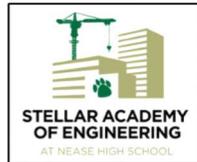


## October Newsletter

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### THE 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER IS OVER, ARE YOU STRUGGLING IN ANY CLASSES?

Now that the first quarter has ended, is there a subject that has been particularly challenging? Remember, in accordance with St. Johns County district standards, Academy students must keep their Academy course semester grade at a 75 or higher, and they must hold at least a 2.0 overall GPA. If you need any academic help, students can get FREE tutoring in any subject from the National Honor Society. Tutoring sessions take place after school Tuesdays & Thursdays in the Media Center. They also offer tutoring on Mondays and Wednesdays during all lunches. See Mrs. Milian, Nease's Media Specialist, for more information.

### UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Engineering Academy Freshmen & Sophomores: Rulon International Tour, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>

Academy of Hospitality & Tourism Technology students: Hilton Garden Inn, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>

Communications Academy Wired/Sports Media Jrs & Snrs: UNF Communications School Tour, Oct 24<sup>th</sup>

Hospitality Academy students: Old Town Trolley Tour Business Study, Oct 28<sup>th</sup>

Engineering Academy Jrs & Snrs: UNF School of Engineering Tour, Oct 29<sup>th</sup>

Communications Digital Video Tech 1 students: WJCT Studio Tour, Nov 5<sup>th</sup>

Communications Academy Digital Design Jrs & Snrs: UNF Graphic Design Department Tour, Nov 12<sup>th</sup>

Academy Students and Parents,

While we're always striving to make sure our curriculum mirrors industry trends in Communications, Engineering, and Hospitality & Tourism, nothing inspires our students more than seeing the skills they learn in the classroom reflected in the real world.

Each year, we work to present opportunities that give our students a first-hand look at the career fields they're studying in an Academy. We bring professionals into the classroom and take students into the postsecondary and business world. This month's newsletter provides information on some of our recent fall field trips and guest speaker events.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at [Jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us).

Thank you!  
Jaime Combs  
Academy Coordinator

### FEMALE ENGINEERING STUDENTS ATTEND FIRST "WOMEN IN ENGINEERING LUNCH & LEARN"



According to the Society of Women Engineers, only 12% of engineers in Florida are women. In the Stellar Academy of Engineering, our percentage of female Academy students is higher than that, at around 24%, and we are always working to increase our numbers by encouraging students to explore opportunities in

engineering. In an effort to support and encourage our female Academy students, we have begun a series of Women in Engineering Lunch and Learns. During these events, female engineering students can enjoy free pizza while discussing the engineering industry with a professional engineer.

Our first featured guest was Alexis Alexandris, a Nease alumna who went on to earn a degree in Aerospace Engineering from NC State, and was then hired by the Department of Defense. Mrs. Alexandris currently specializes in working on F/A-18 Super Hornets. During her time with our students, she shared how she became interested in engineering, how she pursued her dream through college, and found a job that she still loves after years in the industry. Mrs. Alexandris discussed how, as a woman in the field, she has worked her way to a leadership position, and now runs a team of engineers. She took the time to find out what type of engineering interests each of the 20 girls who attended the event, encouraged the girls to ignore naysayers, to speak up for themselves and set goals for their futures. We thank Mrs. Alexandris for spending time with our students, and for kicking off our Women in Engineering Lunch and Learn series! We are hoping to offer at least one Lunch and Learn each quarter.



## AUBURN UNIVERSITY'S HOSPITALITY DEPARTMENT HEAD TRAVELS TO NEASE TO RECRUIT ACADEMY STUDENTS



After hearing about Nease's Academy of Hospitality & Tourism from an Auburn alumni who happens to be on our Academy's Advisory Board, Martin O'Neill, Professor of Hospitality Management and Head of Auburn's Department of Nutrition, Dietetics, and Hospitality, decided made the trip to the sunshine state. Mr. O'Neill visited the school to see our Hospitality lab and speak with our Academy upperclassmen. During his visit, he shared his background in Hospitality, which started in the restaurant industry in Ireland, and then took him around the globe. He shared information about Auburn's growing Hospitality

program with our students, discussing the degrees offered, the international focus built into the curriculum, and their emphasis on the "ultra luxury" sector of the Hospitality and Tourism industry. Our students were able to ask questions about Auburn's Hospitality program, its entrance requirements, and learn more about University as whole.

## STELLAR ACADEMY STUDENTS SEE MECHANICAL ENGINEERING IN ACTION AT WHETSTONES CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Introduction to Engineering Design students took a trip to Whetstones Chocolate Factory in October. The students learned about the company's founder and former engineer, Henry Whetstone. Connecting the field trip to the curriculum, Introduction to Engineering Design students learned about mechanical engineering and processes used to make the chocolates, and had the opportunity to see a small factory setting, reinforcing their curriculum. The students also had the chance to sample several chocolates, which made this field trip even sweeter.



## DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS VISIT THE ALLIGATOR FARM FOR CLASS RESEARCH



On September 25<sup>th</sup>, Hospitality and Communications Academy students in Digital Information Technology classes travelled to one of St. Augustine's most notable tourist attractions—the Alligator Farm. Students from the D.I.T. classes had the chance to explore the park, and were assigned to gather information on and pictures of the wildlife, which all of the students then used to create informational flyers utilizing the Microsoft Word software

they're studying. D.I.T. students will be taking the Microsoft Word industry certification exam in the second quarter.

## ACADEMY STUDENTS LEARN HOW DIGITAL DESIGN AND ENGINEERING COME TOGETHER TO CREATE THEME PARK RIDES



Recently our Engineering Academy and Digital Design students had the opportunity to tour Sally Corporation, a 40,000-square-foot facility dedicated to designing, creating, and engineering characters and environments for theme park rides. The local company was founded more than 35 years ago and serves clients all over the world. The tour started with an interactive game experience, which highlighted the type of theme park ride environment the company creates. Then, on to the design office and sculpting rooms, where students learned how graphic designers create the theme park ride environments and

characters. The most impressive space in the facility is the production floor, where the Academy students had the chance to see the engineering that goes into the creation of the animatronic characters. On the production floor engineers, carpenters, set designers, and costume designers all work together to create their characters, which can be as small as an animatronic bird or as large as a full-sized Joker on a tricked-out four-wheeler. Overall, the trip was a fantastic experience that showed how Graphic Design and Engineering are used to create magic for theme park fans.



## NEASE ENGINEERING STUDENTS TOUR NORTHROP GRUMMAN AS PART OF MANUFACTURING DAY

Nease Engineering Academy students participated in Manufacturing Day at Northrop Grumman's St. Augustine Aircraft Integration Center of Excellence on October 1st. During this event, students got to rotate through five stations in the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye hanger to see how different departments contribute to the production of each aircraft. Students got to use Quality Control systems, see how Machine Tooling utilizes lasers for efficiency, learn about how Industrial Engineering planned the facility layout, meet the Mechanical Engineers who solve problems when mistakes occur in production, and see how Manufacturing produces part-kits from original Mylar design drawings. During lunch, students learned how the company acquires contracts and completes the design process for clients. After lunch, students worked in teams to complete a design-build competition where they had to build the tallest spaghetti tower to support a giant marshmallow. The event ended with an overview of the various career paths to become an employee at Northrop Grumman. We thank Northrop Grumman for inviting us to take part in the event this year!

**NORTHROP GRUMMAN**