

November Newsletter

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Academy Students and Parents,

With fall comes field trips, and the Academy students have enjoyed quite a few unique learning experiences recently. This month's newsletter highlights the trips which have taken place recently. Our biggest field trip of the year, to Universal Studios, is coming up on December 1st, and is sure to be a great learning experience, and a fun event, for all those students who have turned in their field trip forms and payment.

Students, be sure to take part in our specialized guest speaker events! During our Power Hour events, Academy students can come hear from professionals working in the industry now, to learn what it takes to be successful in the fields of Engineering, Communications, and Hospitality. The events are announced in Academy classes, and emails are sent home via Naviance.

I wish you all a happy and healthy Thanksgiving holiday!

Jaime Combs
Academy Coordinator

COMMUNICATIONS ACADEMY STUDENTS TRAVEL TO WJXT



Advanced television production students in Wired and Sports Media visited WJXT Channel 4 Studios on October 25th. They took part in the second annual Broadcast Journalism Workshop, hosted by The Local Station.



UPCOMING EVENTS

VETERANS DAY – NO SCHOOL

November 11th

INTERIM GRADES POSTED

November 16th

THANKSGIVING BREAK

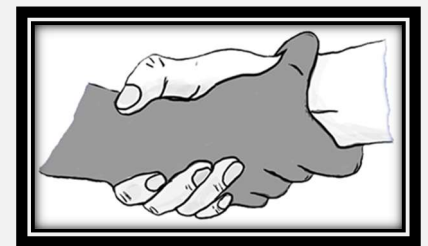
November 23rd, 24th and 25th

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS FIELD TRIP

December 1st

SHIRT DESIGN WINNER

This year Communications Academy Digital Design students were asked to create original t-shirt designs for Make a Difference Day, a national community service day which is embraced in St. Johns County. While many designs were submitted, the students selected Ashlynn McCormick's design (below) as the winner. Her design was featured on the t-shirts worn by all of the St. Johns County volunteers who worked with the St. Johns Housing Partnership during Make a Difference Day, on October 22nd.



The station's Vice President and General Manager, Bob Ellis, spearheaded the event, and spent time speaking with the students about the many different departments that make up WJXT, and how he got interested in working in broadcast television.



Then the kids headed down to Studio B, where they met up with News Director Kathryn Bonfield and reporter Heather Leigh. In the hour-long session, students learned how to improve their news stories through better writing, stronger stand-ups, and more professional on-camera presence. With newfound knowledge in hand, the students had the chance to watch the live noon news broadcast. They got to spend time in the studio and watch the show being produced from outside the control room.



The tour ended with a trip through the newsroom, and then back upstairs for a lunch catered by WJXT, which featured guest speakers from different departments in the newsroom. The workshop was a huge success, providing students with new insight into potential careers in broadcast journalism, and giving them tips and tricks that they can start using in their Advanced TV Production classes right now.

PONTE VEDRA INN & CLUB WELCOMES HOSPITALITY STUDENTS

Academy of Hospitality and Tourism students got a first-hand look at resort management on their field trip to the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club. First, it was a glimpse at the new employee training, run by Mr. Bill David, Director of Training. It was an energetic lesson, focused



on the history of the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club, followed by specifics regarding both the hotel and club operations. The Ponte Vedra Club has the largest membership in the Southern United States, and the Inn reports the highest guest return rate in the entire United States. Next, it was a glimpse at the guest experience. Students learned that

guests of the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club spend, on average, about \$700 per day. This means they expect the best customer service experience and accommodations possible. The students toured the resort, including the main building, shops, tennis facility, surf club, gym and multiple dining facilities. Then, they were treated to a catered lunch, followed by



NHS 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.

POWER HOUR

Students, be sure to take advantage of Power Hour opportunities to enrich your educational experience. During Power Hour, teachers are offering extra help to students struggling in class, clubs are meeting, students can retake tests or complete missed assignments, and the media center is open to allow students to do homework or research.

NEASE WEBSITE

Get the latest Nease news by visiting our website:

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

information on the extensive customer service training which all employees receive. Finally, it was time for one more tour of the property, which included the golf facility, housekeeping headquarters, and laundry



facilities, which can process 1,000 towels a day, along with all the linens from the 249 rooms at the Inn.

Overall, the students had an amazing experience learning what it takes to run a AAA 5 diamond award-winning property. We thank

the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club for their incredible hospitality during our field trip!

STELLAR STUDENTS SEE ROBOTIC ENGINEERING IN ACTION

Stellar Academy of Engineering students took the short trip over to the IMAX theater at World Golf Village on October 27th to see the National Geographic film, *Robots*. The film gave them a new view of all the possibilities when it comes to the future of robotic engineering. For those who were watching closely, it also provided a look at which Universities are at the forefront of robotic engineering technology.



TOURISM AND MARKETING COME TOGETHER ON FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH FIELD TRIP



On November 3rd, Digital Information Technology students in both the Communications Academy and Academy of Hospitality & Tourism had the chance to see how Tourism and Marketing collide at the historic Fountain of Youth Archeological Park. The trip was organized by Advisory Board member Ali Fraser, and when the students arrived, they were greeted by Ms. Fraser



and Kit Keating, Director of Public Relations for the park. Students spent time in the Fountain of Youth Pavilion, where they learned about the history of the park, and the marketing efforts used to draw in tourists. Then the students took part in two of the most iconic features of the destination: watching a cannon firing and sipping water from the famed Fountain of Youth. Students will now take the experiences and information they gained during this field trip to complete projects in their Digital Information Technology classes.



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9th & 11th Grades

Ms. 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

NEASE ACADEMIES WEBSITE

Important Academy news, dates and information updated weekly:

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

ACADEMY POWER HOUR GUEST SPEAKERS



On Friday, October 21st, Will Lyon of Pond & Company joined us at Nease to share his background in Transportation Engineering with a classroom filled with Academy students. Mr. Lyon shared some of his latest projects, including sidewalk construction along US 1, a trail project in Hastings, and adding shoulders and wider lanes along I-95. He discussed why standards are paramount in transportation engineering, and enlightened students on how the highway design process works. He explained the importance of problem solving and recognizing how existing conditions can impact

finding solutions. Students learned about traffic studies, ITS (which will become more and more important as self-driving cars become more prevalent in the future) and traffic operations like road striping, signals, and lighting. This guest speaker event provided many students with their first glimpse into opportunities in the realm of transportation engineering, and we thank Mr. Lyon for sharing his passion with the students in such an engaging way!

On November 4th, professional photographer Tony Skowron, of Cady Studios, joined us for a Communications Academy guest speaker event. During his time in the classroom, he shared his thoughts on the importance of following your passion when it comes time to choose a career. Instead of solely focusing on sharing his personal path to becoming a Director of Photography, Tony emphasized the need for students to determine why they want a particular career, not just what they want to do as a job. His impassioned speech really connected with the students.

