

MARCH 2019



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

the Virtual View

Happy Spring!

As the warm weather comes our way with longer days, March is the perfect time to have a break so you can regroup and recharge for the final weeks of school.

The 2019 Legislative Session begins the first week of March; we will be busy the next few months. We will do our best to keep you posted on any virtual happenings. If you want changes to virtual statutes, we urge you to contact your local lobbyists and representatives.

You can make a difference!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Florida District Virtual Instruction Program Network Symposium!

Sandy, Lisa, Stephen and Savannah

Dr. Michael Arnett & Deron Williams at FLDVIPN!

Pearson's Online & Blended Learning group is proud to sponsor an interactive conversation with two district virtual learning leaders at the 2019 Florida District Virtual Instruction Program Network (FLDVIPN) Symposium. Dr. Michael Arnette with The School District of Indian River and Deron Williams with Polk County Public Schools will discuss the challenges and rewards of launching and scaling full time virtual schools in their districts and share proven strategies for implementing a full time virtual school. They will touch on a wide range of subjects under FLDVIPN's motto "Excellence Through Innovation" including: what spurred their initial move to deliver a full time virtual program, parent and student outreach, staffing and vendor issues, how to measure success, and more! Whether you're just planning your virtual school launch, or scaling an established school, join them for valuable insights, lessons learned, and best practices from the front lines of Florida's K-12 Virtual Education scene!

Submitted by: Audrey Harrell and Sarah Maston

Inside this issue:

Pearson at FLDVIPN	1
Hillsborough, Duval	2
Osceola, St. Johns	3
Volusia, Seminole	4
FLVS	5
Lee, St. Lucie	6
Bay, Orange	7
Clay, Apex	8
Pasco	9

"Education is a once in a lifetime opportunity to open children's hearts and minds to the unbelievable wonder of the universe."

Hillsborough Kicks Off CTE Month!



Hillsborough Virtual School (HVS) students enjoyed a visit from Station 5 of the Tampa Fire Department to celebrate Career and Technical Education (CTE) month. Students were given an indoor presentation on fire safety, career opportunities and required training, and the local firefighter exploratory program for youth. An HVS student volunteered to demonstrate how to wear the firefighter's protective gear. Then, the students moved outside for a tour of a fire engine where they learned about the different tools used in emergency situations. No doubt, a few future firefighters were inspired that day!



Submitted by: Denee Upshaw

Duval Gets Students Involved!

Duval Virtual Instruction Academy (DVIA) has been working fervently to get students involved in activities outside of the typical online learning environment — a student's home. This quarter, gifted students met at the DVIA Live Campus to partake in a series of hands on activities that involved shapes in nature and recurring patterns. Specifically, students learned about tessellations and the Fibonacci sequence. Likewise, the DVIA elementary team hosted an in house event filled with science, math, and art fun!



DVIA teachers and students also extended their social learning encounters beyond the Live Campus. In one instance, The English department sponsored a night out for students to experience "Teachers at the Theatre." Students, along with teachers from various departments, attended a live performance of Night Sky at Theatre Jacksonville. The Science department engaged their students in a supplemental learning opportunity by encouraging them to attend the "Innovate to Accelerate Science Fair" at the University of North Florida. One DVIA eighth grade student was awarded as a finalist!



Submitted by: Kelly Fanning

Osceola Student Wins First Place!

Congratulations to Osceola Virtual student, Faith Sauber, for receiving first place in the Fall 2018 Undergraduate Research Showcase! Under the guidance of her faculty mentor, Professor of Biology Dheeraj Verma, Faith's research centered on the comparison of mitochondrial genomes of economically important land plants. This research was conducted through the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Program. LSAMP is a National Science Foundation funded project focused on reducing the diversity gap in STEM fields and increasing the number of underrepresented minority students who complete associates degrees and enroll in bachelor's degree programs in a STEM major. During the



undergraduate research showcase, Faith, along with 17 other students and student groups, shared their ongoing research projects with members of the Orlando community. Participating students networked with fellow researchers and interacted with faculty members from both Valencia College and the University of Central Florida. Close to 100 faculty, students, and community members came together to share in the end of term presentations!

Submitted by: Dr. Enid Rentas

Fantastic Opportunities For St. Johns Students!

St. Johns Virtual School (SJVS) started 2019 with two fantastic student opportunities! In January, SJVS students received a behind the scenes tour of TIAA Bank Stadium, the home of the Jacksonville Jaguars. To celebrate Black History Month, SJVS students participated in a Civil Rights trolley tour of downtown St. Augustine. Students were able to visit the Freedom Trail Markers and learn about the significant role St. Augustine played in the Civil Rights movement. St. Johns Virtual also celebrated the selection of Lindsay Livingood as the SJVS Teacher of the Year at the district banquet! In March, the SJVS faculty will be attending the FLDVIPN Symposium in Orlando!

