

Happy Summer!

June 2014



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

the Virtual View

It's hard to believe another school year has come and gone. And again, I am so amazed at the many virtual opportunities and experiences you provide for your students. 2013-14 was an extraordinary yet challenging year in which your virtual schools offered new programs, courses and events while adjusting to a new way of funding. Thank you so much for what you do for our Florida students! I wish you and your students, teachers and families a fun and relaxing summer.

Happy Reading! Sally

News from the Tower:

Florida is launching its new **Florida Online Course Catalog** for 2014-15. This online catalog will showcase Florida Virtual School, district and approved provider courses. The administrative side of the catalog is already open so all can enter their courses and what makes them unique before the public launch in July. For more information about the catalog, please email OnlineCatalog@fldoe.org.

Congratulations to Edmentum for becoming an approved part-time Virtual Instruction Program (VIP) provider for the 2014-15 school year. Their approved courses for VIP are included in their approval memo at: <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-7027/dps-2014-65.pdf>. Edmentum will continue to offer other virtual options for school districts.

The DRAFT Q&A for 2014-15 is being vetted within and outside the department.. We will notify districts, FLVS and providers when it is posted on our website at <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/virtual-schools/>

We are creating a new State Board of Education Rule and approval application for Florida-Approved Courses and MOOCs. If you have questions or input, please email virtualeducation@fldoe.org.

And finally, we have named our newsletter *the Virtual View*. This newsletter will continue to view Florida's comprehensive virtual landscape to report wonderful virtual happenings for our students. Keep your good news coming!

Congratulations Virtual Graduates!

Bay-17	Duval-33	Leon-15	Palm Beach-26	St. Johns-24
Brevard-8	Escambia-39	Manatee-2	Pasco-21	St. Lucie-16
Charlotte-14	FLVS-400	Marion-26	Polk-4	Sumter-4
Collier-4	Hernando-8	Nassau-1	Putnam-21	
Dade-10	Lee-33	Orange-20	Santa Rosa-12	

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“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.” John Dewey



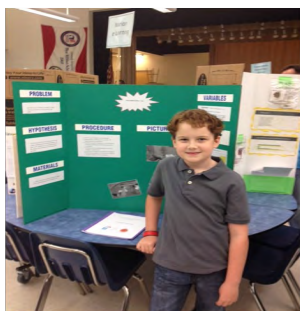
US NEWS BEST HIGH SCHOOLS 2014!!

Congratulations to Lee, Palm Beach, Broward, Orange, and Hillsborough for earning bronze medals in US NEWS BEST HIGH SCHOOLS 2014!!

Way to go!

You're the best!

Marion's Science Showcase and Luncheon



Tuesday night, May 20th, virtual students participated in the District Science Showcase. All students, grades 3-5, completed a science fair project. The top three for each grade level had their projects on display for parents and students from around the district to view. The students were recognized with a ribbon and a certificate.

On Thursday, May 15th, Marion eLearning (Me) hosted an end of the year luncheon for all of their parents and students. Parents and students were served a tasty meal from Marion Technical Institute (MTI) Culinary Arts Program. Marion eLearning gave out recognition awards to student for high achievement in math, language arts, science and social studies.

They also had a small bridging ceremony for kindergarteners who are entering first grade and fifth graders who are heading off to middle school.

Submitted by Tracy Patterson

Lee Students Write a Bill

Lee Virtual School (LVS) students had a fantastic showing during the 9th annual Youth in Government State Conference, which was hosted by the YMCA and held April 10-13 in Haines City, Florida. The goal of Youth in Government is to introduce students to bill writing, amending and pro/con debating. LVS established its Youth in Government chapter this year. After meeting once a week throughout the school year, the student delegates and club advisor, Mrs. Sill, headed to Haines City to compete alongside 104 student delegates from around the state. The students were seated as House of Representatives members or Senate members. Each student presented a bill and then engaged in a pro/con debate. Lee Virtual School students Nicholas Baran and Karstan Kunst wrote a bill addressing school bus stop safety. Nicholas Baran presented their bill and it was the highest ranking bill on the docket after being heard by student delegates. It was one of only two bills to be heard at both the House and Senate level in the entire conference. Danica Murray, also of Lee Virtual School, had the fourth highest bill in the Senate. Danica Murray's bill sought to prohibit the use of hydraulic fracking in the state of Florida. Additional student delegates representing Lee Virtual School were Rhys Bastien, Turner Davis and Graham Kupsaw. To learn more about Lee Virtual School and the numerous virtual learning opportunities available to students, please visit

<http://lvip.leeschools.net>. Submitted by Jennifer DeShazo



Bay Virtual Hits The Road!



On October 4, 2013, and on March 13, 2014, Bay Virtual School's Spanish students went to "Pepper's Restaurant and Grill" to enjoy a delicious lunch, practice their Spanish skills and learn about Hispanic food and culture.

In preparation for the field trip, students were provided with a written lesson, a restaurant menu, and a podcast to help them learn how to order different dishes and to ask for drinks and specials. Students also learned about aspects of Hispanic culture through online lessons and from their teacher Mr. Redaelli.

