

June 2017



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

the Virtual View

Summertime!

Another year is wrapping up; wow the time continues to fly!

We hope this year was a successful one for you and for your students; it is great to see more and more students graduating from virtual schools. A true testament to all the hard work you do at the ground level.

We are still waiting on HB 7069 to be presented to the Governor; student eligibility is part of the package; we will let you know as soon as we hear ourselves. Eligibility remains our #1 priority.

We hope you enjoy this summer and are able to travel or relax at home and make memories with those you love!

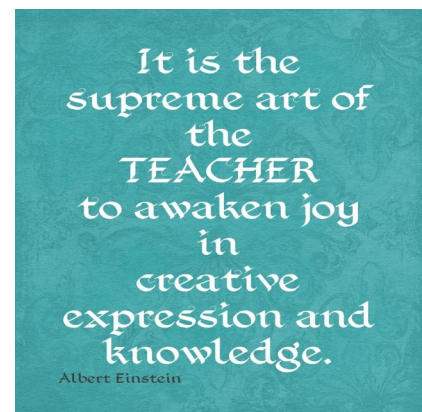
Sandy, Lisa, and Nicolle

2017 Florida Graduates!

Brevard—17	Orange—34
Broward—76	Palm Beach—28
Collier—8	Pasco—20
Dade— 10	St. Johns—18
Hillsborough—31	St. Lucie—22
Lake—18	Santa Rosa—16
Leon—22	

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Pasco is Rocking!!

On May 24th, eleven of the twenty Seniors in the Class of 2017 crossed the stage to receive their diplomas. Pasco Superintendent Kurt Browning attended the ceremony and joined the graduates for the class photo. Congratulations!



Pasco Ninjas!



The youngest Pasco Ninjas celebrated the end of the school year with a day of elementary awards and field day fun. Pictured are the K-5 students and their teaching team.

Articles submitted by Pamela Willoughby

Pasco Relay for Life

Pasco eSchool's second Relay for Life team won "Most Spirit" and "Best Campsite" awards on their way to raising almost \$5,000 for the American Cancer Society. Desire Mosser and Paola Sanchez captained the team that included teachers, administrators, staff, students and family. Their entry in the "RelayVille" theme honored their love of caffeine as they created their own "Ninja Caf e"!



Clay's Top Graduates

Clay Virtual Academy (CVA) is proud to recognize a few of their top graduating students:

Valedictorian was **Sarah Ann Bowling**, who graduated with a 4.37 weighted GPA. Sarah earned a Bright Future scholarship, the St. Johns River State Academic Scholarship, and the Clay Electric Scholarship. She plans to continue her college education through a Master's degree level Nurse Practitioner, eventually becoming a Doctor of Nursing Practice.



Pictured is Sarah, her parents, and the staff of CVA: (Front Row) Lori Theus, Lana Racine-Haffner, David Bowling, Sarah Bowling, Angela Bowling, Monica Logue, (Back row) Terri Crawford, Debi Sisley, Teresa Kamm)

Salutatorian was **Christian Timothy Ivey**, who graduated with a weighted GPA of 4.28. He will be attending the University of North Florida (UNF) where he plans to obtain a bachelor's in Civil Engineering. He has been offered the UNF Platinum Presidential Scholarship, the Top Osprey Scholarship, and has been awarded a Bright Futures Scholarship.

Another student, **Jesstina Marie Farrell**, enjoyed being part of the dive team in high school and achieving fifth place at state competition during her senior year. She plans to go to the University of West Florida and major in mechanical engineering, where she has earned a scholarship by being part of the university's dive team. Jesstina is also a recipient of the Wyatt Morrison Scholarship.

Submitted by Terri Crawford

Lake Celebrates Graduates!



Lake County Virtual celebrated graduation on Thursday, May 25th in front of a large gathering of graduate families and friends. Eighteen graduates walked the stage to receive their diplomas and congratulated by Vice School Board Chairperson Stephanie Luke. Ms. Luke was also the guest speaker. A standing ovation was received by graduating senior speaker, Hannah Householder.

Best of fortune to all our graduates!

Submitted by Michael Elchenko

Broward at its Best!

Broward Virtual School (BVS) has had a very active 2016-2017 school year. They have a staff of nearly 100 professionals dedicated to the success of students in Broward County. Their enrollments in the elementary program with K¹² continue to increase and are proud to serve 388 students in their full-time online program. BVS has successfully completed over 17,000 enrollments helping students in both full-time and part-time programs achieve their academic goals. In addition, their distinguished principal, Christopher McGuire, was a finalist in the Caliber Award for the Broward County's Principal of the Year. BVS has actively celebrated students throughout the year in virtual learning labs by creating hands on activities as seen below in their Chemistry and Physical Science Virtual Learning Lab at Coconut Creek High School, where students created slime and built balloon powered cars.



