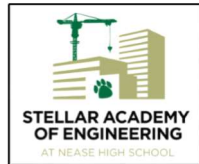


## March Newsletter

Academy Coordinator: Jaime Combs

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Academy Students and Parents,

The third quarter is behind us, and we are heading into the final stretch of the 2017-18 school year. Students, remember to stay focused as we move through the final quarter and testing season. Seniors, make sure to pre-order your Academy graduation cord before April 6<sup>th</sup>! See the details in the sidebar to the right.

Read on to learn about the opportunities the Academy students have enjoyed in late February and March.

Jaime Combs  
Career Academy Coordinator

### ACADEMY GUEST SPEAKERS BRING INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE INTO THE CLASSROOM

All Academy students are invited to take part in Academy guest speaker events, which take place during Excel Time. We invite professionals in the fields of Engineering, Communications, and Hospitality & Tourism to come in and share their professional backgrounds, advice, and expertise in their industry. Students also have a chance to ask questions, and learn more about the many career opportunities in the fields they're studying.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, Bri MacNaught, a Communications Academy graduate and current sports anchor at Fox 10 in Mobile, Alabama, came into a TV Production 1 class to share her experiences in television news and sports. She discussed the impact of her Nease TV Production course training on her success in college



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### SPRING BREAK

March 26-30th

#### LAST DAY TO PRE-ORDER A GRADUATION CORD

April 6th

### SENIORS: PRE-ORDER ACADEMY GRADUATION CORDS BY APRIL 6TH

Academy seniors are eligible to order special cords to wear during Nease's graduation ceremony. If a senior is interested in pre-ordering an Academy graduation cord, they must sign up in the front office.

Cords typically cost \$8, and the payment will be due upon cord pick-up in April/May. Students must sign up by April 6th to pre-order a cord if they would like one. The "Academy Grad Cord" pre-order poster sign-up sheet is located in the front office, on the wall by the glass doors that lead to the parking lot.

Engineering Academy students get red cords, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism students get aqua cords, and Communications Academy students get blue cords.

and in her career. She also discussed her daily responsibilities as the Fox 10 sports anchor, and answered student questions.



In February, in the Hospitality and Tourism Academy classroom, National Park Ranger Allen Arnold from the Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas stopped by the Technology in Tourism class to discuss the upcoming National Parks Week and to begin discussion on creating programs for the students to be a part of during the week.

While the Academy students were sad to hear some of the Castillo de San Marcos' ghost stories debunked, they are excited to hit the ground running and are already brainstorming ideas that will get people their age excited about the National Park Service!

In the Stellar Academy of Engineering, we welcomed Christopher Valdivia in February. Mr. Valdivia is the Site Training Leader at Baker Hughes, a GE Company. During his guest speaking event, he discussed his background in the Navy, his experience with manufacturing, chemical refining, off-shore oil drilling, and the nuclear power industry. Mr. Valdivia also shared more information on his current position, overseeing a 500-person workforce in a facility which builds valves used in nuclear power plants.



In March, Tom Peterson, President of the Lending Solutions division at Black Knight, visited the Engineering Academy. Mr. Peterson shared how a business-to-business technology corporation works, and how tech-based professionals fit into the business structure at Black Knight. He elaborated on the skills needed to find success in the tech business world, and answered student questions. We thank all of our guest speakers for taking time out of their busy lives to share their expertise with our students, and give our future professionals a glimpse into some of the possibilities that await them.

## ACADEMY OF HOSPITALITY & TOURISM STUDENTS TRAVEL TO SAWGRASS MARRIOTT RESORT



On March 13th, students from both Nease's Academy of Hospitality & Tourism and our sister Academy, the Academy of Culinary Arts at St. Johns Technical High School, arrived at the Sawgrass Marriott Resort for an awesome



**CAREER ACADEMIES**  
of St Johns

Experience. The Difference.

## DROPPING AN ACADEMY FOR 2018-19

If an Academy student would like to drop their Academy for the 2018-19 school year, the student and parents must fill out an Academy Drop Form. Email Mrs. Combs at [Jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us) for the form.

This form must be turned in before an Academy course will be removed from the student's projected schedule for 2018-19.

Also, if the student is attending Nease as an out-of-zone Academy student, and wants to drop his/her Academy, that student will have to return to their zoned school, per district policy, for the 2018-19 school year.

## FREE TUTORING AVAILABLE

If you need extra help in any subject, the National Honor Society offers free tutoring after school, every Monday and Wednesday, in the Media Center. You can also take advantage of Excel Time, in which teachers are available to provide extra academic support to students.

## NEASE ACADEMIES WEBSITE

Get important Academy news, dates and information updated weekly:

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

field trip experience. The Academy of Hospitality & Tourism students enjoyed a tour of the grounds and the “heart of the house,” while the culinary arts students got a tour of the banquet kitchen and worked with pastry chefs to learn the art of making doughnuts. After their tours, the students took part in a working lunch, catered by the resort, while enjoying a presentation on making yourself marketable to potential employers. Then the students were tasked with writing a 30 second “elevator speech” to sell themselves. Two of the Academy students won certificates to return to the Sawgrass Marriott to try out their new surf simulator. Many thanks to our Sawgrass Marriott Advisory Board partner Logan Ebert for organizing this fantastic trip!



## STELLAR ACADEMY STUDENTS VISIT THE FLEET READINESS CENTER SOUTHEAST



On March 8th, Engineering Academy students travelled to the Fleet Readiness Center Southeast, located at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, to tour the F/A-18 Hornet Strike Fighter Aircraft Production Line. The trip was organized by Advisory Board member Alexis Alexandris, and allowed our students to get a first-hand look at how the jets are maintained and repaired. Students also got to visit the Industrial Manufacturing Division and the materials labs; at each stop our students had the chance to speak with engineers. The students learned how military aircraft are dismantled for repairs, how new parts are created (including via 3D printing), and how engineers and scientists work to diagnose problems with the aircraft.

