



Welcome Back!

An exciting new school year has begun bringing new faces, programs, courses, activities and clubs for Florida’s virtual students. I commend you for your vision and thank you for your enthusiasm to provide your students with great new learning experiences. Please continue to share your wonderful and exciting news with us so that we can share it with others here and beyond. I wish you and your school family much success in this new school year. Sally



Thank you Barbara Dreyer!

As the leading state in online education, Florida always had a very special place in the heart of Barbara Dreyer, the co-founder and CEO of Connections Education. Barbara was a longtime fan of Florida Virtual School, and when the opportunity arose in 2003 to create a full-time virtual K-8 school in Florida, Connections jumped at the chance. For the net 10-plus years, as Connections Education grew to serve nearly 60,000 students across the country, Barbara spent more time in Tallahassee than in any other state capital. She got to know Governor Jeb Bush and Florida’s legislative leaders on both sides of the aisle, made dear friends among innovators in the Department of Education such as Sally Roberts, and developed a groundbreaking partnership with FLVS to combine the strengths of FLVS and Connections in service of students throughout the state. So it was perfectly fitting that when Barbara passed away early on the morning of September 2, after a tough battle with cancer, her colleagues’ first choice as a speaker at her memorial service would be Julie Young, founder of FLVS. For more about Barbara Dreyer and her passion for quality education in Florida and beyond see



www.rememberingbarbaradreyer.wordpress.com.

Submitted by Mickey Revenaugh

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“Knowledge will bring you the opportunity to make a difference.” Claire Fagin



Hillsborough Virtual School is Ready for the New Year!



Hillsborough Virtual School is excited to announce the addition of several new teachers to have an increased full-time staff of 34 instructors plus 3 adjuncts! In addition to their already established National Elementary Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, and National Honor Society organizations, we are welcoming Spanish Honor Society and French Honor Society this year.

Submitted by Tanya Grinnell

Barnes and Noble in South Tampa, hosted the second back to school meet and greet/fundraiser event.

Students and parents were able to talk to instructors and administrators before the start of school.



Tanya Grinnell and Denee Upshaw



Welcome New Virtual Contacts! Connect with the Google Group!

As the new year begins we want to welcome our new contacts and let them know we are here to support them! The Florida District Virtual Instruction Program Network (FLDVIPN) hosts an online Google Group for district virtual school administrators. The Google Group provides a forum for administrators to share ideas, ask questions and support one another. It is through this group that virtual school administrators, who may not have counterparts in their own districts, are able to learn from one another and better support their students, teachers and families. To join please contact Joanne Glenn: jglenn@pasco.k12.fl.us

Submitted by Heather Price

Florida Virtual School News

FLVS has teamed up with Grom Social to develop an exciting new mobile math app called [Solar Skate](#). Solar Skate integrates math into the skateboarding storyline as gamers solve geometry puzzles to fix their broken skate track. This unique educational tool reviews 4th through 8th grade Math Standards and is available on [iTunes](#) for Apple iOS devices. To learn more about the game, visit www.flvs.net/SolarSkate today!



Zach Marks, FLVS student and creator of Grom Social, was at The Florida Mall in Orlando helping to launch the app Solar Skate. Visitor's had the opportunity to try out the game and meet with FLVS and Grom teams.

Florida Virtual School® (FLVS®) has been named a Learning! 100 Award winner by Elearning! Media Group for its learning culture, innovation and high performance. FLVS received the award for Transformations, its multi-phase orientation consisting of training sessions at its headquarters and online-hosted training sessions. The award was presented August 25th at the Enterprise Learning! Conference & Expo in Anaheim, CA, and recognized 60 corporate and 40 public sector organizations who drove performance through learning.

