

March 2015



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

the Virtual View

Happy Spring!

Spring has finally sprung! I hope you feel refreshed from your respective spring breaks because I know you have a lot on your plates between now and the end of the school year. We are busy here, too. As you know, the legislative session is in full swing and we will do our best to keep you posted on any virtual happenings. Please share your thoughts with us on pending legislation as we need your perspective to paint a complete picture of the potential impact on virtual students and schools. We have also been working with you on getting your online courses into Florida’s new online course catalog. The catalog now includes courses offered by 59 districts! Thank you!

We wish you and your students much success as this school year draws to a close. We hope to include your successes in our end-of-the-year newsletter in early June. Please keep your stories and pictures coming.

Sally

Course Code Directory

When one chapter ends, another begins! While we may soon be nearing the end of the school year, plans are already underway for another exciting school year to come! The DOE’s Office of Articulation has been working with the Division of K-12 Public Schools and the Division of Career and Adult Education to produce the 2015-2016 Course Code Directory (CCD).

The CCD is a comprehensive information resource that provides general information about the PreK-12 course numbering system; assists counselors, students and parents in schedule planning; provides specific course information; and lists educator certifications for teaching courses.

A draft of the 2015-2016 CCD is available at <http://www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation/ccd/>. The final version will be made available online, and through the Northwest Regional Data Center, upon adoption by the State Board of Education on April 15, 2015.

Submitted by Trinity Colson, Manger of the CCD

Inside this issue:

FLDVIP Symposium	2
Orange, Osceola	3
FLVS	4
Duval	5
Pinellas	5
Clay	5
Lee	6
Bay	6
DOE	7

“The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next.”

-Abraham Lincoln



In February 2015, the Florida District Virtual Instruction Program Network (FLDVIPN) held its 4th annual online/blended learning symposium in Altamonte Springs, Florida. This symposium highlights the cutting-edge work in K-12 online education across the state of Florida and is the only statewide conference focused solely on the needs and interests of district-operated K-12 online and blended learning programs. More than 350 teachers, administrators, and decision-makers from state, district, private, and other virtual school programs shared numerous opportunities for professional development and networking; learning about the latest trends, challenges and opportunities in online learning and actively participating in over 60 breakout sessions and other symposium events highlighting the latest research, technology, and best practices.



FLDVIPN was founded as a support and collaboration mechanism for public school districts across the state of Florida that operate a virtual program within their education system. Its membership includes public school district virtual leaders, teachers, and staff. As Florida remains the leader in public virtual education options, the FLDVIPN was developed to help identify successful leaders, outstanding programs, innovative and inspiring teaching, and to provide a united voice to help shape the future of virtual education at the district levels. The network's goal is to provide guidance and collaboration in the areas specifically and directly related to the function and purposes of managing the many aspects of virtual instruction at a level of excellence within the Florida public school system.

Our member districts represent a diverse cross-section of K-12 online institutions throughout the state offering students a more flexible and alternative means to meet their educational goals. Submitted by Chris McFarland



Thank you FLDVIPN!!!

Symposium participants left filled with inspiration, new knowledge and opportunities for collaboration. We look forward to next year's symposium as Florida continues to pave the way to success for our virtual students.

Who Done It? A Real Mystery Mock Crime Scene Simulation



Osceola County students have gone "Hybrid"! Neptune Middle School and Osceola Virtual School students brought their families to Forensics Night to experience hands on forensic lab activities and further analyze various mock crime scene simulations. Teachers from the school were dressed as suspicious characters and provided clues throughout the school for students to search and solve the different crime scenes. In addition, the Osceola Sheriff's Office Forensic Unit shared their mobile lab unit and displayed crime scene tools used to analyze actual crime scene evidence. It was a fun-filled educational night with families, teachers and students actively engaged in the scrutinizing of different crime scenes. Look at the amazing evidence from this exciting educational experience.

Submitted by Enid Rentas

Orange County Virtual School Pilots Online Testing

This year Orange County Virtual School (OCVS) piloted an innovative new way of offering required secure testing: via webcam proctor! OCVS is aware that many students choose the virtual schooling environment for the flexibility of scheduling, as well as the ability to be able to work from any remote location. Based on student feedback from last year's numerous state and district required testing sessions, OCVS listened to student feedback, made great strides, and gained district approval to be the first school in Orange County to offer benchmark testing to students outside of a school building. With this new option for 6-11 grade students taking their OCPS benchmark assessments in both October and January, OCVS was able to better accommodate many of their student's hectic schedules.