At the restaurant, students interacted in Spanish with the friendly staff, Bay Virtual personnel, as well as with each other. The students enjoyed the experience and look forward to enhancing their educational experiences through similar future events.

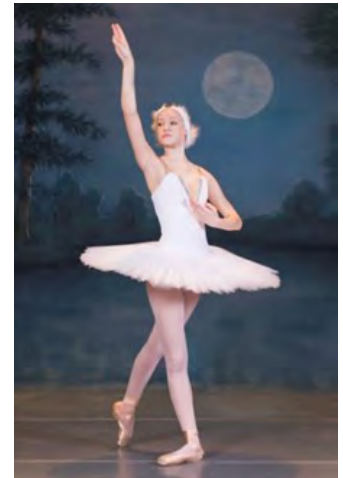
Language arts teacher, Mrs. Laurel Beach also organized and arranged, field trips to J.R. Arnold High School to see two student productions: *Animal Farm* in December and the *Wizard of Oz* in May. Students and parents alike enjoyed the performances. Collaboration assignments for many different courses were developed and completed after the plays.

Submitted by Carra Summers

A Fantastic Year at FLVS!!

School News:

- Florida Virtual School Full Time (FLVS FT) will celebrate the Class of 2014 with a graduation ceremony that will be held on June 4th at the University of Central Florida. FLVS FT has approximately 400 graduates throughout the state of Florida with more than 150 attending the ceremony.
- FLVS hosted over 50 field trips across the state in which students were able to socialize and make new friends.
- Over 25 students showcased their talents during the annual FLVS FT Talent Show .
- FLVS FT received recognition from Governor Rick Scott for ranking 27th out of 1,649 Title I schools in Reading Proficiency.
- Teachers and students joined to honor our countless veterans and worked with Operation Gratitude to start a Letters to Troops program.
- Florida Virtual School is expanding its **FLVS Get Certified: Career & Technical Education Course** offerings by adding 21 new test preparation courses to its roster of award-winning virtual classes. The courses will be released in three phases beginning August 1 and continuing with new releases through January 2015. Visit www.flvs.net/getcertified for details.



Awards Galore at FLVS!!

- Twenty-four FLVS FT students were inducted into the National Honor Society. Students and family members attended the ceremony as well as faculty members many of whom were members of the NHS when they were in high school!
- Two FLVS News in a Click students, Samantha Morris and Lauren Mackey, received national recognition in the 2014 [International Writing and Photography Contest](#), sponsored by Quill and Scroll and [American Society of News Editors Youth Journalism Initiative](#).
- FLVS Chief Learning Officer Felicia Ryerson was inducted into the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) 2014 Hall of Fame on May 5th.
- Lady Dhyana Ziegler, Ph.D., member of the FLVS Board of Trustees and Florida A&M University professor, has been appointed the Garth C. Reeves Eminent Scholar Chair in the School of Journalism and Graphic Communication (SJGC).

French Film Crew



Students in the FLVS Blended Learning Community at Christa McAuliffe Middle School in Palm Beach School District, brushed up on their French when a television crew from France stopped by to film the students for the French channel Canal+ documentary titled, "L'Ecole du Futur" ("The School of the Future"). The objective of the documentary is to show how education is being changed by technology and the benefits digital education provides students. The documentary is to air in France in September.

Submitted by Suzan Kurdak

K12 Virtual Charter Academies Having Fun!

Students in virtual charter academies participated in fun end of the school year celebrations.

Broward and Palm Beach students celebrated their accomplishments at end of school year bowling celebrations.

Pasco students sailed into summer aboard the Island Star on June 3rd. On the way out to the island they learned about local history and natural vegetation, along with abundant bird and marine animal life from our own first mate, Alicia Wilson. Once on this beautiful, undeveloped island, students participated in a scavenger hunt. This one-of-a-kind adventure was specifically designed to provide students with hands-on marine discoveries.

Orange Districts Students participated in an afternoon scavenger hunt at the Orange County Regional History Center in downtown Orlando.



Students in Jacksonville had an end of the school year picnic. There were several hiking trails to choose from or students could simply relax around the lake.

Legislative Updates

The 2014 Legislature did not change or expand Florida virtual options nor make any revisions to student eligibility requirements. There were a few items of note:

- If SB 850 is signed by the Governor, an online Driver Education course will again be allowed to meet the online course graduation requirement. There were numerous other clarifications and revisions related to state assessments and graduation requirements in HB 7031 (already signed).
- The Virtual Education Contribution (VEC) component of the Florida Education Funding Program (FEFP) was increased from \$5,200 to \$5,230 per successful FTE completion.
- Section 1002.415, Florida Statutes, related to the K-8 Virtual School Program was repealed. However, the remaining students will continue to be funded in the 2014-15 education budget.
- School districts are required to notify parents of virtual choice options offered through school districts and FLVS *at the beginning of the school year*.

Start the new school year by sharing your articles and pictures for the September newsletter!

Send to virtualeducation@fldoe.org

