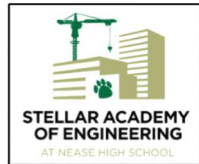


August Newsletter

Academy Coordinator: Jaime Combs

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



Academy Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year! More than **1,000** students are currently registered in one of Nease's three Career Academies.

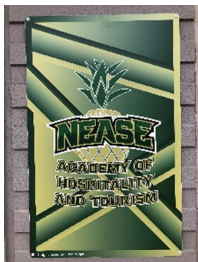
This year will feature innovative class projects, engaging guest speakers, and unique field trips that will truly bring our Communications, Engineering, and Hospitality & Tourism curriculum to life. Each month a newsletter will be released via the Academy Section of the Panther Press, as well as uploaded to the Academies website at neaseacademies.com, 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 2019-20 school year, we are catching you up on new Academy signage and introducing you to our fantastic Academy instructors.

If you ever have Academy questions, please feel free to ask:

Jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us

-Jaime Combs, Academy Coordinator

ACADEMY SIGNAGE INSTALLED



This year we are proud to debut brand new signage for both the Communications Academy and the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism. The signage is displayed outside of the Academies' home buildings, D Pod and Panther Hall. The signs were designed by Communications Academy students Eliseo Magana and Justin Johnson, and printed in partnership with Leonard's Studios and we are so proud to share the work of our students, while bringing even more visibility to our Academy programs.



UPCOMING EVENTS

LABOR DAY, NO SCHOOL

September 2nd

INTERIM GRADE CHECK

September 10th

ACADEMY CONTRACTS

All students are required to turn in a signed Academy Contract each school year. Contracts will be distributed via the Academy classes, and must be returned with both the student and parent signatures. Academy contracts stipulate the behavioral and academic standards by which all students must abide. The first instance of breaking the contract results in Academy Probation, which lasts for a semester. If a student violates the contract again while on probation, he/she may be removed from the program immediately, or at the end of the semester, depending on the violation.

FREE TUTORING AVAILABLE

The National Honor Society offers free tutoring to students in the Media Center from 4-5 pm every Tuesday & Thursday, or students can get tutoring in the Media Center during all lunches on Mondays & Wednesdays. To participate in lunchtime tutoring, students must get a Media Center lunch pass in the morning.

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 fourth year as the Hospitality and Tourism Academy teacher here at Nease. She also serves as the faculty co-sponsor of National Technical Honor Society, the sponsor for the Nease Interact Club and DECA, and the 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 fourth year teaching in the Engineering Academy.

Bergman Arias -- Principles of Engineering, Engineering Design & Development, STEM Elective Course

Bergman Arias joined the Stellar Academy of Engineering instructional team last 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 has spearheaded the start of a TSA chapter here at Nease, so that our Academy students can compete in the TSA state competitions, as well.



CAREER ACADEMIES
of St Johns
Experience. The Difference.

HOW CAN PARENTS GET INVOLVED?

If you work in the field 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

Mrs. Daryl Cullipher

Mr. Jeff Stoddard

DEANS

Ms. Kelly Abbatinozzi

Mr. Josh Bailen

Ms. Becky Burney

Mr. Matt Narin

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Mr. Matt McCool

Athletic Director

Mrs. Heather Matthews

Athletic Secretary



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 joined the Nease faculty last year, as yearbook advisor and English teacher. In her 18 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. In addition to teaching Digital Design and DIT courses, she co-sponsors the National Technical Honor Society, an honor society specifically for technology-based Academy students.

Geoff Stephens – Digital Video Technology 1, Sports Media

Geoff Stephens is in his 20th 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 the Year four times...most recently for the 2018-19. Mr. Stephens has his Master's Degree in Education from Mississippi State University.

UPCOMING ACADEMY FIELD TRIPS

Communications Digital Design
 Students: Sally Corp, Sept 24th

Academy of Engineering Principles
 Students: Sally Corp, Sept 26th

Hospitality/Communications
 Academy D.I.T Students: Alligator
 Farm, Oct 3rd

Engineering Academy IED
 Students: Whetstones Tour, Oct 7th

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

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

Engineering Academy Jrs & Snrs:
 UNF School of Engineering Tour,
 Oct 29th

Communications Digital Video
 Tech 1 students: WJCT Studio Tour,
 Nov 5th

NEASE WEBSITE

Get the latest Nease news by
 visiting our website:

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

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.