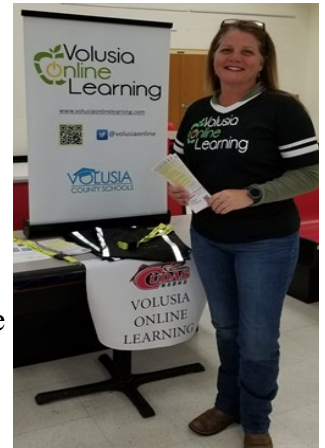


Submitted by: Michael Eisen



Volusia Is Getting Out Into The Community!

Volusia Online Learning (VOL) has been getting out into the community to spread the word about their courses! Some of the most recent outings included the Community Expo in Deltona, the Rising Freshman nights at local high schools, the middle school Expos for rising 6th graders, and the Ecominion Programs. At the local Expos, VOL has been passing out swag and of course, talking about the many ways they help educate students with virtual courses. The community's curiosity is at an all time high and VOL is here to share their knowledge and solutions!



One science teacher, Mrs. Girard, and her students have been participating in the district's Ecominion Programs. This is a great way for virtual students to get out in the community and participate in hands on learning while making new friends! The latest trip was to the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet. Here students learn about the special marine ecosystem. VOL looks forward to participating in many more community events in the future!

Submitted by: Christa Chapple

Seminole Is Staying Busy!

Seminole County Virtual School (SCVS) has been busy lately! In January, students participated in two events: A clean up of the Wekiva River and the SCPS World Language Festival.

Each month Mrs. Tran and Mrs. Terwilleger take their science students on real world experiences. This time, it was out to Wekiva Island for a river clean up. Mrs. Tran and Mrs. Terwilleger led the students in a discussion about the balance of owning a business and being environmentally friendly. This was an excellent opportunity for students to take their learning from their courses and see the real world applications. What a great way to learn, give back to the community, and have a good time!



Mrs. Wilken-Yoder, American Sign Language teacher, took three students to the 14th annual Seminole County Public Schools ESOL/ World Languages Festival. Amanda Lopez (8th grade), Brandy Walters (9th grade), and Caitlyn Weber (10th grade) joined Mrs. Wilken-Yoder at the event and each walked away with superior ratings trophies in each of their events!

SCVS is so proud of all their teachers and students!

Submitted by: Courtney Kavanaugh

The Latest News From FLVS!

Some 1,300 FLVS Full Time Kindergarten-12th grade students, parents, and teachers went to SeaWorld Orlando in February! Methuselah “Mae” Martin, FLVS Activities Coordinator, said that the field trip was a great opportunity for families to engage together socially to further build relationships and reinforce classroom learning.



Nine students from the FLVS Geography Club, hosted by club sponsors Elise Harris and David Fellows, participated in the school level competition of the National Geographic GeoBee! Congratulations to 8th grader, Emily Maynard, who won first place! Spencer Erickson, also in 8th grade, won second place and Emily Pino, 7th grade, finished in third place. The students progressed through multiple rounds and answered a variety of challenging questions. Congratulations to all participants! The FLVS

Geography Club meets twice monthly and is open to all middle school students who take online courses through FLVS Flex.

FLVS was proud to offer more than 30 sessions during Celebrate Literacy Week 2019: Spreading Literacy, One View at a Time. Go to <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1D36ia-BzywegBF04wYNw3siT1agF1efTzHoPjVEjAM4/edit> to view the links for the student/family recorded sessions. In February, FLVS hosted a Black History Month Showcase to celebrate and recognize the importance of the heritage, accomplishments, and culture of African Americans in the U.S.

February was Career and Technical Education (CTE) month and FLVS is proud to offer courses that directly prepare students for a wide range of high wage, high skill, high demand careers! Discover more about FLVS CTE courses and read student spotlights at flvs.net/CTE.

FLVS Full Time enrollment opens for the 2019-20 school year on March 4th. Learn more and apply online for grades Kindergarten-12th at www.flvs.net/fulltime.

Submitted by: Suzan Kurdak

The Graduation Edition of the Virtual View will be published in June. We look forward to receiving your graduation numbers, as well as pictures of the ceremony and smiling students! We will send requests for article submissions in May. Thank you!

Lee Clubs Have Been Busy!

Clubs have been very busy at Lee Virtual School (LVS) this semester. One Book Club participant, Brooklyn Butler, has read all but one of the ten titles chosen for this year's reading and just signed out that tenth book! Her report on *The Girl Who Could Not Dream* came in poster form, which she recently shared with the group and now hangs in the library to encourage others to read. The Technology/Drone group is currently planning an invitational "Whoop" Class Drone Racing event for late April, offering prizes for the pilots. The Honor Societies continue their charitable endeavors, raising funds with a minor league baseball event for Miles of Smiles, a foundation which uses equine assistance to help veterans struggling with PTSD and they continue to collect soda can tabs to benefit Ronald McDonald House.



