

March 2017



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# the Virtual View

## Happy Spring!

Such a beautiful time of year to celebrate change; students and faculty enjoying a nice break before the final nine weeks of school and the ending of another school year.

With the Legislative Session beginning, we in the Virtual Education Office are hoping for a change in student eligibility. Let's hope this is finally the year that ends limited choice for students who want to participate in virtual education. We will keep you posted!

It was great to see so many fine folk at the Florida Virtual Instruction Program Network Symposium (FLVIPN)! We are honored and always amazed by what you do for your students; your effort, time and treasure to ensure they have the best educational experience. Your hard work does not go unnoticed. Thank you!

We hope you enjoy this newsletter as much as we do!

Sandy, Lisa, Nicolle and Meagan

## Florida Online Course Catalog

As you all know by now, the Florida Online Course Catalog is a tremendous resource for parents and students to search for the courses that they want or need. As virtual education continues to grow in Florida, the catalog will also grow. We will be ensuring that the process to search for and find any course will be an easy process. The CTE course and STEM courses will be high-lighted. The detailed course information for each course includes a link to the course provider's website so that users can obtain more information about the course provider and/or register for the course. Completion and passage rates are also provided to show the percent of enrolled students who completed the course and the percent of completers who passed the course.

Our commitment to help you deliver the best course information is something that we take very seriously.

The Florida Online Course Catalog offers over 20,000 courses for students. That is more than any other state currently offers to their virtual students. Thanks to all of you that have added the link to the Florida Online Course Catalog to your websites! <http://app4.fldoe.org/coursecatalog/>

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*“Education comes from within; you get it by struggle and effort and thought.”*

**Napoleon Hill**

## St. Johns Builds Community Ties

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Each month at St. John’s Virtual School the elementary teachers, students, and parents come together for the parent planned outing. These outings are an important component to the program. Students are able to experience hands-on learning which accommodates the unique learning styles of each individual student. It also provides access to resources that may not be available at home and enhances the learning process. Not only does it provide many learning opportunities, but it also builds a strong community as families enjoy socializing, sharing ideas, and supporting one another with smiles along the way!



Submitted by Mike Eisen

## Art Tours in Osceola

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Nanci Brillant took her Osceola Virtual School (OVS) AP art history students to the Dali Museum. These students are taking Art and World Cultures with OVS as well as Art History Criticism Honors to prepare them for the AP art history exam in May. She couldn't be prouder and they had a blast. Take education outside of the classroom and make it real!



Submitted by Dr. Enid Rentas

## Brevard Virtual K-5 Students Visit the Planetarium

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At Brevard Virtual School, elementary field trips are called “Prime Time for Learning”. The first Prime Time in 2017 was the Eastern Florida State College Planetarium & Observatory. First, students viewed the short film “Big” which was an amazing display of the ‘bigness of the universe’. Next, students were awed by ‘The Living Sea’, a film about underwater habitats in Pulau and the creatures that live far below the surface. The general consensus of BVS students was that both films were spectacular! Finally, students and parents

participated in a variety of hands-on activities that dealt with gravitational pull, electrical current, momentum and force. The most amazing aspect of this Prime Time was the actual Observatory. The students viewed a plethora of constellations and were given the history and the ancient reasoning behind them. Students were so thrilled with the activities and films that some were reluctant to leave!

Submitted by Sylvia Shepard and Valerie Nolan

# Brevard Virtual Teachers: Staying Active and Having Fun!

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Brevard Virtual teachers and staff enjoy weekly inspiration, monthly activities, and seasonal competitions to improve their overall wellness.

Every week, BVS teachers Kristin Brach, Clarissa Kirk and Cindy Dean inspire the entire staff with informational emails and BVS webpage articles that focus on fitness, nutrition, and emotional well-being. The importance of this weekly inspiration cannot be understated, especially when working long hours in front of a computer! For example, making a healthy turkey burger becomes approachable with a detailed email that provides the burger's nutritional facts to accompany the tasty recipe. Another email details how to calculate steps walked throughout the day to ultimately become more aware of movement that offsets computer 'chair' time as BVS teachers service their students. Additionally, these inspirational BVS teachers share their own stories of success --and even failure—to encourage the whole team to take each day as another opportunity to be healthy.

