
ACADEMIES @ NEASE HIGH SCHOOL

August Newsletter

Academy Coordinator: Jaime Combs

904.547.8306 | jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us



Academy Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year! Nearly 1,000 students are currently registered in one of Nease's three Career Academies.

This year will be filled with innovative class projects, engaging guest speakers, and unique field trips that will truly bring our Communications, Engineering, and Hospitality and Tourism curriculum to life. Each month you will receive a newsletter via email, to keep our Academy students and parents updated with the latest information on what's happening in our Academy programs. In the first edition, we're introducing you to our fantastic Academy instructors.

MEET OUR ACADEMY INSTRUCTORS

ST. JOHNS COUNTY ACADEMY OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM

Tara Cushman – Digital Information Technology, Introduction to Hospitality and Tourism, Technology for Hospitality & Tourism

Tara Cushman is a graduate of Western New England University with a B.S.B.A. in Sport Management and a Juris Doctorate from the School of Law. This past year she served as the Virtual Lab Facilitator at Ponte Vedra High School and prior to that she was a 9th Grade Math Fellow for a pilot program for at-risk-youths in Springfield, Massachusetts. Before joining the education field she worked in real estate law, but felt her true passion was working with young minds.

UPCOMING EVENTS

STUDENT CLASS MEETINGS

August 16th (during classes)

FIRST HOME FOOTBALL GAME

August 19th

NEASE OPEN HOUSE

September 6th 6 – 8 pm

ACADEMY CONTRACTS

All students are required to turn in a signed Academy Contract each school year. Academy Contracts have been emailed out via Naviance, or you can download and print an Academy Contract from the Nease Academies website at:

<http://www-nhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/academies/>

Students must turn in a signed copy of the Academy Contract to their Academy teacher or Mrs. Combs, in guidance, by September 2nd.

Tim Gilboy -- Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering

Tim Gilboy graduated from Fletcher High School, and received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Florida in Environmental Engineering and Science. While at UF, Tim interned at an environmental engineering firm, where he worked full-time after graduation. He then went on to earn a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from UC-Santa Barbara. Mr. Gilboy moved into education from 1998-2002, teaching physics at Nease High School. He then returned to engineering, working for Taylor Engineering in the hydrology and hydraulics group, Levitt and Sons as a land superintendent, and the City of Atlantic Beach as the deputy public works director. Mr. Gilboy returned to Nease in the science department before taking on his Academy role last year.

COMMUNICATIONS ACADEMY

Holly Bourquin -- Journalism (Newspaper)

Holly Bourquin joined the Nease faculty during the 2013-2014 school year as an English and Journalism teacher. Ms. Bourquin has previously taught at Fruit Cove Middle School, Saint Johns River Community College, and East Carolina University. In addition to her teaching experience, she brings more than 16 years of writing, editing, and publishing experience. Previous roles have included overseeing the publication of an international magazine, serving on the Florida Magazine Association board of directors, and managing multiple forms of communications including social media, digital media, print media, and web publishing. She holds a master's in English with a concentration in technical and professional communication.

Holly Farson -- Journalism (Yearbook)

Holly Farson hails from the bluegrass state and graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1992 with a major in journalism and minor in law. She and her husband, Jim, settled in Florida in the early 1990s and she spent her early career traveling the state of Florida training insurance agents. Joining Nease in 2012, Mrs. Farson has taught both English and AP Human Geography. She has also been the Yearbook Advisor for the past three years.

Jaqueline Soto – Digital Information Technology, Digital Design 1-4

Jacquelyn Soto comes to Nease High School with 12 years' experience teaching high school technology education courses. She began her teaching career at her alma mater, Woodbridge High School in Woodbridge, NJ, where she taught everything from Keyboarding to Web Design. After 10 years, she made the move down to Florida, where she taught Digital Design in Brevard County for 2 years. Jacquelyn holds a



HOW CAN PARENTS GET INVOLVED?

If you work in the fields of Communications (TV Production or Digital Design), Engineering, or Hospitality and Tourism, we would love to invite you in as a guest speaker, or as a potential field trip site host.

Contact: Jaime Combs
904.547.8306

Jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Kyle Dresback

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Mr. Ted Banton

Dr. Latasha Bowens

Mrs. Abbey Mander

DEANS

Mrs. Jacqueline Ashcroft

9th & 11th Grades

Mrs. Katie O'Connell

10th & 12th Grades

Mr. Jerry Hurst

Attendance, Parking, Safety Drills

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Mr. Matt McCool

Athletic Director

Mrs. Angie Stricklin

Athletic Secretary

Bachelor's degree in Business Education from East Carolina University and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from University of Phoenix.

Geoff Stephens – Introduction to TV Production, Sports Media, Senior Video

Geoff Stephens is in his 17th year of teaching Television Production at Nease. He created and implemented the Sports Media program here, which is the only one of its kind in the country. In fact, The Collegiate Sports Video Association named Mr. Stephens the 2015-2016 High School Video Coordinator of the Year. Mr. Stephens has his Master's Degree in Education from Mississippi State University.

Justin Cooler – Introduction to TV Production, Wired

Justin Cooler uses his up-bringing in deaf culture and his real world experience with production companies like VH1, America's Most Wanted, and Ghost Robot to craft various forms of media with a distinct visual style. Working from New York City to New Orleans, LA on everything from Music Videos to Feature Films, Justin has garnered many skills in the technical and physical aspects of filmmaking. Justin worked for the St. Johns County School District for 3 ½ years, teaching media skills to students, creating original educational videos, and serving the schools as a broadcast technician. Justin will now be entering the classroom to impart his production knowledge full-time as the instructor for WIRED/TV Production.



NEED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH A GUIDANCE COUNSELOR?

You can set up an appointment with a guidance counselor by calling the guidance department secretary at 904-547-8321.

You can also find great information on the guidance website:

<http://www-nhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/>

GUIDANCE STAFF

Cindy Vartanian

Students with last names A-E

Laura Maalouf

Students with last names F-K

Michel Gledhill

Students with last names L-P

Daphne Harden

Students with last names Q-Z

NEASE WEBSITE

Get the latest Nease news by visiting our website:

<http://www-nhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>