Chemistry Lab at Coconut Creek High



Physical Science Lab at Coconut Creek High

The Japanese teacher, Mrs. Satoko Incentive Grant from the Broward Japanese in the distance learning students each year through video support student transportation cost to opportunity to participate in Japan Fisher organized the event, Japan Day Japanese drumming, culture, koto,



Mrs. Satoko visiting her elementary students

Fisher was awarded a \$1,200 Teacher Education Foundation. Mrs. Fisher teaches program called Tomodachi to over 900 conferencing. The grant money awarded will enable students across Broward County the Day. At the end of the school year, Mrs. where students came together to experience and martial arts.

BVS teachers put together multiple activities throughout the year to engage students in opportunities to interact with their teachers and peers. The Language Arts and Math teachers organized monthly workshops to allow students to receive face-to-face support in the areas of writing and math skills. The Science department hosted lab days where students collaborated and brought science to life.



Broward Virtual School students participating in the Genetic Lab

Broward's Senior Star

BVS is gearing up to host their 11th graduation ceremony for the 2016- 2017 graduating class. They are proud to be celebrating 76 seniors who will take the stage to receive their diplomas in June; 46 students that will be graduating with grade point averages from 3.76- 5.3. Their student of distinction, Nelson James, has earned the most service hours for BVS. He has given back to his community over 1,160 hours teaching elementary school students digital technology. Also, Nelson represented BVS at the Silver Knight Awards Ceremony and received an honorable mention in the Digital and Interactive Media category.



Nelson James
Senior at Broward Virtual

Articles submitted by Antonette McGinty

Hillsborough Congratulates Class of 2017!

Hillsborough Virtual School had 31 seniors graduate on Tuesday, May 16. Of those, 26 will be attending college while 3 will serve in the military. Congratulations Class of 2017!



Hillsborough 3rd Graders are Winners Too!



Hillsborough Virtual School competed for the first time in a Math Bowl competition, in which a team of three 3rd grade students took 3rd place out of 24 teams. Congrats to Mrs. Katie Johns and her team!

Submitted by Tanya Grinnell

Orange County Virtual School Senior Luncheon



Just before graduation, an April Senior Luncheon was hosted by Andrea Seibel, High School Guidance Counselor, and Juanita Morrow, Lead Teacher. Students and parents were able to interact in a relaxed atmosphere as they enjoyed delicious food at a local restaurant. Ms. Seibel recalls, “For me it was exciting because I am a first-year Counselor. The luncheon was a perfect opportunity for me to get to know our seniors. This class will always be special to me as they are my first graduating class.” Submitted by Anne Walsh

Class of 2017—Graduation and Beyond

Dressed in pewter caps and gowns, members of the Orange County Virtual School (OCVS) Class of 2017 ceremoniously processed through the school auditorium in preparation for the Awarding of Diplomas. Ninety percent of the graduating class plans to pursue postsecondary education at a university, college, or career training center. Destinations (Columbia College/Chicago, Stetson University, and the University of South Florida) are as diverse as degree choices (Psychology, Dance, and Physics). Congratulations, OCVS Class of 2017!



Orange County Virtual School Awards Ceremony



OCVS senior honorees, administration, and faculty at the 2017 Awards Ceremony.



Salutatorian
Abigail Hockenberry



Ajanae Beaugard
Class of 2017 Valedictorian

Leon County Virtual School 2017 Graduates



Leon County Virtual School Charter Graduate



Leon County Virtual School does not rank their students. They recognize their “Charter Graduate” - a student who has attended their entire high school career at Leon County Virtual School. This year they recognized Ilesha Robertson. When asked the question, “Where do you see yourself in five years?”, Ilesha responded, “I see myself graduating from Florida A&M University with a BA in Theatre and minor in Music. After graduation I plan to attend graduate school at Juilliard in New York City. There I will pursue a Master of Fine Arts in Drama.”

We are proud of all our graduates!!!

Submitted by Teri Gimbel

The Welcome Back to School edition of the Virtual View will be published in September. We look forward to publishing the innovative and exciting opportunities students will have in 2017-18!!! We will send requests for articles and pictures in August. Thank you!

Lee Virtual School Celebrates Success!

The Lee Virtual School (LVS) National Honor Society conducted two campaigns which garnered more supplies than either of the charities expected: The Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida in the fall and Domestic Animal Services in the spring. Members of the honor society were deeply moved when they visited the CAC; and as part of the Animal Services campaign, their staff brought in a puppy and a kitten to "meet" the LVS Elementary students and teach them about the Service.



The coffers of donations for both organizations overflowed the already large containers.

Christephen and Christavis Wood won "Best of Show, Grades 6-8" in the Student Film Festival with "Rise of the Gorilla", a short film about a boy's dog going missing after a gorilla escapes from the zoo.