In addition to weekly inspiration, BVS teacher Janice Cheshire coordinates monthly wellness activities for all BVS teachers and staff to experience at Clearlake Training Center, which is 'home base' for BVS teacher collaboration events, team meetings, and instructional time with BVS virtual students. Janice tallied a comprehensive survey to discover teachers' interests for monthly gatherings such as guided meditation, hatha yoga, a campus scavenger hunt, and an all-time favorite: noodle hockey. Notice the intense positioning of each player in this fun photo taken in November 2016—and all for the sake of hitting a little puck through a goal with a flimsy pool noodle!

"I just have to say that I had an absolute blast playing noodle hockey! I added five miles to my weekly total for the Red Team," states one BVS teacher as she submitted her points for the fall competition of HEALTHY STRIDES whereby the entire staff divided into two teams, the Red and Black team, to record steps walked, run, biked, and even danced! Everyone was a winner in this seasonal competition, but there was extra fun when the 'winning' team savored the 'losing' teams' snacks at a collaboration meeting.



Currently, the BVS team is engaged in another friendly competition: the DETOX CHALLENGE. During this spring event, participants select healthier foods and make better lifestyle choices, all the while recording points for their team, Red or Black. In addition to the desired result of detoxing for a healthier well-being, participants have the opportunity to win a \$50 gift card through the sponsorship of the CIGNA Wellness Program, under the direction of Joni deBlecourt-Whelen, Cigna Onsite Health Coach for Brevard County Public Schools.

Thus, the health and wellness of Brevard Virtual is alive and well—thanks to the BPS district office, the BVS administration, and the BVS teachers and staff.

Submitted by Heather Price

## Pinellas Virtual Elementary Attends USF Engineering Expo

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The USF Engineering Expo is an annual event for students to be introduced to STEM related careers through hands-on exhibits, shows and activities. This year, students explored the characteristics of each planet within our solar system through experiments. They also witnessed the capabilities of 3D printers, the power of Tesla energy, the capabilities of aeronautical engineering through flight simulators and much more.



Submitted by Aimee Puyot

## Volusia Online at the FLDVIPN Symposium

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Volusia Online Learning attended the 6th annual Florida District Virtual Instruction Program Network (FLDVIPN) Symposium February 15-17. Four different topics were presented to the attendees, and all the presentations were very well attended and received excellent feedback. In addition, Mrs. Susy Peterson was nominated for the Survivor Administrator Trendsetter Award, Ms. Chanda Larson was nominated for the Survivor Teacher Trendsetter Award, Mrs. Christa Chapple was nominated for the Best Practices Teacher Trendsetter Award, and Dr. Amy Blowers was nominated for the Best Practices Administrator Trendsetter Award and the Leadership Trendsetter Award. Mrs. Jamie Stalker was selected as the Volusia District Gem during the symposium for the incredible work she has done to increase teacher efficiency and the development of the district progress monitoring tool the SATT. Congratulations to all the nominees, winners, and presenters that represented Volusia Online Learning and Volusia County Schools with excellence, professionalism, and demonstrated innovation!



Submitted by Amy Blowers

## Thank You Hillsborough Virtual Teachers!

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Hillsborough Virtual School gifted instructors serve hundreds of students in the district's elementary schools. The virtual gifted teachers work with schools which are unable to fill units with traditional teachers, therefore ensuring that all gifted students' needs are met.

Mrs. Kelli Hicks is shown here at Lake Magdalene Elementary helping orient students to Canvas and One Note.

Submitted by Tanya Grinnell



## Orange County Virtual Field Trips

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Orange County Virtual School (OCVS) students participated in the Physics & Energy Lab at Disney's Magic Kingdom field trip. Students learned more about the physics of light and sound through activities, and a back-stage tour of a popular ride. After the three hour educational experience, students then went back through history at the Hall of Presidents attraction. The rest of the day was filled with rides, a parade and the castle stage show!



