding and geography, there's something for everyone! To learn more visit: www.flvs.net/student-resources/clubs-activities/clubs.

FLVS elementary students were treated to a literacy kickoff before heading back to school! In August, more than 30 students and their families toured the Florida Governor's Mansion and met with Florida's First Lady Ann Scott. The First Lady read several books to the Kindergarten-5th grade students. The event gave FLVS students from across the state a chance to spend time with their virtual classmates in Tallahassee.



Submitted by: Suzan Kurdak

Clay Starts Another Exciting School Year!

As the new school year begins, Clay Virtual Academy (CVA) is embarking on its seventh year as a Kindergarten-12th grade virtual school, providing full time, part time, homeschool, and virtual learning lab enrollment opportunities. During teacher planning week, teachers were given a variety of professional development choices, time to spend planning activities and lessons (which is a teacher favorite), along



with team building, rekindling relationships, and catching up on the latest news! CVA also welcomed new teachers, along with new Administrators; Mr. Steven Amburgey, Interim Principal and Mrs. Melissa Kowieski, Assistant Principal. CVA continues to foster an environment for students and faculty to dream, achieve, and soar! Clay is ready for another exciting school year!

Submitted by: Melissa Kowieski and Kathy Sheridan

Duval Is Excited For the New Year!



Duval Virtual started the 2018-19 school year with over 600 applications, 70 new students, and 95 families at orientation!

Duval continues to teach live lessons on campus and work with students one-on-one. Each department runs a virtual classroom during the week. For example, on Tuesday the ELA department tutors students and does a “live” virtual lesson for each grade level. Because of the direct contact teachers have had with students, there was a record number of students who tested last year and passed. There was also a record number of seniors who graduated and were ready for college!

The Beta Club, Spanish Club, Science Club, and Gaming Club will be joined this year with a Book Club. Duval is also preparing for a School Spelling Bee and the 9th Birthday Party of DVIA which will be held at Adventure Landing in November. The birthday party is sponsored by the Senior Class and Duval looks forward to a time of celebrating with families and students!

Submitted by: Leslie Jones



St. Johns' Environmental Cleanup!



During pre-planning, the faculty at St. Johns Virtual School (SJVS) took time off for teambuilding by playing a few rounds of Omnikin!

Student socialization has become a goal for SJVS. The faculty has responded by providing monthly events like Battle of the Books, Academic Days, Academic Dinners, Game Days, and beach clean ups! Clubs like National Honor Society, Writing Club, and Spanish Club also allow students to meet and learn from their peers!



SJVS partnered with the Sol Margin Fishing and Conservation Foundation for an environmental cleanup!

Submitted by: Michael Eisen

Broward Continues To Grow!

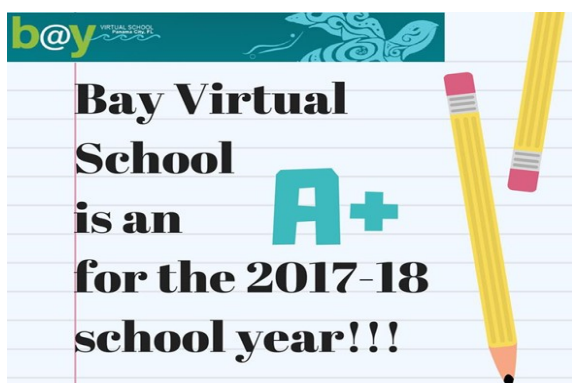
Welcome to the 2018-19 school year! Broward Virtual School (BVS) has had the pleasure of adding four additional staff members to their family! Two instructors were hired and the School Counseling Department expanded to meet the needs of the Full Time program, which is growing every week. The Full Time Program enrollment has increased to over 400 students and BVS is hosting orientations for new students weekly through the end of September! Students continue to excel in their academics while having the opportunity to explore their interests. This year new courses such as Driver's Education, Journalism, Theater, Cinema, and Film Production are available to students! BVS is very proud of students and is looking forward to a successful school year!



Broward Virtual Students enjoyed their summer travels while continuing their online education!

Submitted by: Antonette McGregor

Bay Is Feeling Proud!



Bay Virtual School was once again rated an “A” school and were #1 in the district for FSA ELA assessment scores, as well as for the percentage of high school students taking advanced level classes. Bay Virtual School is very proud of the effort made by teachers, students, and parents for providing a rigorous virtual learning environment that produced these outstanding results!

Mya Mitchell (left), who is a 9th grade student, was chosen to participate in the weeklong Project Lead the Way Camp at the Institute on Nuclear Science and Medicine at Florida State University! Student research began on the topic of nuclear security and then students learned about heart catheterization, stents, and radioactive dyes along with the functions of organs. Way to go Mya!

Submitted by: Diane Fields



Santa Rosa's Successful Orientation!