LVS had 73% of their Class of 2017 graduate with honors and more than half of those students were in the "Cum Laude" range. Twenty-nine percent of those who have confirmed their next steps will move on to a four-year college or university; 25% to two year institutions; 21% to technical schools; and 13% plan to enter the workforce.



Lee Virtual Favorites Books, a project that hopefully will become a tradition for the Lee Virtual Elementary School, is a hard-bound volume of favorite things about the program with illustrations created by the authors. Students are looking forward to many of these "year books" gracing their shelves as the school progresses.
Submitted by Ann Taylor

Honoring St. Johns Graduates!



On Thursday May 18th, 18 students graduated from St. Johns Virtual School. Speakers included Principal Cynthia Williams, Superintendent Tim Forson, and School Board Chair Tommy Allen. Friends and families attended a reception afterwards on the campus of First Coast Technical College to celebrate with the graduates.



K¹² Field Trip Fun!



K¹² FL had some pretty amazing field trips this year around the state! They even wrapped up the school year with more field trips! Students had a fun time bowling with friends, monkeying around at the zoo, going on a Safari, making candy and much more! After all of their hard work this year they were able to join



classmates and K¹² teachers in celebrating their accomplishments! They are proud of the students and their families and look forward to an amazing year next year!



K¹² Poetry Contest

This year's K¹² poetry contest featured over 400 student poems on the theme "Hobbies." The contest provided students with an opportunity to practice their writing skills as well as express their talents and passions. Each entry was written with excitement and creativity, so naturally it was difficult to choose only three winners in each grade level. Gioia B. of Miami Dade Online placed third among third graders with her poem, "Racing into Junior Olympics." When you read this poem, it's easy to see that Gioia is not only a gifted poet, but also a skilled and driven swimmer. Congrats, Gioia!

[Racing Into Junior Olympics](#)

Flip Flop
My belly turns from bottom to top.
Flitter flutter
Butterflies are aflutter.
Can I do it? Will I make it?
I can do it! I must make it!
Take it back, keep it straight.
Kick hard, make it great!
Now I finish. Did it do?
Did I make it? Is it through?
Yes! Yes! Yes!
My dream came true.

Palm Beach Graduation Pictures!



Submitted by Patrice Cover

Manatee Goes Virtual!

Check out the video and slide show of the Manatee County graduation! You can find it [here](#).

Submitted by Doug Gordon



Santa Rosa Stars!



\$10,000 in scholarships from Pensacola State College



Vivian will be attending FSU and double majoring in neuroscience and biological science. Vivian has received scholarship offers totaling an estimated \$180,000. Vivian will also be receiving the Florida Bright Futures Academic Scholars Award.



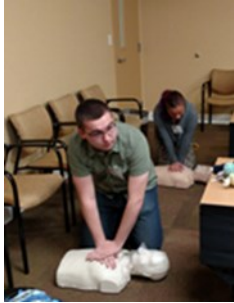
Brevard Virtual School Rocks 2017



Brevard Virtual School graduated 17 seniors, with 11 participating in the ceremony. In addition to earning high school diplomas, three students earned an Associate of Arts degree and two a College Credit Certificate from Eastern Florida State College. They are headed to colleges in Florida, California and Texas. We are so proud of our students and their accomplishments!

HOPE at Pinellas

This spring Pinellas Virtual School (PVS) HOPE (Health Opportunities through Physical Education) students took a field trip to the Pinellas Park Fire Department for a CPR Certification Training. Two expert members of Chief Rob Angell's team, Firefighter Paramedic Andrew Hughes and Lt.



Alex Bowlby, kept students and parents engaged as they took them through the American Heart Association's comprehensive course teaching them adult, child, and infant CPR as well as how to use an AED and how to respond to choking victims. Because of this unique partnership between PVS and the Pinellas Park Fire



Department, students and their parents were able to walk away with two-year CPR certifications. The PVS HOPE course emphasizes advocacy in each unit, so this was a wonderful way for students to learn how to support their community. Over 2,600 Pinellas residents succumb to heart disease each year, and as Chief Angell says, "Bystander CPR is a vital tool in the successful survival of those suffering from cardiac arrest." It's comforting to know these young people are now out in our community armed with the knowledge to assist in a cardiac emergency. Submitted by Michelle Starrett



St. Lucie Celebrates!

- 4 seniors earned their A.A. degree at Indian River State College and Mosaic Digital Academy celebrated 73% of their graduating class had participated in college level coursework and 95% of their seniors have post-secondary plans.
- There were 3 scholar designations and 1 merit designation.
- Many seniors earned various scholarships with funds totaling \$360,460.
- The Class of 2017 volunteered 3,226 hours of service to the community.
- Three seniors took the superintendent's A Promise is a Promise Pledge to earn their teaching degree and return to St. Lucie Public schools to teach.

