

December Newsletter

Academy Coordinator: Jaime Combs

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



INTENT TO RETURN PROCESS

In December, all Academy students have been asked to take part in the Intent to Return process. This is the chance for Academy students to indicate if they want to remain in their Academy for the 2020-21 school year. They do this by signing an Intent to Return roster. If the student checks "Yes," then that student will be automatically re-enrolled in the Academy for 2020-21. If an Academy student checks "No" on the roster to indicate that he/she does not want to continue in the Academy next year, a form will be sent home in January for the student and a parent to sign, confirming that the student would like to be removed from the Academy for 2020-21.

If a student initially checked "Yes" on the Intent to Return roster, but later changes his/her mind, email Mrs. Combs at Jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us to request an Academy Drop Form, and she will deliver one to the student. Once that form is completed and returned, the next-level Academy course will be removed from that student's course recommendations for 2020-21.

Remember, out-of-zone Academy students must remain in the program courses for all four years to attend Nease.

Academy Students and Parents,

We hope that the first semester of the 2019-2020 school year has been a successful, productive one! Academy students had a number of opportunities to see the skills they're learning in the classroom reflected in the real world via field trips, guest speakers, and project-based learning. And there's more to come in 2020!

Have a wonderful winter break and a happy New Year!

Jaime Combs
Academy Coordinator

ACADEMY PROGRAMS VISIT TIAA BANK FIELD FOR CUSTOM-DESIGNED FIELD TRIPS

Three different programs...Digital Design, Sports Media, and Hospitality...all had the opportunity to tour TIAA Bank Field this fall. While visiting the home of the Jaguars, students saw Daily's Place, practice fields, the FriEnd Zone, and went behind the scenes at the stadium, seeing everything from the loading docks to Shad Khan's personal suite.



They learned that TIAA Bank Field has been voted as the #1 NFL stadium for the best fan experience...and that ranking doesn't come easy. On an average game day, more than 4,000 people are working in the stadium, and they do everything in-house, from the food, to the digital marketing, even the laundry. Directly tied to the Sports Media, Digital





Design, and Hospitality curriculums, each tour included a meeting with a Jaguars employee who works in an area specific to what the students are studying: Team Public Relations, Digital Marketing, and Event Planning. Students learned what these employees do on a daily basis, how they made it to that point in their career, and what life is like working for an NFL team. Students also had the opportunity to take pictures and ask questions. These were incredible field trips which all the students enjoyed!

STELLAR ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING HOSTS SECOND "WOMEN IN ENGINEERING" LUNCH AND LEARN

In an effort to inspire the next generation of professional female engineers, the Stellar Academy of Engineering has launched a "Lunch and Learn" series for the 2019-2020 school year. In our second event, we welcomed Professional Engineer Keelin Cassidy. A Process Engineer with Stellar, Keelin shared her path to engineering as a profession. With encouragement from other engineers in her family, Mrs. Cassidy knew she was interested becoming an engineer, but wasn't quite sure what to study when she was accepted to Clemson University. She discussed her studies in Biosystems engineering, and how that eventually led her to her job at Stellar following earning her graduate degree. She shared the projects she has worked on, the skills she uses daily, and answered questions from the students. We thank Mrs. Cassidy for spending time with our students, and for offering such a great Women in Engineering Lunch and Learn session! Our next Lunch and Learn is scheduled for Friday, January 24th. Female engineering students can sign up for the event via the Sign Up Genius link, which is made available two weeks before the event.



GOOD MORNING JACKSONVILLE ANCHOR LEWIS TURNER VISITS COMMUNICATIONS ACADEMY STUDENTS



When GMJ's Lewis Turner was scheduled to come to Nease to present a documentary which he and fellow anchor Jeannie Blaylock created for First Coast News, he was asked if he would be willing to share a little more of his time with our Communications Academy students. Noting that he'd heard great things about our program, he happily accepted, and the Academy hosted a Lunch and Learn with Lewis Turner on November 26th. During his visit, Mr. Turner shared that he found his passion for broadcast journalism in 8th grade, and followed that dream through high school, to the University of Miami, and then to the University of South Carolina. He gave advice about researching and selecting a college carefully, making the choice for the right reasons, and ensuring that they will be able to offer hands-on experience in the realm of broadcasting. He shared the importance of building a resume reel to secure your first job, and then discussed what a day is like for an anchor. Mr. Turner answered student questions and inquired about what they'd like to do in their future careers. Thank you, Mr. Turner!

ENGINEERING ACADEMY STUDENTS LEARN THAT THEY CAN EARN A FREE COLLEGE EDUCATION IF THEY CHOOSE TO STUDY ENGINEERING AT THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY

Lyn McClelland, a volunteer with the Admissions Department of the Coast Guard Academy, spoke with Principles of Engineering students recently. She shared the many opportunities the Academy offers, especially in the realm of Engineering. She explained that the Coast Guard Academy is home to one of the top 15 engineering programs in the United States, and they offer four Engineering majors, all of which result in a

Bachelor of Science degree. The program offers free tuition if the student completes a five year military commitment with the Coast Guard following graduation. Students get a \$10,000 interest-free loan to cover books and uniforms, as well as a \$1,100 monthly living stipend. Mrs. McClelland shared informational videos and handouts with the students, most of whom had never heard of the Academy, which happens to be the only U.S. Military Academy that does not require a congressional nomination.

