



# Just for Teachers

News from the Florida Department of Education

February 2012

## Communication from Commissioner Robinson...

### School District Rankings

The Florida Department of Education has released a numerical ranking of the 67 school districts. The district-by-district ranking is the first phase of an initiative that will make it easier for parents and education stakeholders to assess schools.

The numerical ranking is based on each school's total points derived from FCAT scores. The total is the sum of scores for reading, math, science and writing; learning gains in reading and math; and scores for learning gains in reading and math among the lowest 25 percent of students in each school. The school district ranking is determined by the school grade points they earned based on the assessment scores of all students in the district that were enrolled for the full year.

Florida Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson stated that using data is essential for measuring student progress and school effectiveness and ensuring that Florida's educational system continues to move in the right direction.

The district ranking can be found at <http://www.fldoe.org/SchoolDistrictRanking/>.

### Just for Teachers FLDOE Social Media

**Facebook** – <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=726112111#!/EducationFL>

**Twitter** – <http://www.twitter.com/teachersfl>

**Blog** – <http://www.teachersfl.wordpress.com>

**YouTube** – <http://www.youtube.com/educationfl>

**Shutterfly** - <http://floridadepartmentofeducation.shutterfly.com/>

**Flickr** – <http://www.flickr.com/photos/educationfl>



Teacher Talk February Episode

## Computer Based Testing

On this episode we take a look at the Top 5 issues teachers face during computer based testing events

Visit <http://www.fldoe.org/JustForTeachers/tta.asp> to view past episodes!



The Florida Department of Education has a video series called Education 360 which provides quick snapshots about important education reform efforts currently underway in the Sunshine State. View them all at <http://www.fldoe.org/ARRA/RacetoptheTop.asp> or on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/educationfl>.

## Curriculum Corner

### **PBS LearningMedia.com**

To foster classroom innovation and engagement, PBS member stations throughout Florida have launched *PBS LearningMedia* (<http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/>), a free service for all teachers, students and families in Florida created in collaboration with PBS and WGBH, and their producing partners WNET and KET. In addition to a rich public media library, PBS LearningMedia has content contributed from other publicly funded organizations, including the National Archives, the Library of Congress and NPR, as well as content funded by NASA, the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, FLDOE and the US Department of Education, to deliver thousands of resources for use in the classroom and with home-schoolers.

## Teacher Discounts



### **Daytona International Speedway**

Daytona International Speedway is proud to offer Florida Public School Educators a special discount up to 50% off race tickets to the 2012 Daytona 500 and SPEEDWEEKS events. Special offers start at only \$30. For more information or to purchase tickets, please go to <http://www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com/savings> or call 1-800-PITSHOP (748-7467) and mention Race Rewards and Florida Department of Education.

### SeaWorld

For the 14th year, SeaWorld Orlando offers a complimentary Teacher Study Pass to all active and certified K-12 Florida grade school teachers. The pass is valid for unlimited admission to SeaWorld Orlando through 12/31/2012. Please visit <http://seaworldparks.com/seaworld-orlando/Educational-Programs/Teacher-Programs/Teacher-Study-Pass> for more information.

### Olin Star

Olin Star offers jewelry at a special rate for teachers. Co-created by an educator, we give you over 3000 gemstone and metal jewelry for men and women at already below retail. Visit <http://www.olinastar.com/> and Florida Teachers receive extra 15% discount on all purchases. Enter code "FLORIDA". Don't forget to register and add your school to receive store credit to use for future purchases.

## Teacher Treasures

Our January Giveaway for a class set of **Kingdom Keeper** books was won by Stacy Fabrega, a teacher at Leon High School in Tallahassee, Florida.

Our February Giveaway for a \$100.00 **OlinStar.com** gift certificate.

With such a variety of offerings, we will clear all entry forms on the day of the drawings. Our submission form will reopen on the first of each month. Enter today at <http://www.fldoe.org/JustForTeachers/>.

## Education News

### Summer Counselors Needed

Circle F Dude Ranch Camp LLC, Lake Wales, is looking for summer counselors and heads of departments for this summer. Circle F has been in continuous operations for the past 60 years with an exemplary reputation.

Our summer sessions start June 10<sup>th</sup> and end August 14<sup>th</sup>. In addition, there is a one week training period which would require you to be here June 3<sup>rd</sup> or slightly earlier. The starting salary for counselor is **\$2,300** for a 10-week (plus 4 days) contract. Our counselors should be energetic, hard working with a positive attitude. In short we would like them to 'bring something to the table' to enhance the campers' experience here at Circle F. Cabin counselors are the prime care givers for each camper and are responsible for the planning, teaching, coordinating and carrying out of activities and guiding campers in their personal growth and daily living skills during the summer. Each counselor shares a cabin for 12 with another counselor and 10 campers. The work week is 6 days and 24 hours a day.