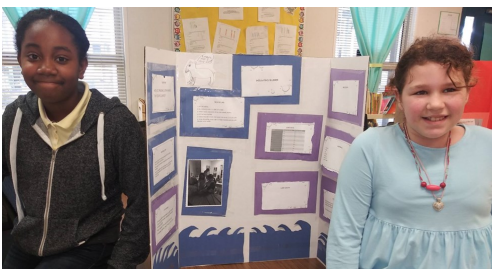
In early February, Lee Virtual School participated in the District wide accreditation process. Following meetings with administrators, teachers, students, and parents assessors shared preliminary results that found Lee Virtual School was, once again, exemplary and serves as a real world professional model of a high functioning K-12 public online learning program. This achievement is a direct result of the dedication all LVS staff members have toward student success through increased availability, face to face events, extra curricular socialization activities, planning, and school improvement. The

"virtual" in the LVS name equates to "real", dynamic learning which imparts skills essential to success in the 21st century world. As LVS enters the fourth quarter of the 2018-19 school year, they will be directing attention toward this year's graduating class to ensure they have fulfilled the promise to provide them every opportunity to achieve their maximum potential as they ascend the ladder of their lives. Whatever their plans, LVS wants to send them off with confidence in their ability to find answers when life presents difficult questions!

Submitted by: Ann Taylor

Virtual Scientists At St. Lucie!

St. Lucie is excited to announce that Mosaic Digital Academy has earned 96% graduation rate for the 2017-18 school year. This represents a 10 point increase from the previous year which was at 86%. Middle school students crushed it within their categories at the Treasure Coast Regional Science Fair at Indian River State College! Eight grader, Jonathan, is heading to the State Competition! Jonathan's project involved the creation and development of a computer software game simulating the processes involved in cleaning up floating plastic trash in the ocean. Additionally, Jonathan was one of fourteen science fair participants at the regional competition level to be chosen to represent his region in the 63rd



State Science & Engineering Fair of Florida. Jonathan was also nominated to compete in the 2019 Broadcom Masters! Elementary students were excited to participate in Science Showcase this year as they worked with partners on their Science Fair Projects. St. Lucie is growing more #VirtualScientists at Mosaic Digital Academy!



Submitted by: Jeanne Ziemba

Bay Is Still Standing!

October 10th was the day Bay's world was turned upside down by Hurricane Michael. Residents of Bay County are familiar with hurricanes. They live in a coastal area, so they know how to prepare. But, they have learned that you can't prepare for a Category 4 (expected to upgrade to a Category 5 in April) storm with winds of 155 miles per hour. While Bay wasn't prepared to lose the entire electrical, sewer, communications, and internet infrastructure along with the loss of homes, hospitals, schools, businesses, and 99% of Tyndall Air Force Base; they did start the rebuilding process in the hours following the storm. And they will need to continue rebuilding for many years to come. Most people that live outside of the area ask, "Really, how bad is it in Bay County?" Here are a few school statistics:

Schools were closed for 5 weeks.

Almost 200 employees have left the area.

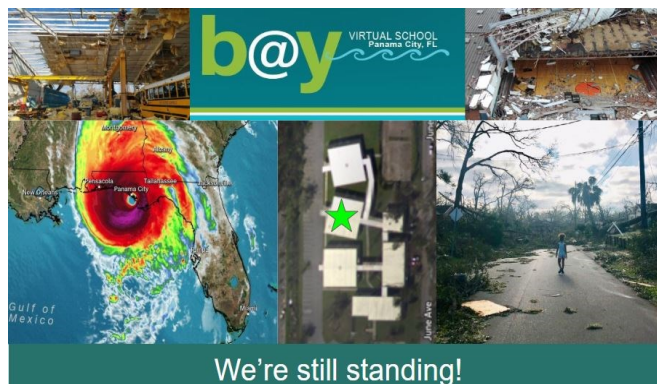
Over 4,000 students are considered homeless due to the storm. (73% of multi-family apartments were destroyed.)

Enrollment in the district is down by 3,149 students.

Damage to schools was in excess of \$300,000,000.

Operating a virtual school franchise without power and internet was challenging! Bay Virtual appreciated the help and support of virtual program managers as they helped students by resending resources that were lost in the storm, providing hotspots so that students were able to have some limited internet capability, and working to bring the hurricane semester to a conclusion. Bay thanks partners, teachers, and staff for their help and support during the rebuilding process!

Submitted by: Diane Fields



Do Something Club At Orange!