OCVS Middle & High school students who attended the Fun Spot field trip on December 9th explored the motion and speed of an object while constructing a roller coaster in small groups. They demonstrated how potential energy transforms into kinetic energy, and through trial and error, they found out whether the speed of an object is affected by the track it follows. It was a great activity, challenging and engaging each and every student! The rest of the day was spent racing go-karts, riding roller coasters, playing in the arcade

and getting a close up look at a rare albino gator!

## OCVS Wins Target Field Trip Grant

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Every year Target grants 5,000 K-12 schools and non-profit organizations a \$700 grant. This grant is designed to help educational institutions by providing support for educational field trips, and aid in the expenses. Ms. Juanita Morrow, has worked diligently with grants to assure that OCVS students have the resources they need to have the best educational experience in all facets. As a result, Target has granted OCVS \$700 for student field trips for the first time in our school's history! This is truly an exciting time to be part of OCVS!

## OCVS Science Club

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Students from our Elementary, Middle, and High School classes were on campus on February 9th to dissect owl pellets. Prior to the start of the dissection lab, one of the science instructors, Mr. Fisher, told a Native American story on how owls came to have short necks and big eyes. He also gave a lesson on owl habitats and food, noting that they are nocturnal while we are diurnal. After a lesson on how owl pellets are formed,



the students had a great time measuring and cutting apart the pellets to recreate skeletons from the bones inside. It was an exciting and educational filled lab. Each student walked away anxiously anticipating the next lab.

Submitted by Renee Lohr



## Florida Virtual School Students Enjoy Field Trip Outings

On Friday, February 10, Florida Virtual School (FLVS) FLEX Elementary students from all across the state gathered with their classmates and teachers to visit local venues. Even though the students learn virtually, FLVS understands the importance of having students out in their community to see and experience first-hand what they are learning in class.

Throughout Florida, the Kindergarten through 5th grade FLVS FLEX students visited the following places: Museum of Discovery and Science in Ft. Lauderdale, the Jacksonville Zoo, Lake Wales and Bok Tower Gardens, Gulf Marine Specimen Lab in Tallahassee, Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) in Tampa and the Orlando Science Center.



## Florida Virtual School Celebrates National Random Acts of Kindness Day



In order to celebrate National Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17, FLVS highlighted some of the awesome Florida Virtual School students and teachers making a difference and showing kindness to others.

Student clubs such as the Creative Writing Club, the STEM/Science Club, and Student Ambassadors helped out in their local communities in a big way. In addition, a group of our Alachua County teachers made some sweet treats for the kids at the Ronald McDonald House to celebrate Valentine's Day.



Read The FLVS Virtual Voice blog to see all the great ways our students and teachers show how fun and important it is to be kind to others.

## FLVS Full Time Hosts Face-to-Face Community Meet Up

On February 24th, FLVS Full Time hosted multiple meet-ups for students grades 6-8 and 9-12. FLVS teachers met students at 50 locations across the state, with participation from 200 middle school students and 150 high school students.

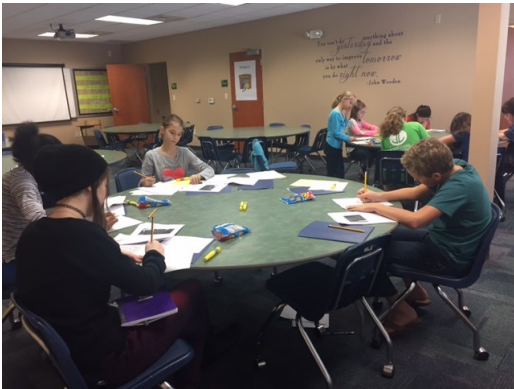
Meet-up locations included a candy shop for a tour of their different candies, the Florida Museum, outdoor parks where students participated in fun activities such as rock painting, and local restaurants where students could mingle and get to know each other over lunch.



