

August Newsletter

Academy Coordinator: Jaime Combs

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

TARDY POLICY STARTS FOR STUDENTS

August 21st

"APPLYING TO A FLORIDA STATE SCHOOL" PARENT SEMINAR

August 29th 5 pm in the PAC

NEASE OPEN HOUSE

August 29th 6 pm

LABOR DAY, NO SCHOOL

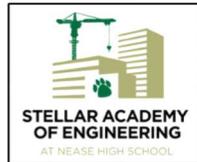
September 4th

ACADEMY CONTRACTS

All students are required to turn in a signed Academy Contract each school year. Copies of the Academy Contracts can be picked up in the student's Academy class, or students can print the annual contract from the Nease Academies website at:

www.neaseacademies.com

Students must turn in a signed copy of the Academy Contract to their Academy teacher by September 1st.



Academy Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! More than 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 & Tourism curriculum to life. Each month you will receive a newsletter via email, to keep Academy students and parents updated with the latest information on what's happening in our one-of-a-kind programs. In the first edition for the 2017-18 school year, we are catching you up on some big changes to our Academy classrooms and introducing you to our fantastic Academy instructors.

-Jaime Combs, Academy Coordinator

ACADEMY CLASSROOM UPGRADES

The construction of Panther Hall means upgraded new homes for the Stellar Academy of Engineering and the St. Johns County Academy of Hospitality & Tourism! This year, the Stellar Academy has expanded to two full-sized classroom spaces, to accommodate the over 350 Engineering students enrolled in the program. The classes offer computer lab access as well as a dedicated project area, with brand new furniture custom-created for our Engineering students.



The St. Johns County Academy of Hospitality & Tourism has found its home on the first floor of Panther Hall, near the new Media Center. The large classroom features a lobby space, conference table area, as well as a full computer lab. We look forward to the Academy continuing to grow in its new home!

The Communications Academy is next up to see change as a result of campus construction. Mr. Stephens' Sports Media and TV Production Technology classes have moved to a temporary classroom space as renovations are set to begin on the old Media Center. The Sports Media classroom is slated to increase in size as a result of the renovation. The Wired studio has already seen upgrades, as a result of Mr. Cooler building a green-screen cyclorama in the classroom. And finally, when the old Media Center renovations are complete, Mrs. Soto's Digital Design computer lab will move into the largest classroom space in the refreshed building. For the first time, all Communications Academy classrooms will be in the same pod on Nease's campus.

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, Hospitality & Tourism Marketing Management

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. She is now in her second year as the Hospitality and Tourism Academy teacher here at Nease. This past summer, Ms. Cushman participated in the National Park Service's Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program and looks forward to incorporating her experiences into exciting, hands-on opportunities for her students. She also serves as the faculty sponsor for the Nease Interact Club and DECA, as well as head coach of the Girls Lacrosse Team.

STELLAR ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

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

Tim Gilboy received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Florida in Environmental Engineering and Science. Mr. Gilboy worked for an environmental engineering consulting firm before heading back out west (he lived in San Diego as a kid) 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 and coaching the baseball team. He then returned to engineering, working for Taylor Engineering in the hydrology and hydraulics group, Levitt and Sons as the land superintendent, and the City of Atlantic Beach as the deputy public works director. Mr. Gilboy returned to Nease in the science department in 2014 before taking on his Academy role in 2015.



CAREER ACADEMIES

of St Johns

Experience. The Difference.

HOW CAN PARENTS GET INVOLVED?

If you work in the fields of Communications (TV Production or Digital Design), Engineering, or Hospitality and Tourism, let us know! We would love for you to join our Advisory Board, be a guest speaker, or become a potential field trip site host.

Contact: Jaime Combs

904.547.8306

Jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Lisa Kunze

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Mr. Ted Banton

Dr. Latasha Bowens

Mrs. Abbey Mander

DEANS

Mrs. Jacqueline Ashcroft

9th Grade

Mrs. Katie O'Connell

10th Grade

Mr. Jerry Hurst

11th & 12th Grades, Parking

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Mr. Matt McCool

Athletic Director

Mrs. Angie Stricklin

Athletic Secretary

Morgan Hunter -- Introduction to Engineering Design, Civil Engineering & Architecture

A born and raised Buckeye from Columbus, Morgan Hunter earned her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from The Ohio State University. She worked in private consulting firms, TranSystems and River Consulting, doing structural design work before joining Teach for America and becoming an educator. Morgan started out teaching AP Physics at Lee High School in Jacksonville, moved to Venezuela to teach IB Math at an international school, then returned to Jacksonville and taught middle school Math. Last year she finally found her home at Nease, teaching in the Engineering Academy.

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. Mrs. Farson joined Nease's staff in 2012, is teaching World Cultural Geography and U.S. History this year, and 2017-18 marks her 5th year as the Yearbook advisor.

Jacquelyn Soto -- Digital Information Technology, Digital Design 1-4

Jacquelyn Soto became part of the Nease faculty in the 2016-2017 school year, joining the Communications Academy to teach Digital Design. 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 Bachelor's degree in Business Education from East Carolina University and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from University of Phoenix.



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SERVICE HOURS OPPORTUNITY

The Palm Valley Fall Festival, scheduled for September 16th, features the legendary stories of NE St. Johns County.

The festival is looking for Communications Academy student volunteers to help with videography of the event, and volunteers from any of our Academies to assist with check-in, raffle ticket sales, and more.

The event is hosted by the PV Greenway Alliance: a non-profit organization seeking to provide multi-use recreational trails, historical sites and safe interconnectivity throughout Palm Valley and Ponte Vedra.

The fall festival will run from 2:30-6:30 pm on September 16th, at the Post 233 American Legion at 560 N. Wilderness Trail.

All volunteers will earn service hours.

To volunteer, contact:

Deb Chapin, of PVGreenway
904-434-5531

NEASE WEBSITE

Get the latest Nease news by visiting our website:

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

Geoff Stephens – Television Production Technology 1, Sports Media

Geoff Stephens is in his 18th 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 2014-2015 and 2016-2017 High School Video Coordinator of the Year. Mr. Stephens has his Master's Degree in Education from Mississippi State University.

Justin Cooler – Advanced TV Production: Wired

Justin Cooler uses his upbringing 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 in New York City, New Orleans, and LA, he gained experience on everything from Music Videos to Feature Films. During his time in the business, Mr. Cooler garnered many skills in the technical and physical aspects of filmmaking. He 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 an Instructional Television Specialist. In 2016-17, Mr. Cooler's first year teaching television production at Nease, the Student Television Network awarded his students with both regional and national prizes in coveted competitions. He looks forward to what this year will bring, as the Advanced Television Production students take their skills to the next level.