Santa Rosa Online Academy (SROA) is so excited about their growth! This picture is one of four back to school orientations for returning and new students. First, SROA met with returning full time students. Everyone was excited to see one another again, and the students were anxious to begin working on assignments. Instructors were introduced and parents completed required district forms. Also included in the orientation was instruction on the importance of note taking and organization with a notebook for each course, DBA suggestions, as well as helpful hints for math assistance and where to find resources. In addition, students reviewed SROA policies and procedures. It was both informative and exciting!

Following the returners, SROA hosted a standing room only crowd of new students and their parents. The same topics were covered as with the returners, with the addition of DBA scheduling, communication procedures, expectations, academic integrity, and the Welcome Call. It was exciting to see so many new families embrace this online learning opportunity and trust Santa Rosa Online Academy with their children!



Submitted by: Rachel Wade

Lee's Best Start Of School Ever!

At the start of the 2018-19 school year Lee Virtual School continued the "First Days of School" activities, which were so successful last year, and added a "First Days of Parent School" to the agenda! While students were meeting with teachers to get pace charts, meet other students, and discover the joys of virtual learning, parents were given an understanding of course navigation and how to help their students when needed. Similarly, the elementary team invited new families to the building and to work where immediate assistance was at hand. Some "veteran" families joined the activities and provided the parent/home perspective! One enterprising student created and led a game of Kahoot to quiz returning students about information they gathered during teacher presentations. These new activities and outstanding planning and execution by all of the staff resulted in the best start of school ever!



Submitted by: Ann Taylor

K¹² Is Off To A Strong Start!

K¹² Florida Virtual Instruction 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!



K¹² is excited to announce that their K5 platform has been updated for Language Arts, Math, and Science courses! Students are now working in Summit Courses to provide a smoother and more supported experience. Summit Courses have removed flash, making them easier to navigate and faster to work in. These courses also have upgraded features, such as the option to have text read to students and a link for help, which provides extra practice. This is the second year the upper level students will be working with Summit Courses.

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 to students! There will also be the first of many statewide Field Trip days this month. On September 28th, 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: Kristen Randolph and Brenda MacDonald

Orange Is Empowering Students!

Orange County Virtual School (OCVS) welcomed students, parents, and the community back to school! Excited and on the move, this year's theme is "OCVS Empowering Students to... Imagine, Explore, Excel." OCVS is continuing to grow in student enrollments. They are excited to offer new courses through Canvas, giving students greater opportunities to expand curriculum offerings. This will be a phenomenal year and the OCVS staff will continue to charge on to provide teaching, innovation, and the best practices in digital learning for K-12 students!



OCVS teachers participated in interactive and fun teambuilding exercises and workshops!

Meet the 2018-19 Orange County Virtual Staff!

Submitted by: Dr. Zundra Aubrey

Pasco Plans For The Best Year Yet!

Pasco eSchool kicked off its tenth year with a busy planning week. Most of the faculty gathered for "Ninja House" photos on the first day back to school!



Pasco is thrilled to celebrate two major accomplishments this past summer. First, being honored with FLVS' Large Franchise of the Year during the annual franchise meeting. Second, at the annual Instructure/Canvas conference in Colorado, Nancy Barbara, American Sign Language team leader, received the Canvas Middle School Teacher of the Year Award!



At partner schools throughout the county, teacher liaisons have been supporting virtual learning lab facilitators and online students as they begin their fall semesters. Pasco's full time elementary and middle school students joined their teachers for several days of back to school "boot camp" activities. Students inspire and remind Pasco teachers why they do what they do, and why they plan to make 2018-19 the "Best Year Yet!"

Submitted by: Pam Willoughby

Florida Connections Academy's First Year!



While the first day of school typically involves packing a book bag and getting on the bus, for some Florida students the first day of school meant logging onto the computer and into the online classroom to learn! Florida Connections Academy (FCA), the state's newest full time, tuition free, statewide online public charter school, kicked off its inaugural school year with 1,500 students in grades K-8 from across Florida. The school, sponsored by Hillsborough County Public Schools, will add a grade level each year until it serves grades K-12.

FCA offers students Florida certified teachers, an award winning curriculum, technology tools, engaging electives, and in person and online social experiences, creating a supportive and successful online learning program for families who want an individualized approach to education. While learning from home, students work closely with teachers using detailed daily lesson plans that can be personalized to meet individual student needs. Curriculum from the nationally recognized Connections Academy program combines high quality resources from leading publishers with cutting edge, yet easy to use, technology tools and hands-on materials.

A virtual school approach can serve a wide range of students, including those who are significantly ahead or behind in the classroom, those who need a flexible schedule or learn at a different pace from their peers, and those who need more individualized attention or live in isolated rural settings. Homebound and previously homeschooled students also thrive in the Florida Connections Academy program.

Submitted by: Michele Voelkening