Please contact Ben Moss at [ben@circlefduderanch.com](mailto:ben@circlefduderanch.com) or call at (863) 676-4113. Check us out on our website [www.circlefduderanch.com](http://www.circlefduderanch.com).

# **Department of Education Bureau Spotlight**

## **February is National CTE Month!**

### **Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Florida**

Florida's CTE programs have changed significantly from the days when boys took wood shop and girls took home economics. Today students can select from courses in nearly 300 different career programs ranging from Multimedia Design to Aerospace Technologies and include 34 secondary programs that have been classified as Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs [http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/stem\\_cluster\\_frame12.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/stem_cluster_frame12.asp) .

### **Industry Certifications and Articulated Credit**

CTE programs are designed to provide students with a college preparatory curriculum that incorporate an integrated career theme. Additionally, many programs afford students the opportunity to earn specific industry certifications which document student achievement of industry standards based on industry created assessments. Florida's nearly 400 industry certifications range from Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to Cisco Certified Design Professional (<https://app1.fldoe.org/WEIndCert/Default.aspx>). Many of the certifications have statewide articulation agreements which guarantee credit toward a related Associate Degree. [http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/artic\\_indcert2aas.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/artic_indcert2aas.asp)

### **The Division of Career and Adult Education (DCAE)**

The Division of Career and Adult Education (DCAE) is designed to meet the needs of our customers, which include students, business and industry, school districts, community colleges, community-based organizations, and correctional institutions. This area represents a significant collaboration and partnership across both private and public sectors throughout the state of Florida to improve Florida's workforce. DCAE information can be found at <http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/> .

To serve this diverse population, the DCAE Division is divided into several sections. The following are just a few of the sections and links to their information:

- **Adult Education** <http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/adulted/>
- **Apprenticeship** <http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/apprenticeship/>
- **Career and Technical Education**—<http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/>
- **Farmworkers Jobs and Education Program (FJEP)**  
<http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/fjep/>
- **General Education Development (GED)** <http://ged.fldoe.org/default.asp>
- **State and Federal Grants** <http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdgrants/default.asp>
- **Veteran Diploma Program** <http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/veteran-diploma.asp>

## Professional Development

The DCAE supports professional development for secondary and postsecondary CTE teachers and administrators by providing opportunities for statewide mini-grants for industry certification and professional development training and activities. Opportunities range from online classes to Next Generation Career and Technical Reading (NG CATER) workshops <http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/pdf/NGCAR-PDandCATER-updated.pdf> . All of the opportunities are available at no cost to the participant and some even offer stipends upon completion. <http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/profdev.asp>

## Major Initiatives

One of DCAE's major initiatives is the CTE /Academic Alignment process. To date, nearly 500 CTE courses have been reviewed by nearly 300 CTE, math and/or science teachers. The alignment percentages, which indicate what science and math benchmarks from core courses that are required for graduation are taught in CTE courses, can be found in the 2012-13 CTE frameworks. (<http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/> )

Additionally, based on the findings from the alignment process, DCAE now offers Integration Institutes to train teams of CTE and/or math and science teams to better prepare and deliver integrated lessons. The Institutes are held in May each year. Travel and hotel expenses are reimbursed to all participants and schools are reimbursed for sub coverage. For more information please email Jodi Tillman at [Jodi.Tillman@fldoe.org](mailto:Jodi.Tillman@fldoe.org)

## Grant Opportunities

### STEM Grants

**The Kerr Foundation, Inc.** Grants support programs that provide new or enhanced opportunities for students: <http://www.thekerrfoundation.org/guidelines.php>

**Toyota Tapestry Grants** Grants honor US schools demonstrating excellence in math and science education through innovative teaching and learning environments: <http://www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry/>

**Amgen Foundation** Amgen Foundation seeks to identify programs that provide hands-on science experiences for all students, as well as those that seek to support teacher quality and provide professional development: [http://www.amgen.com/citizenship/corporate\\_philanthropy.html](http://www.amgen.com/citizenship/corporate_philanthropy.html)

### Literacy Grant

**Build-A-Bear Foundation** The foundation provides direct support for children in literacy and education programs such as summer reading, early childhood education, and literacy for children with special needs: <http://www.buildabear.com/shopping/contents/content.jsp?catId=400002&id=700013>