The on demand test proctoring software allowed for OCVS students to not only to test from home, but also to test anytime within a one-week testing window. Testing Coordinator, Elena Geiser Hogan, is working on gathering qualitative feedback from student and parent participants and will send out a survey and request for volunteers for one-on-one phone interviews in the coming weeks. OCVS strongly encourages survey participation and honest feedback so they can continue to improve in their endeavor to be the top producer of successful virtual students in the nation.

OCVS "Battle of the Books" Book Club

New for the 2014-2015 school year, students at Orange County Virtual School participate in monthly Book Club meetings, under the guidance of their sponsor, Ms. Krista Harry. These students love reading and love to share their love of reading with others. During the meetings, members share their current reading selections with their peers and play fun games such as book bingo, trivia, and scavenger hunts for prizes including free books! At each meeting, a rotating selection of children's and young adult novels are made available for checkout to the students.



Submitted by Lacey Anderson

FLVS Teaches Tomorrow's Writers



Teachers at Florida Virtual School Full Time K-8 work to strengthen and develop their students' writing in a variety of ways throughout the school year. Last year, our teachers began a conversation about how to support and empower our amazing students as they prepared for the new state writing test. Those conversations developed into planning meetings that focused on topics for student breakout sessions, as well as a session for learning coaches who work alongside their students each day.

In January, our school hosted face-to-face events throughout the state. During these interactive sessions, students and their learning coaches were given the opportunity to dig deeper into their understanding of the new writing Florida Standards Assessments, and last minute ways to help prepare for the March assessment. Sessions were conducted at local libraries

and students participated in specific writing stations to practice their skills and get immediate feedback. Topics covered included crafting writing using text-based evidence; developing a thesis sentence and supporting it with rich details; and addressing a prompt to ensure writing is focused and on topic. Learning coaches reviewed specific information from the Florida Department of Education, including a test-taking paper, scoring rubrics, and excerpts from the FSA Writing Test Administration Manual. Teachers shared grade-level reading passages with prompts and online resources for the parents to use to help students practice in the last few weeks leading up to the test.

FLVS Students Receive President's Volunteer Award

Emma Cahoon, Valeria Hansen, Sabrina Jasiulewicz, and Hayley Mooney Todd from FLVS Full Time have been honored for their exemplary volunteer service with a President's Volunteer Service award. The award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country, was granted by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program on behalf of President Barack Obama.

FLVS Brings STEM Fair to the Capitol

With STEM being a major focus in Florida and for this state legislative session, FLVS showcased STEM courses to legislators and their staff on March 11. FLVS celebrated its Day at the Capitol by giving course tours including; Anatomy and Physiology, AP Calculus, Biology, and Business Keyboarding. In the last two years, FLVS has nearly doubled the number of STEM courses—providing students with the skills they need to progress in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields.

Submitted by Suzan Kurdak

Duval's Virtual Holiday Blast at Adventure Landing

What a way to start the holidays!! Duval Virtual Instruction Academy (DVIA), in partnership with Calvert Learning and Adventure Landing, hosted a fun-filled night to highlight the successes of their fall semester and to usher in the winter break. DVIA kindergarteners to seniors, parents, and faculty left the computers and learning materials at home to celebrate with pizza, rides, miniature golf, and laser tag. The event was a fabulous opportunity for students to socialize with each other and to interact with their instructors in a “no-technology zone”.



The evening also gave us an opportunity to share our program with families from around the community who wanted to learn more about what DVIA has to offer their child. All were excited to meet Duval Virtual Principal, Mr. Mark Ertel. Parents and students came with enthusiastic questions about “just how this whole thing works”. DVIA staff answered their questions along with current families who were excited to share the flexibility and individual attention afforded to their students through virtual education. Several of these same families followed up with the school with spring enrollments for their student(s) and many others expressed interest in starting in the fall.

Submitted by Kristin Smith

Pinellas Virtual Goes to Cracker Country



Pinellas Virtual School offers a myriad of field trips throughout the year and most recently, the Elementary Team went on a field trip to Cracker Country (located in Tampa, FL). Cracker Country is a pioneer village representing late 19th century rural Florida. Students spent the day discovering what daily life was like for Florida's early pioneers. History came alive that day as PVS students engaged in hands-on activities like household chores and gardening. They were also introduced to pioneer trades and explored the various buildings throughout the village. The students thoroughly enjoyed their Cracker Country experience and were able to conceptualize the differences and similarities between their modern lives and the lives of children from the late 19th century. Prior to attending the fieldtrip, PVS students learned about 19th century Florida history and immediately following the trip, students created Prezi presentations explaining what life was

like during this time period and how it is similar or different from life today. Submitted by Holly McBride

Tutoring Time in Clay

Clay Virtual Academy (CVA) teachers choose to meet face-to-face for tutor time at our various Business Partners locations.

