

ACADEMIES @ NEASE HIGH SCHOOL

January Newsletter

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Academy Students and Parents,

Happy New Year! We're starting 2017 with celebrations over Academy student accomplishments, looking forward to a major charity event to be held here at Nease, and planning for next school year's Academy enrollment.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns related to the Academies, feel free to email me at jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Jaime Combs
Academy Coordinator

WIRED NAMED TOP DAILY NEWSCAST IN SOUTHEASTERN US



We would like to congratulate Wired's staff, and teacher, Mr. Cooler, for their impressive win in the Student Television Network Excellence Award competition. *Wired*, which is run by Communications Academy students, was named as the number one Daily Taped High School

Newscast in the Southeastern United States, and a top-four finalist for the national award. The Excellence Award competition brings in entries from many highly-respected broadcast production programs, and we are thrilled that *Wired* has been recognized for its stellar newscast. More than a dozen *Wired* students will be headed to Anaheim, California for the Student Television Network's national convention and competition in March, when they'll find out if they've won the National Excellence Award for the Daily Taped category. We wish them the best of luck!



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR
HOLIDAY

January 16th

REPORT CARDS RELEASED

January 20th

ACADEMY APPLICATION
WINDOW FOR RISING 9TH/10TH
GRADERS (NEW ACADEMY
APPLICANTS)

January 19th-February 10th

NHS FREE TUTORING

The National Honor Society offers free tutoring to students right after school, every Tuesday and Thursday, in the Media Center. Nease provides Activity Buses on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well, so students have late transportation home, if they are zoned for Nease.

NHS upperclassmen provide the free tutoring in just about every subject, and a teacher is also present.

NEASE ACADEMIES WEBSITE

Important Academy news, dates and information updated weekly:

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND HOSPITALITY DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS PASS INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION TEST

Both the Communications Academy Digital Design strand and the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism offer Digital Information Technology as the first-level Academy course. These D.I.T students were the first to be able to take a professional certification exam for the 2016-17 school year, and we are proud to announce that more than 65 of our students passed the Microsoft Office Word professional certification exam. Both Mrs. Soto's and Ms. Cushman's students worked hard to prepare for and pass the exam, and we offer a huge congratulations for their accomplishment! D.I.T. students will also have the chance to take the Powerpoint and Excel professional certifications, and, if they pass, will earn the Microsoft Office Suite Industry Certification.

REMAINING IN AN ACADEMY FOR THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

Before winter break, all Academy students were asked to indicate if they want to remain in their Academy for the 2017-18 school year by signing an Intent to Return roster. If the student checked "Yes," than that student will be automatically re-enrolled in the Academy for 2017-18. If an Academy student indicated that he/she does not want to continue in the Academy next year, a form will be sent home for the student and a parent to sign, confirming that the student would like to be removed from the Academy next year. That form will be distributed to students at the end of the month, should be signed and returned to Mrs. Combs.

In regard to Out of Zone students, district policy states that Out of Zone Academy students no longer have to fill out an Out of Zone Waiver each year. Simply being on an Academy roster acts as the student's Out of Zone waiver.

ACADEMY NEW APPLICATION WINDOW OPENS JAN. 19TH

Current 8th and 9th grade students are invited to apply to Academy programs during the application window: January 19th – February 10th. If there is a 9th grader not involved in an Academy this year, or if a current Academy student wants to leave their 2016-17 Academy to take part in a different Academy at Nease, or at any high school in St. Johns County, for the 2017-18 school year, they will need to apply during the application window. This year applications will be submitted through the Student's Home Access Center account. Students are allowed to apply to up to three Academies, ranked in order of preference. For complete application instructions, go to neaseacademies.com



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ACADEMY PROBATION POLICY

A reminder that Academy students sign a contract at the beginning of each year stating that they will maintain certain academic and behavioral standards in order to remain in an Academy program. Academy students must maintain a total GPA of at least a 2.0, and must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA (75%) in an Academy class. A student in an Academy must also maintain a good discipline record.

In accordance with district policy, if a student does not meet these requirements, he/she will be placed on probation for a semester. If, at the end of that probation period, he/she does not have a GPA which meets the requirements, or fails to have an improved discipline record, the student will be removed from the Academy. If an Out of Zone student is removed from an Academy, he/she will be transferred back to his/her zoned school.

Letters will be sent home after report card grades are released on January 20th, to make students and parents aware of probationary status for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year.

INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH ACADEMY STUDENTS

We are featuring two guest speakers in January: Michael Ryan, the Communications Director for St. Johns County, and Christopher Thomas, an Engineer with Northrop Grumman.

Mr. Ryan joined us on January 6th, and spoke to a classroom full of Communications Academy students about his professional journey, finding your creative passion, and discussed what his job entails on a daily basis. He answered student questions and discussed potential summer internship opportunities for interested Academy students. We thank Mr. Ryan for spending time with us!



Mr. Thomas, who focuses on Stress Engineering analysis, will be here to speak with Stellar Academy students on January 20th. We'll be sending out emails in advance of his visit, and all Academy students are welcome to attend. The event will take place in Mr. Gilboy's room, during Session A of Power Hour.

2ND ANNUAL SOUPER BOWL CHARITY EVENT COMING UP FEBRUARY 2ND



The incredible SOUPer Bowl fundraiser is scheduled to return for its second year, in hopes of raising thousands more dollars for the Blessings in a Backpack foundation. Each week, a group of IB students purchase, pack and deliver backpacks to hungry children at The Webster School, through the Blessings in a Backpack program. Currently, they help feed hundreds of students each weekend, by providing backpacks filled with food. It costs \$100 to provide food for each child per year. Last year's event brought in over \$23,000 for

the foundation, and was a smashing success. This year's event is scheduled for February 2nd at Nease. The event will feature 20 upscale local restaurants, each armed with their best soup for guests to sample, going head-to-head to see whose recipe is best. Tickets are just \$25 each, and there are packages available for families and corporate sponsors. The SOUPer Bowl is selling tickets to their event at www.studentstacklehunger.org. Check out the website to learn more about the event, buy tickets, or simply donate to this incredibly worthy cause. Students in both the Hospitality and Communications Academies will be working on this event with IB students.