Submitted by Diana Furey

## Bay Virtual School's Workshops

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Bay Virtual School held a series of Writing Workshops to increase skills in the area of elaborative techniques with text-based evidence. Students in grades 4-7 attend these monthly workshops at our new campus location.

Submitted by Diane Fields

## Latest Update from Pasco eSchool

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One of the favorite family events this past semester was Pasco's BBQ & Bingo night. The eSchool had a blast hosting almost 100 students and their families as they socialized, enjoyed burgers and hotdogs, and won prizes playing Bingo! Recent and upcoming field trips included the Spanish team's visit to a Mexican restaurant in downtown Dade City, where students were able to learn first-hand about how tortillas are made and then enjoy a meal together. Social Studies teachers will soon be leading a group of students as they tour the Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg. Teachers love having these opportunities to meet their students and their families in person, especially when they can tie online and live learning experiences together.

Pasco eSchool's first Virtual Clinical Educator cohort completed their training and is ready to mentor their online colleagues and incoming practicum interns! Sheila Blue designed and lead the pilot course, which was taught over four weeks.

Many teachers and staff members attended and presented at February's Florida District Virtual Instruction Program Network (FLDVIPN) Symposium in Tampa. They truly enjoyed collaborating with peers from around the state, and Finding Our Sunlight with Mawi Asgedom! Pasco is so proud of Principal JoAnne Glenn, who won the Trendsetter Award for Administrative Leadership! Other Trendsetter Award winners from Pasco eSchool included Assistant Principal Pam Willoughby (Administrative Survivor), ASL Teacher Nancy Barbara (Instructional Best Practices) and Spanish Teacher Paola Sanchez (District Gem).

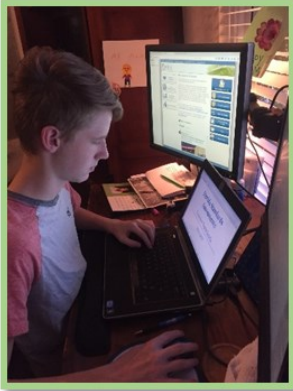
See attached photo for one of the favorite shots from Symposium, with teachers Rebecca Podany, Jan Stern, Amy Kelly (Teacher of the Year!), Jeannie McDougall and Stephanie Carter sporting their LuLaRoe ninja leggings in honor of Pasco eSchool's mascot, Neo the Ninja!



Submitted by Pam Willoughby

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# K<sup>12</sup> FL VIP Students Get Pumped Up for State Testing



Testing season can be a major stress for students, families and their teachers; however, K<sup>12</sup>/Fueleducation teachers have been working diligently to prepare their students throughout the year. The focus is not to teach to the test, but to help students understand and master the Florida Standards. In combination with their K<sup>12</sup>/Fueleducation curriculum, students have been utilizing programs such as Study Island and iReady, as well as attending live sessions with their course teachers. Teachers have also utilized formative and summative assessments to gauge their student's understanding of the standards. The valuable information gained has allowed the teachers, in partnership with their Content Coaches, to determine areas of opportunity and strengths. The data is then used to create small or large group remediation, as well as, to provide insight into what other resources students and families may need. K<sup>12</sup>'s goal is to ensure each student is successful,

not only on their state assessments, but overall academically so they can continue to succeed this year, and in years to follow.

Submitted by Traci Hill

## The McKay Scholarship Program and Virtual Education

McKay Scholarship students are allowed to take up to two courses per year in a virtual school program without penalty or loss of scholarship eligibility. These courses may be taken through the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) Flex program, district franchise of FLVS, district Virtual Instruction Program (VIP), or district course offerings. Please note that students enrolling in these courses in the district does not constitute a return to public school. If you have any questions about this please contact Nicolle Tanner at [Nicolle.Tanner@fldoe.org](mailto:Nicolle.Tanner@fldoe.org) or at 850-245-9617.

The Graduation Edition of the Virtual View will be published in June. We look forward to receiving your graduation numbers, pictures of the wonderful ceremony and the beaming students!!! We will send requests for articles and pictures in May.

Thank you!