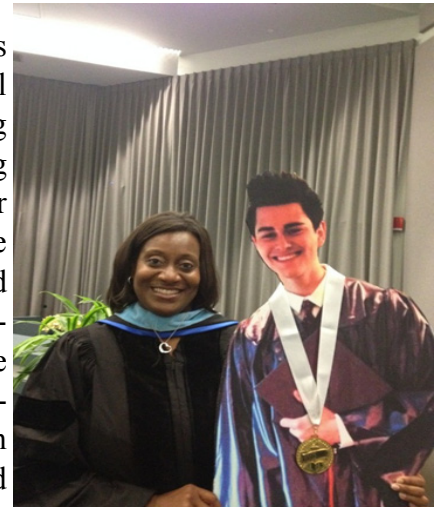
FLVS also has a brand new Kindergarten-1st grade part-time learning program that offers reading, mathematics, PE, science, social studies and art, highlighting the best of blended learning with class meetings and virtual curriculum. Students attend classes online together with a teacher two days a week at set times. Students then have a follow up with online lessons provided by the teacher.

Submitted by Suzan Kurdak

Orange County Virtual School is Growing!

Orange County Virtual School is growing by leaps and bounds! This school year welcomes an expansion of programs to benefit our virtual students. The Innovative Motivating Positive Achievement Completing Targeted goals (IMPACT) is a program where teachers are working with students toward credit recovery in zone school computer labs. Our blended program includes students from all 19 high schools who are learning U.S. Government and Economics via FLVS curriculum guided by their classroom teachers and overseen by our blended learning specialists. OCVS is also home to an elementary program taught by Orange County public school teachers using the Calvert curriculum. Additionally, we are in our 4th year running our virtual franchise program, which provides virtual learning opportunities to part time, home education, and full time students across the county. Graduates who were full time OCVS students can be seen in the image below along with their teachers.

Submitted by Elena Geiser Hogan



OCVS Principal, Brandi Gurley congratulates **Cardboard cutout** (Yes it is a cutout...look closely) of valedictorian, Riley McDonough. He was unable to attend graduation due to being on an international tour with his band Before You Exit.



FDVIPN Kicks Off Statewide PLCs!

On Thursday, August 28th the Florida District Virtual Instruction Program Network kicked off their Statewide PLC group for the 2014-2015 school year. In attendance were 154 teachers, counselors and administrators from district virtual schools across the state. The purpose of the PLC group is to provide virtual instructors with opportunities to meet their counterparts across the state so they can collaborate, share best practices, create live lessons, and combine their collective resources to ensure student success. Teachers meet monthly online with their subject area specific PLC group and many also share a live lesson calendar so that students in virtual courses across the state have opportunities to participate in live lessons together. Through the Statewide PLCs teachers are able to connect with colleagues across the state and together serve their students with a higher level of excellence.

Submitted by Katie Morgan



FLVS Club Day 2014



FLVS Student Ambassadors and Fine Arts at Club Day. Submitted by Rebecca Dedo

K12 Off to a Strong Start!

K12 is kicking this year off with a Strong Start! They have been holding live Program Overview sessions to educate families on the ins and outs of their program before they enroll, as well as, informative sessions for newly enrolled families with tips and tricks for a successful school year.

To keep families connected over the summer leading into the new school year, they launched a new website that focuses on new families and it gives them the tools they need to get started in the program. They call this the Strong Start Website! It includes, but is not limited to, support from the parent network, summer online camps, and parent and teacher toolkits.

K12 is excited and looking forward to the new school year!

Submitted Traci Hill



News from the Tower



This year brings the launch of the Florida Online Course Catalog. This catalog showcases online courses offered by school districts, approved virtual providers and Florida Virtual School. We thank the many districts who have already entered their courses into the catalog and stand ready to assist those that have not done so yet. Please send any questions related to the online catalog to:

OnlineCatalog@fldoe.org.

The VIP provider approval began on September 1, a month earlier this year, in hopes of getting the list of approved providers to districts earlier. Five providers have registered to apply thus far. In addition, the rule and application for course provider approval goes to the State Board of Education in November. Plans are to launch the first course provider approval process in January, 2015 for the following school year.

We Need You!

Roses are red, violets are blue, the Virtual View newsletter sure does need YOU!

Please submit articles and pictures for the December newsletter to virtualeducation@fldoe.org.

