

November Newsletter

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INTENT TO RETURN PROCESS COMING UP IN DECEMBER

In December, all Academy students will be 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 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 for the student and a parent to sign, confirming that the student would like to be removed from the Academy for 2020-21.

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.

Academy Students and Parents,

With fall comes field trips, and the Academy students have enjoyed quite a few unique learning experiences so far this year. This month's newsletter highlights the trips that have taken place recently.

I wish you all a happy and healthy Thanksgiving holiday!

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at Jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Thank you!
Jaime Combs
Academy Coordinator

HOSPITALITY ACADEMY STUDENTS LEARN THE INS AND OUTS OF RUNNING A TOURIST ATTRACTION IN ST. AUGUSTINE



Hospitality students recently got an inside look at operating a tourist attraction, thanks to Dave Chatterton, General Manager of Old Town Trolley Tours. The students started the field trip at the Old Jail, meeting with Mr. Chatterton, along with the group sales and charter manager, maintenance and engineering manager, and some of the tour guides. Next, the students got

the full guest experience on an Old Town Trolley tour. Following that, Mr. Chatterton met with the students to discuss the Historic Tours of America business history, and their plans for the future in the Nation's Oldest City. He also discussed what goes on in the daily Old Town Trolley operations, what they do to give guests a great experience, and how they adjust their business model



NEED HELP IN ANY SUBJECT?

The National Honor Society offers free tutoring to students in all subjects every Tuesday and Thursday in the media center after school. For after-school tutoring, students just need to show up. However, students can also request tutoring sessions before school or during lunch in any subject. You just need to stop by the Media Center and see Mrs. Milian to request a tutoring session.

during slow times or prepare for peak seasons in St. Augustine. We thank Mr. Chatterton for offering this amazing field trip experience to our Academy students for free!

ACADEMY STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT STUDYING TELEVISION PRODUCTION & WORKING FOR ESPN PLUS AT UNF

Recently, upper-level Wired and Sports Media students spent their morning on the University of North Florida's campus, learning more about the University's Department of Communications, which is part of the College of Arts and Sciences. The students toured the Production classroom, lab space, control room and studio. They learned about the four majors offered in the program: Production, Advertising, Multi-media Journalism, and Public Relations. Following the tour of the Communications Department, students were led to UNF's student union building, which houses Spinnaker Media, a student-run media outlet for television, news, and radio. Our students got to speak with UNF students, and learn more about the ample opportunities to hone their broadcasting or journalism skills via Spinnaker Media. Following that stop, the group headed to the UNF Arena to see the ESPN Plus control room, which broadcasts UNF tennis, volleyball, baseball, and basketball games. The ESPN Plus broadcasts are run by UNF Production students, and our Academy students have been invited to shadow and help out at broadcasts this winter. An email with available game dates and times will be sent to all Communications Academy students in December or January, and students are welcome to sign up for any games they're interested in, as long as they don't take place during the Nease school day. The UNF field trip, organized by Communications Academy Advisory Board member, Professor David Deeley, offered students valuable information and a first-hand view of the opportunities that UNF has to offer at the college level, and we thank him for organizing the event for us!



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STELLAR ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING STUDENTS TOUR RULON INTERNATIONAL AS PART OF MANUFACTURING WEEK



Established by professional organizations to recognize the importance and presence of manufacturing in our area, Engineering Academy students toured Rulon International as part of Manufacturing Week this year. They started the trip with an introduction from the founder/CEO, who explained the company's history and its evolution into the international success that it is today. The students learned about the process of getting commercial clients and how they choose sustainable woods. Next, a design engineer

showed students around the engineering offices and discussed how unique his job is since each Rulon panel project is custom-designed. Then, students went on a plant tour of the giant manufacturing facility, which included seeing their 3D laser printer in action. Students were excited to not only be provided lunch by Rulon International, but also got to take home laser-engraved wood sample souvenirs.



DIGITAL DESIGN STUDENTS LEARN HOW TO TAKE THEIR SKILLS TO THE NEXT LEVEL AT UNF



Digital Design Juniors and Seniors took a trip to the University of North Florida to learn about the college's Design program. Professor David Begley, Head of UNF's Art, Art History and Design Department, took the group on a guided tour of the fine arts building to kick off the trip. Students got to visit a color theory class, as well as a senior design class. During their tour, students were informed about the design major, the small class sizes offered to students, extracurricular activities on campus, and they learned about UNF's three on-campus art galleries.

