

February Newsletter

Academy Coordinator: Jaime Combs

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

PRESIDENTS DAY, NO SCHOOL

February 17th

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING
ACADEMY DROP FORMS

March 13th

SUCCEED THIS SEMESTER!

Keep your grades up throughout the second semester by getting help in any subject you're struggling in. Utilize National Honor Society after-school tutoring!

Students can get tutoring by NHS members in the Media Center after school every Tuesday & Thursday.

Students can also make tutoring appointments for before school and during lunch by speaking with Mrs. Milian, our Media Specialist.

NEASE ACADEMIES WEBSITE

Important Academy news, dates and information updated weekly:

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

Academy Students and Parents,

As we move through the second semester, preparation for industry certification testing is really ramping up. We ask that students do their best in preparing for and taking these industry certification exams. Not only do students earn a Merit designation on their diploma and are able to list professional, certified skills on their resumes and transcripts, they also earn funding that goes directly back into our Academy programs. That funding allows us to buy computers, equipment, and project supplies to keep our Academies engaging and advanced. This month's newsletter covers some of the opportunities our Academy students have enjoyed recently.

Sincerely,

Jaime Combs
Academy Coordinator

ENGINEERING ACADEMY STUDENTS LEARN THE ENGINEERING BEHIND F/A-18 AIRCRAFT



Stellar Academy of Engineering 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.

DIGITAL DESIGN STUDENTS VISIT LEONARD'S STUDIO



Recently, Digital Design students traveled to Leonard's Studio, located in St. Augustine. The students had the opportunity to tour the facility, getting a first-hand look at the digital design work, photography and videography services, and printing processes that take place on-site. Students met with Leonard's Vice President, Randy Sellers (who is also the grandson of Leonard's founder); the company's NE Florida Sales and Service Representative, Lisa Urban; as well as their head of photography. The students

learned what goes on in a day in Leonard's Studios, and as well as enjoying the opportunity to see how a great photographer can capture a person in a way they'll want to remember forever. They also got some insight into professional photography tips and tricks. Finally, Academy students learned about possible summer internship opportunities at Leonard's. It was a great trip! Many thanks to Communications Academy Advisory Board Chairwoman Lisa Urban for this fantastic opportunity!



WOMEN IN ENGINEERING LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES WELCOMES TWO FEMALE ENGINEERS FROM MEDTRONIC

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 third event, we welcomed two engineers from Medtronic: Amanda Fischler, a research and development engineer, and Mamatha Aramaina, a supplier quality engineer. We learned about how both women became interested in engineering, their experiences in higher education, and how they operate in a male-dominated field...in which they're often the only woman on their team. However, in an effort to lead the



industry in hiring women engineers, they shared that Medtronic is committed to reaching a 33% rate of women in leadership roles within the company. Both Ms. Fischler and Mrs. Aramaina discussed what their daily job duties entail, answered questions, and encouraged our students to research all the different types of engineering careers that exist today. We thank Ms. Fischler and Mrs. Aramaina for spending time with our students, and for offering such a great Women in Engineering Lunch and Learn session!

THE SOUPER BOWL WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!



On January 30th, hundreds of people descended on Nease's campus for a fundraiser like no other: the SOUPer Bowl. Organized by the IB Boosters, and with the help of Publix, Sysco, and more than two dozen restaurants and local companies, the SOUPer Bowl event raised over \$39,000. All proceeds go directly to the St. Johns County Blessings in a Backpack program, which benefits local children in need. Academy of Hospitality & Tourism students helped in organizing the event, worked as hosts and assisted the chefs. Communications Academy Digital Design students created all the

printed materials for the affair, designing brochures and posters to contribute to the look of a professional

event. Additionally, students who attend the Academy of Culinary Arts at St. Johns Technical High School, which is the sister Academy to Nease's Academy of Hospitality and Tourism, also played a role in the event by presenting an original soup. As a memento, all guests selected a custom-designed bowl to take home. Hundreds of bowls were created by students for the event, as a result of collaboration between art programs at multiple St. Johns County Schools.



NORTHROP GRUMMAN GUEST SPEAKER DISCUSSES DESIGN CYCLE WITH ENGINEERING STUDENTS



In January, Introduction to Engineering Design students had the opportunity to hear from a professional engineer with Northrop Grumman who has had years of experience in the field. Kirk Matthews, a Mission Assurance engineer, was happy to help make connections between what the Academy students are learning in class and the real world of engineering. He shared his background as a chemical engineering major with a degree from Virginia Tech, and discussed his former jobs with Merck, Michelin tires, Alcoa, Rehau, before moving on to Northrop Grumman. For the last 11 years he has

worked at Northrop's St. Augustine facility, and shared his experiences regarding working in interdisciplinary teams and using the design process to solve problems. Mr. Matthews also shared the importance of internships as a way to learn more about the vast opportunities in engineering, and noted that researching colleges for different engineering majors can help students hone in on which direction to go after high school. Thank you, Mr. Matthews, for sharing your expertise and advice with our students!

REMAINING IN AN ACADEMY PROGRAM FOR 2020-2021

Before winter break, all Academy students were asked to indicate if they want to remain in their Academy for the 2020-21 school year by signing an Intent to Return roster. If the student checked "Yes," than that student will be automatically re-enrolled in the Academy for 2020-21. If an Academy student indicated that he/she does not want to continue in the Academy next year, a blue drop form was delivered to students to be filled out and signed by the student and his/her parents. This form confirms that the student would like to be removed from the Academy next year, and that the parent agrees. Once that form is signed, it should be brought by the student to his/her guidance counselor course registration appointment. If the student has already seen his/her counselor, the form can be dropped off at the front desk with a note that it should be placed in Mrs. Combs' mailbox. Students will not have the next-level Academy course removed from their schedule until the drop form is signed and received by Mrs. Combs. The final day to turn in Academy Drop Forms is March 13th, 2020. No forms will be accepted after that date. In regard to Out of Zone students, district policy states that Out of Zone Academy students no longer have to fill out an Out of Zone Waiver each year. Simply being on an Academy roster acts as the student's Out of Zone waiver. However, if an Out of Zone student chooses to drop their Academy membership, he/she must return to his/her zoned school for the 2020-21 school year. If you would like a drop form, please email Mrs. Combs at Jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us.