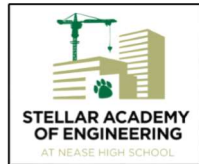


ACADEMIES @ NEASE HIGH SCHOOL

September Newsletter

Academy Coordinator: Jaime Combs

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UPCOMING EVENTS

INTERIM GRADE CHECK

September 12th

ACADEMY CONTRACTS

Each year Academy students and their parents sign the Academy Contract, which outlines the requirements for students to remain in a Career Academy. Academy students need to meet grade and disciplinary requirements each semester, which include:

- Maintain a minimum overall GPA of 2.0
- Maintain a minimum Academy class GPA of 2.5 (a 75% in the course)
- Avoid school and district rule infractions, which result in disciplinary action

Full Academy Contracts, which detail all expectations for Academy students, can be viewed at www.neaseacademies.com

This year, all Academy Contracts are to be signed electronically by Academy parents and students via Home Access Center. Complete directions for signing Academy Contracts via HAC are available at www.neaseacademies.com

Contracts must be signed via HAC no later than September 21st.

Academy Students and Parents,

I hope that the 2018-19 school year has gotten off to a great start for our Academy students! More than **1,000** students are currently registered in one of Nease's three Career Academies.

This year will feature 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 2018-19 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 renovation of the old Media Center building, now known as D-Pod, has yielded a major milestone in the history of the Nease Communications Academy. For the first time, the Television Production and the Digital Design programs are all located under one roof. D-pod is home to the entire Communications

Academy. Mrs. Soto's Digital Design classroom got a brand new space, while Mr. Stephens Sports Media classroom was expanded. Mr. Cooler's Television News program did not receive any major renovations this school year, however, last year the renovations resulted in an additional classroom space for his courses. That space has now been painted and reorganized. Wired is now produced in a three-room facility, which

includes a professionally-outfitted control room and exclusive production studio space.

MEET OUR ACADEMY INSTRUCTORS

ST. JOHNS COUNTY ACADEMY OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM

Tara Amato -- Digital Information Technology, Introduction to Hospitality and Tourism, Technology for Hospitality & Tourism, Hospitality & Tourism Marketing Management, Hospitality & Tourism Entrepreneurship

Tara Amato 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 third year as the Hospitality and Tourism Academy teacher here at Nease. This past summer, Mrs. Amato participated in the DECA Amped Conference 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

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, then moved to Venezuela to teach IB Math at an international school, but couldn't stay away and returned to North Florida shortly after. She is happy she finally found her home at Nease; this will be her third year teaching in the Engineering Academy.

Bergman Arias -- Principles of Engineering, Engineering Design & Development

Bergman Arias joins the Stellar Academy of Engineering instructional team this year, after teaching Engineering students in Miami-Dade County for 10 years. He graduated from Florida International University with a degree in electrical engineering. He's certified to teach both Engineering Technology and Math, and holds industry certifications in Adobe Creative Cloud, Microsoft Office, Rhino CAM, Autodesk, DraftSight, SolidWorks, and 3D printing. Mr. Arias has also been involved with the Technology Student Association for many years. He has taken teams to the TSA state competition on multiple occasions, and is spearheading the start of a TSA



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

Mr. Jeff Stoddard

DEANS

Mr. Matt Narin

9th Grade

Mrs. Kelly Abbatinuzzi

10th Grade

Ms. Becky Burney

11th & 12th Grades

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Mr. Matt McCool

Athletic Director

Mrs. Gina Hansen

Athletic Secretary

chapter here at Nease, so that our Academy students can compete in the TSA state competitions, as well.



CAREER ACADEMIES

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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.

Leisha Cowart -- Journalism (Yearbook)

Leisha Cowart joins the Nease faculty this year, as yearbook advisor and 10th grade English teacher. In her 17 years in education, she has taught in Jacksonville at Frank H. Peterson Academies (a wall-to-wall CTE Academy school) and University Christian School, along with Lakeview Academy in Georgia. She holds a degree in journalism from Auburn University, and began her career as a sportswriter. She then worked in minor league baseball public relations for the Durham Bulls and Fayetteville Generals, and spent a number of years in advertising, marketing and graphic design before finding her true calling in teaching.

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.

Geoff Stephens – Digital Video Technology 1, Sports Media

Geoff Stephens is in his 19th 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 has named Mr. Stephens the High School Video Coordinator of

UPCOMING ACADEMY FIELD TRIPS

UNF Engineering College Tour – Stellar Academy of Engineering Juniors and Seniors (Sept 24th)

St. Augustine Alligator Farm – Academy of Hospitality & Communications Academy D.I.T. students, Communications Wired students (Sept 25th)

Guest speaker Dr. Farr, Director of FSU's Dedman School of Hospitality – Academy of Hospitality & Tourism students (Sept 27th during Excel A)

Sally Corporation – Stellar Academy of Engineering Principles of Engineering students (Oct 2nd)

Sally Corporation – Communications Academy Digital Design students (Oct 9th)

Hilton Garden Inn – Academy of Hospitality & Tourism Technology students (Oct 18th)

Dream Big: Engineering Our World IMAX Film Event – Stellar Academy of Engineering students (Oct 23rd)

Hotel and Bed & Breakfast Professional Panel Discussion – Academy of Hospitality & Tourism (Oct 25th)

UNF Communications College Tour – Communications Academy TV Production students (Oct 30th)

Whetstones Tour – Stellar Academy of Engineering Introduction to Engineering Design students (Nov 1st)

Icemen Hockey Day & Arena Tour – Communications Academy Digital Design & Sports Media students, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism Marketing students (Nov 8th)

WJCT Studio Tour – Communications Academy TV Production 1 and Wired students (Nov 29th)

the Year three times...most recently for the 2017-18 school 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. In 2017-18 he was named Nease's Rookie Teacher of the Year. He looks forward to what this year will bring, as the Advanced Television Production students take their skills to the next level.