

January Newsletter

Academy Coordinator: Jaime Combs

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



Academy Students and Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful winter break, and all the Academy students are ready to do their very best in the second semester. This month's newsletter looks to inform students and parents on how to remain in the Academy programs for 2019-2020, and how to take advantage of summer internship opportunities. There's also information regarding an annual fundraiser to help local students in need.

Sincerely,

Jaime Combs
Academy Coordinator

REMAINING IN AN ACADEMY PROGRAM FOR 2019-2020

Before winter break, all Academy students were asked to indicate if they want to remain in their Academy for the 2019-20 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 2019-20. If an Academy student indicated that he/she does not want to continue in the Academy next year, a form will be emailed to parents for the student and a parent to sign, confirming that the student would like to be removed from the Academy next year, and that the parent agrees. Once that form is signed, it should be returned to Mrs. Combs. Students can drop it off at the front desk and ask that it be placed in Mrs. Combs' mailbox. Students will not have the next-level Academy course removed from their schedule until the drop form is signed and received by Mrs. Combs. Remember, the last day for schedule changes for the 2019-2020 school year will be April 30th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR
HOLIDAY

January 21st

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

January 24th-February 19th

ACADEMY SUMMER INTERNSHIP
INFORMATION MEETING
(FOR CURRENT JUNIORS)

January 31st

SUCCEED THIS SEMESTER!

Start the second semester strong by getting help in any subject you're struggling in. Utilize Excel Time and after-school tutoring!

During Excel Time Session A, students can get help from teachers in: Social Studies, Math, Electives and Academy courses.

During Excel Time Session B, students can get help in: English, Science and World Language courses.

Students can also get tutoring by NHS members in the Media Center after school every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday.

In regards 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. However, if an Out of Zone student chooses to drop their Academy membership, he/she must return to his/her zoned school for the 2019-20 school year.

ACADEMY APPLICATION WINDOW OPENS JAN. 24TH FOR STUDENTS WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN AN ACADEMY

Current 8th and 9th grade students are invited to apply to Academy programs during the application window: January 24th – February 19th. If there is a 9th grader not involved in an Academy this year, or if a current 9th grade Academy student wants to leave their 2018-19 Academy to take part in a different Academy at Nease, or at any high school in St. Johns County, for the 2019-20 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, once the application window opens on January 24th

CURRENT ACADEMY JUNIORS ELIGIBLE FOR SUMMER INTERNSHIPS IN THEIR INDUSTRY



Each summer, rising seniors are eligible to take part in an Academy internship. The opportunity involves local businesses in the Hospitality, Engineering, or Communications industry taking on students for 3-6 weeks, in order to show them how to apply their Academy skills in the real world.

Students go through an application and interview process to earn an internship offer from a local business. In the past we have placed student interns at locations including Stellar, Leonard's, Nocatee Television, Gulfstream Design Group, St. Johns Government Television, and the City of St. Augustine Public Works Department. As determined by the internship site, Academy student interns either earn community service hours (up to 120 hours) or pay. This is a great opportunity for our students to learn more about the industry they study in class, network with professionals, and build their resume. There will be an informational meeting about the summer internship application process on January 31st, during Excel A, in the Media Center Classroom (room 146). All current Academy Juniors are invited to attend to learn more.



ACADEMY PROBATION POLICY

A reminder that Academy students agree to 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 first semester report card grades are released, to make students and parents aware of probationary status for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year.

WOMEN IN I.T. ONE-WEEK SUMMER INTERNSHIPS



For the 6th year, Citi is offering a one-week paid internship focusing on technology and robotics. The purpose of the internship is to encourage girls to consider careers in Information Technology such as Programming, Project Management, Program Testing, Information Security, etc. Girls will have to be age 16 or older by June 1, 2019 in order to participate. The internship is Mon. – Fri., June 10 – 14, 2019 from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. The salary is \$12 per hour. Those accepted to the internship must be available for all 40 hours and are responsible for their own transportation to and from the Citi campus. Citi is located near Baptist South Hospital on the St. Johns/Duval county line. To apply, young ladies should complete the online application found at womeninit.org before the application deadline: February 3rd. Following the application process students will go through an interview process with Citi employees. This is primarily a one-week VEX Robotics Camp, so participants should have an interest in IT Coding and Robotics, though they will also be exposed to a variety of IT career fields for future consideration.

4TH ANNUAL SOUPER BOWL CHARITY EVENT COMING UP JANUARY 31ST

The incredible SOUPer Bowl fundraiser is scheduled to return for its fourth year, in hopes of raising thousands more dollars for the Blessings in a Backpack foundation. Each Thursday morning, 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 \$30,000 for the foundation, and was a smashing success. This year's event is scheduled for January 31st, at Nease, from 6-8 pm. The event will feature a number of 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.studentstacklehungers.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 are working on this event with IB students.