Students were then welcomed into a design classroom, where Professor Begley discussed his background in design, and how he came to UNF as an instructor. He shared what types of jobs students can get with a degree in design, and what types of courses are offered in the curriculum, along with acceptance requirements to both the University and to the Design major. He also shared that their program has a 90% job placement rate. Students were able to see work created by design majors and ask questions. It was an incredibly informative field trip, and our students had a great opportunity to learn about what UNF has to offer those who have an eye on digital design as a future career!



ACADEMY OF HOSPITALITY STUDENTS SEE HOTEL TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION



Recently, students in the Technology for Hospitality and Tourism class traveled to the Hilton Garden Inn – Ponte Vedra to learn about the software the hotel utilizes daily. Students met with Assistant Hotel Manager, Randy Pickering, who took the students on a tour of the hotel, and discussed the different departments. Then, Trenton Bourgois, Front Office Manager, walked our students through the use of reservation software, and shared the newest technology impacting the hotel industry. After the students got some hands-on time learning the reservation software, they

enjoyed lunch provided by Mulligan's Pub, and Sales and Marketing Director Anna Washington gave students a look at the technology used behind the scenes to help price hotel rooms, while tracking customer records and preferences. The trip was an incredible learning experience for our students! We thank Advisory Board partner, and Hilton Garden Inn General Manager, Chuck Schoonmaker, for organizing this field trip.



STELLAR ACADEMY STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT UNF'S COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



Juniors and Seniors in the Stellar Academy of Engineering travelled to the University of North Florida to get an up-close-and-personal look at the University's College of Engineering. They started the trip by learning all about what UNF's College of Engineering can offer them, including majors, courses, internships and future job opportunities. In fact, UNF's College of Engineering has a near 100% job placement rate for its graduates. Then it was time to move on to a tour of the University's programs and labs, which take up three floors of one of the newest buildings on campus. On the electrical engineering floor, students met with

engineering undergraduates who are working on research projects with the University, as well as taking part in the Adaptive Toy Car Project. In the lab, students are modifying battery-powered vehicles for young children,

so that kids with disabilities can also enjoy the toys. On the mechanical engineering floor, professors showed our Academy students their current research projects. On the civil engineering floor, students met with more



UNF Engineering professors, and got a first-hand look at a geomechanics and geoimaging lab. In the lab, earth materials are tested, and the boundaries of aerial imaging are being stretched, thanks to the use of powerful computer science. It was a comprehensive tour, and we thank Advisory Board partner and Director of UNF's School of Engineering, Dr. Osama Jadaan, for taking such an interest in our talented Academy students!



COMMUNICATIONS ACADEMY TV PRODUCTION STUDENTS VISIT WJCT STUDIOS



On November 5th, first-year students in the Communications Academy TV Production strand had the opportunity to visit WJCT Studios. The guided tour provided a look at their complete television studios, which included a green screen, studio cameras, teleprompters, and a sound stage so large, they were told that it's the largest one available between Atlanta and Orlando. They also got a view of the Production Control Room, which utilizes graphics equipment, video playback systems, the teleprompter system and the switcher. Then,

it was on to WJCT Radio, where students viewed the offices and Recording Studios. First stop was the Radio Reading Service studio, where they learned about WJCT's service to the blind, then they saw Studio 5, where First Coast Connect, Morning Edition and special live coverage reports take place. They also toured Studios 1- 4, where voiceovers and other recordings take place before they're aired on radio or television.



GUEST SPEAKER BRINGS HER EXPERIENCE IN THE COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY INTO THE CLASSROOM



We truly appreciate when professionals take time out of their workday to share their experience and expertise with our students. Digital Design students in Mrs. Soto's 5th and 6th periods recently got to meet with Sarah Butler, Communications Specialist with St. Johns County government. Mrs. Butler explained that her first step into the world of Communications came in high school, via her yearbook class. She went on to discuss her path to a Communications major at the University of North Florida, and then shared the jobs she's had in her career: working with a non-profit, at an advertising

agency, and then her current job with the County's Communications Department. She was excited to hear that our students were earning certifications in Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign, which are all programs she uses in her job daily. Mrs. Butler encouraged the students to get as much experience in the industry as they can by seeking out internships and jobs that give them a variety of skills. Thank you, Mrs. Butler!