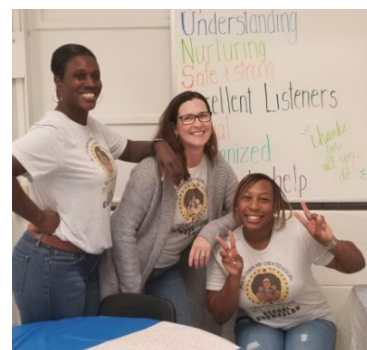
Orange County Virtual School's (OCVS) Do Something Club participated with the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida volunteering and packing food for the needy. Making a difference and helping stamp out hunger is one of their missions!



Reflecting on the culture and history of African Americans, the Do Something Club hosted a stellar event featuring Jazz performances and Spoken Word.



OCVS celebrates National School Counselor Week!



Submitted by: Dr. Zundra Aubrey

Clay Visits Jennings State Forest!



Clay Virtual Academy's (CVA) Elementary students visited Jennings State Forest, in Clay County. The Forest Rangers taught them about tracking the local animals and everyone participated in a nature hike. All students, teachers, and parents were able to make plaster castings of tracks to take home with them.

Students helped to take a core sample from a tree. It was very difficult to turn the handle of the core drill, but they all gave it a try! The width of each ring tells about the weather that year. CVA finished the visit learning about animal skeletons. Students

were excited about learning how to tell an herbivore from an omnivore – just by their teeth! Clay Virtual would like to thank the Florida Forestry Service for making it a great day to be a CVA Viper!

Submitted by: Melissa Kowieski



Apex Increasing Equity Of Opportunity!

While there have been gains in closing achievement gaps, research shows that underserved student populations still achieve at lower rates than their peers in many areas. Underserved students attend and complete college at lower rates and drop out at higher rates and are less likely to have access to qualified teachers and high quality curriculum.

Apex Learning has partnered with districts and educational consortia across Florida with a vision of expanding equity of opportunity through virtual instruction. Several virtual options can help districts provide rigorous, standards based digital curriculum. District run programs with a complete suite of over 120 Florida Courses: District teachers and staff are supported by a team of Implementation Success Managers who are dedicated to ensuring the ongoing success of the virtual program. District virtual course offerings through Apex Learning Virtual School Florida certified teachers: Every course has an assigned teacher to monitor student's progress, provide feedback, and support. Florida Consortium Virtual Programs offer Apex Learning courses as a cost effective curriculum option: Students remain enrolled in the participating school district of their residence and Florida certified teachers are selected by the consortium. Technology Courses in coding, animation, and design give students the opportunity to build problem solving and critical thinking skills that are applicable to any career. These are a separate suite of courses that can be offered through district virtual learning programs.



Want to learn more about implementing district wide programs for virtual learning with Apex Learning? Contact Marcia Philosophos, Florida Account Executive, at 904.631.9565, and visit:

<https://www.apexlearning.com/florida>.

Submitted by: Marcia Philosophos

Many Updates From Pasco!

Dr. Lori Wiggins was recently promoted to principal of Double Branch Elementary School in Wesley Chapel! While Pasco is sad to see her leave after being such a strong part of the leadership team for almost six years, they know how hard she has worked for this dream come true and are very happy for her. Mr. John Abernathy has joined Pasco eSchool as Administrator on Assignment through the end of the school year, and Mrs. Erin Senior will join as the new Assistant Principal soon.

Ms. Linda Ramsay-Wood, VE and Math teacher, was not only Pasco eSchool's Teacher of the Year, but was also one of the finalists for Pasco County Teacher of the Year! Her innovative teaching practices have added so much to the virtual school and students, and she truly deserves this recognition. She's pictured at the STAR Awards ceremony with Principal JoAnne Glenn and Assistant Principal Pam Willoughby.



Zoe Carlo, an 8th grade student in Mr. Dan Garcia's Creative Photography course, won Best of Show for middle school art at the 2019 Pasco County Fair. Several other eSchool art students won awards as well!

Marine Science teacher Staci Maniscalco and several other Ninja teachers joined forces with the Clearwater Marine Aquarium to create four collaborative learning experiences for 21 students. Activities combined standards in Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, and Math. The day long adventure was such a success that the team is planning their next trip!



Social Studies teacher Becca Podany mentored a group of student leaders in planning a week of "Say Something" virtual connections, finishing the week with an in person Fun Friday of activities. The program was initiated by the district's implementation of the Sandy Hook Promise and "Start With Hello." One of the activities was a daily themed Padlet, which included fun #ThrowbackThursday posts.



Finally, most days teachers work from their home offices. However, the PLC Teams met virtually and in person this past month, with Team Social Studies working together over a home cooked meal at U.S. Government teacher Jim Dimillo's home.

Pasco looks forward to seeing many of YOU in person at the 2019 FLDVIPN Symposium! Stop and say hi!

Submitted by: Pam Willoughby