Mr. White met with CVA Pre-Algebra students, Kolton, Kaylee, and Josh to find the length of their shadow (hypotenuse) for their 3.02 Pythagorean Theorem Applications Project. While they were working at the Middleburg Chick-fil-A (a CVA Business Partner), Mr. Mayo, the owner, stopped in for a visit and pictures.

Submitted by Lori Stroud



Lee Virtual Gets Active



The staff and students of Lee Virtual School have had a very busy year. The number of teachers has increased considerably in order to accommodate our new “part-time” program, in which students in traditional schools are given the opportunity to complete their virtual requirement for graduation by taking Lee Virtual School courses either in Virtual Learning Labs at their school or at home after school. Several teachers work exclusively with these part-time students; others have both full time and part time students, which makes for very busy schedules.

Students have participated in several activities outside of their daily studies. They visited a local waste water treatment plant and learned the path that water takes from tap through treatment. One of our business partners, Polygon Solutions, hosted our third annual Manufacturing Day event, featuring a design contest for which the winners received very nice prizes at an awards ceremony a few weeks after the visit. The third annual LVS Canoe with the Manatees in February was a resounding success despite winds making paddling a bit more difficult. Our elementary students did the traditional fire house field trip and one to the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife, where they saw an owl in surgery for a broken wing. Both National Honor Societies, Junior and Senior, have been busy with community service activities such as Special Olympics and beach clean ups. And, part-time students had an opportunity to join in when Outdoor Education students participated in a Hunter Safety Field Day at Camp Miles Scout Camp. Another feature of the Lee Virtual School program allows students to come to our location once a week to meet face-to-face with teachers and other students on our Academic Days. On these days they can get assistance with courses, if needed; work on collaborative assignments or participate in special activities related to current studies. We’re looking forward to wrapping up the school year and planning for an even more successful new year in August. Submitted by Ann Taylor



National Honor Society for BVS



Bay Virtual School was excited to induct its inaugural group of students into the Bay Virtual School National Honor Society on May 12th in a formal candlelight induction ceremony in the Bay District Schools Boardroom. An extensive application was reviewed by a faculty committee to determine if the applicants met the qualifications in the areas of scholarship, character, leadership and service. Student leaders researched their assigned area and identified a quote that reflected their beliefs in that area. Students participated in the induction ceremony reciting quotes from Theodore Roosevelt, Muhammad Ali, Albert Einstein, and John F.

Kennedy. Congratulations to our new inductees and officers! We're proud of you!

Submitted by Carra Summers

News from the Tower

The new **Florida Online Course Catalog** is **overflowing** with awesome courses offered by school districts, approved providers and Florida Virtual School. The catalog includes over 8,700 courses with over 370 unique courses that include everything from algebra, anatomy and art to web design, world languages and world literature. Check it out at <http://app4.fldoe.org/coursecatalog/>. Thanks to all who have entered their courses into this amazing, one-stop resource for students and parents. If your district is one of the few that has not entered your courses yet, have no fear! It's easy, quick and painless with Lisa Luna and Meagan Presley in our office ready to help you. Just email OnlineCourseCatalog@fldoe.org to set up a time for their assistance.



Congratulations to Somerset Virtual Academy and to Florida Connections Academy! They recently completed the DOE's rigorous and comprehensive **Virtual Program Provider approval** process. Somerset Virtual Academy was approved for an additional three years and Florida Connections Academy was approved as a part-time provider for grades 9-12—this in addition to already being approved as a full-time and part-time provider for grades K-8.

The DOE is in the midst of its **first-ever course provider approval** process. Stay tuned as results will be announced in May.

Legislative session is in full swing. Two bills, House Bill (HB) 7037 and Senate Bill (SB) 1448 include language to repeal student eligibility criteria to participate in virtual education. In addition, two bills, HB 477 and SB 970 address background screening and notification, to include instructional and other personnel of virtual instruction program providers. To search for these and other bills, please enter the bill # in the box indicated on the top left of the following web page: www.flsenate.gov.

We need and value your input as we revise the applications and rules related to program and course provider approvals. We are planning to implement a meaningful renewal process for providers that have done well in their initial approval period. You can view the DRAFT applications and rules and submit comments and questions at: <https://app1.fldoe.org/rules/default.aspx>

Did You Know?

iNACOL has just released a new report, *Performance-Based Funding & Online Learning: Maximizing Resources for Student Success*.

This report provides the field of K-12 education with new research on performance-based funding models, including new research on costs and funding models for online learning programs. The report also provides an examination of the variety of funding models for online learning and courses at a time when state legislatures across the U.S. are considering online and course access programs for their schools and students. You can access this report using the link here: <http://bit.ly/inacolpbf>

Share your graduation and other articles and pictures for the newsletter in June!

Send to: virtualeducation@fldoe.org