

September 2013



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# Virtual Education Newsletter

## Welcome Back!!

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

I want to take this opportunity to welcome the many new faces in our Florida virtual community. I hope to get to know each and every one of you soon. Please let me know if I can assist you. I was new to the virtual world at one time, too, so I 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.

Although I know you have some concerns and feelings of uncertainty about changes for this school year, I still hear your enthusiasm for your students and the new opportunities you want to provide for them. When looking over the virtual landscape this year, I see new programs, courses, providers, activities, and fieldtrips, and more ways to support and serve students. I'm eager to hear what's happening in your corner of Florida's virtual landscape so I can share it with folks in Tallahassee and the world. I want to put 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! So, keep your good news coming for our next newsletter in November/December.

Have a great school year! Sally



## St. Johns Students Break Tradition

Welcome to St. Johns Virtual School, the FLVS Franchise of St. Johns County School District. "This is My Classroom" is a peek inside the diverse virtual learning world of a few of our amazing full time students. Submitted by Twila Powers

"Creating a New Tradition in Education"

[http://www-sjvs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/?page\\_id=499&preview=true](http://www-sjvs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/?page_id=499&preview=true)

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### "I am still learning"

**Michelangelo**



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## Lee Virtual School Gets Inside of Brick Walls

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Lee Virtual Teachers are out working with students at area middle and high schools helping students work on virtual courses to meet the online graduation requirement. Nearly 200 Students at Estero High School alone have enrolled in Lee Virtual Courses administered during the school day. LVS teachers have found that face to face contact at



various points in a course significantly improves the quality of student work and completion rate. Critical Thinking and Study Skills Teacher Mrs. Amanda Kraus is pictured here assisting a student with formatting and submitting work.

Submitted by Al Shilling

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## FLVS Full Time Dedicated to Success

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Florida Virtual School Full Time has experienced epic growth throughout the years doubling in size for two years in a row. This year we continue to expand our reach and will be serving over 7500 students.



As we grow, so does our dedication to overall student success by creating a unique schooling community in which students not only grow academically but socially as well. This year our school goal is to have approximately seventy-five field trips throughout the state at which we will feature a variety of educational activities including geocaching, visits to museums, science centers, state parks and many others. Field Trips offer a great opportunity for students to

meet teachers, socialize with fellow students and expand their educational horizons. They are also a BLAST!

Submitted by Esilda Ross

# **Broward Virtual School Full Steam Ahead!**

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Broward Virtual School has embarked upon an aggressive expansion of its Florida Virtual School franchise program. The goal is to establish local capacity to accommodate the first cohort of students who are required to complete an online course as part of their graduation plan. BVS has scaled up its enrollment capacity by 400 percent over last school year. In the 2013-14 school year, we welcome an additional 50 full-time local instructors and an Assistant Principal to meet the challenge. Our mission is to provide Broward County students with a quality and engaging online learning experience enhanced by local instructional support.



Submitted by Chris McGuire

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## **Florida Virtual School® Students Outperform State Averages on Florida’s End-of-Course Assessments**

Florida Virtual School (FLVS®) Part Time students performed higher than the state average on all four state-created End-of-Course (EOC) exams – Algebra I, Geometry, Biology and U.S. History. Florida measures benchmarks for student mastery of learning for a given course through EOC exams.

“Much has been written recently about the role and results of virtual education, and there is a growing voice within our communities questioning the performance and accountability of virtual schools and other non-traditional education programs,” said Julie Young, president and CEO for Florida Virtual School. “As Florida Virtual School, a statewide public school district, celebrates 16 years of service to students locally and worldwide, having set the standard for online education, we say that accountability and transparency are essential in meeting our obligation to students, parents, teachers, employers, taxpayers, and future generations.”

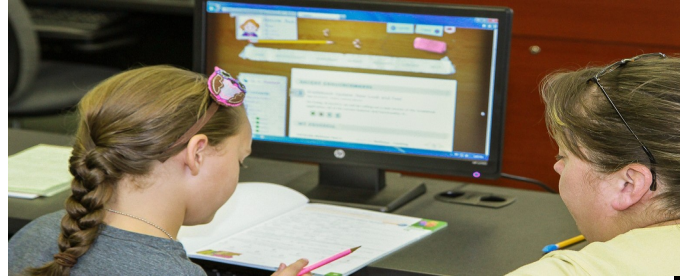
To read more, visit

<http://www.flvs.net/areas/aboutus/NewsArchives/Press%20Releases/PR%202013%20Florida%20Virtual%20School%20Students%20Outperform%20State%20Averages%20on%20Florida's%20End-of-Course%20Assessments.pdf>



## Lake County Virtual School is Busy!!!!

Lake County Virtual School has expanded to include elementary K–5. Lake County virtual has also began the year with five full-time teachers to better assist our full time students. We are a Florida Virtual School franchise and we also offer VSCHOOLZ, EDGENUITY and Little Lincoln curriculum. Submitted by Mike Elchenko



## Lee's Executive Internship Program



Seniors and Juniors at Lee Virtual School (LVS) commit to 75 hours in the Executive Internship Program. The EIP provides an opportunity for our seniors to perform a “career experience”. This experience will help the students to chart their course and head in the right direction after graduation. They will be better equipped to set goals and make realistic plans for their futures. Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, at least one semester of enrollment in executive internship is expected from LVS high school students prior to graduation.

This internship experience allows students to find out what their chosen field is like on a day to day basis and for them to develop professional connections. It provides opportunity to develop employability skills that cannot be taught in the classroom. They will practice the art of workplace etiquette and create a unique connection between our students, our school and our community.

We have our senior class participating in a variety of internship placements; a professional ballet company, graphic design and digital media, legal services, and social services. We also have students interning at public schools and as well as the Foundation for Lee County Schools. We feel that this program is a worthwhile venture for the students, and we are confident they will apply this experience in their future careers.

Submitted by Al Shilling

## Links From the Tower

With a new school year comes updated information from DOE:

Virtual Education Q & A: <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/virtual-schools/pdf/DistrictVIP-FAQ.pdf>

TAP 1076: [K-12 Technical Assistance FAQ for Senate Bill 1076](#)

School Choice Memo: <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/virtual-schools/pdf/schoolchoiceaflvsc.pdf>

**News? Questions? Email us at: [virtualeducation@fldoe.org](mailto:virtualeducation@fldoe.org)**

