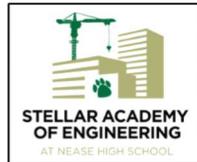


## November Newsletter

Academy Coordinator: Jaime Combs

904.547.8306 | [jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us)



### KEEP THOSE GRADES UP!

Students can get help in ANY subject with free tutoring offered by the National Honor Society. Tutoring takes place after school every Tuesday and Thursday in the media center from 4-5 p.m. This is a FREE service for all our students. No appointment or reservation required. Just show up, sign in, and an NHS Officer will match them up with a tutor.

This is available to ALL our students – distance learners included! Tutors can work with students virtually if they need help. If any student needs other times (mornings, lunch, excel, other days, etc) the parent needs to contact Mrs. Milian directly so that she can schedule a tutor to meet with the student. Parents/students needing specialized timing should email Mrs. Milian at [Carolyn.milian@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Carolyn.milian@stjohns.k12.fl.us), and would need to provide a few days notice to get a session established. Otherwise, students just need to show up in the media center on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 4-5 pm to get help in any subject.

Teachers are also available to assist students during Excel periods on Wednesdays. Students can get help in their Academy, Math, English, Computer or World Language classes during Excel A. They can get help in their Science, Social Studies, Arts, ESE, and PE classes during Excel B.

Academy Students and Parents,

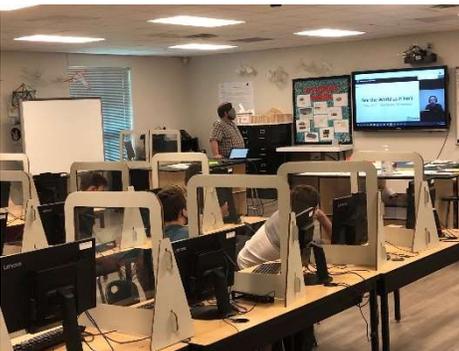
As field trips and in-person guest speakers are still prohibited due to COVID-19, we are hopeful that the spring semester will usher in a return to integrating these hallmark experiences into our programs. While this has been an unusual fall, to be sure, our teachers continue to provide unique experiences to Academy students. Hands-on, in-class projects and the introduction of virtual guest speakers have punctuated the first 9 weeks of the school year.

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](mailto:Jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us).

Thank you!  
Jaime Combs  
Academy Coordinator

### VIRTUAL GUEST SPEAKER EVENT TIES INNOVATION AND ENGINEERING TOGETHER



With the current COVID restrictions in place, the Academies are branching out to try and include virtual guest speaker events for our students. The first event featured Matt Clancy, Engineering and Manufacturing Director with UltraTech, International. Speaking with Stellar Academy of Engineering students during Excel

time, Mr. Clancy shared how innovation and engineering are intertwined, and how following up on an innovative idea can change the world. The students learned about how UltraTech, International, a Jacksonville-based engineering firm, started from humble beginnings when its founder pioneered the field of spill containment products in the early 1980's. Now, the company invents products used around the globe to create a cleaner, safer world. Students also had the chance to ask questions, and learned about Mr. Clancy's chemical engineering background, as well as getting some advice on how to pursue a career in the engineering field. We are hopeful to offer more virtual guest speaking events as the year progresses! Thank you to Mr. Clancy, a member of the Stellar Academy of Engineering Advisory Board, for being our first virtual guest.



## INTENT TO RETURN PROCESS IS COMING UP IN DECEMBER



In December, all Academy students will be asked to indicate if they want to remain in their Academy for the 2021-22 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 2021-22. The student will also receive a recommendation to move on to the next level Academy course, as long as he/she is meeting Academy requirements. Academy requirements include maintaining at least a 75% grade in his/her Academy course as well as a maintaining a minimum 2.0 overall unweighted GPA. Students must also sustain a good behavioral record.

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 Program of Choice Drop Form will be sent home for the student and a parent to sign after winter break, confirming that the student would like to be removed from the Academy for the 2021-22 school year.

Distance Learner Academy students will be asked to tell his/her teacher if they would like to continue in the Academy program, and the teacher will indicate the student's choice on the Intent to Return roster.

Students who will be zoned for High School HHH in 2021-22 but are returning Nease Academy students can remain at Nease. These students will then be designated as out-of-zone Academy students. The St. Johns County School District does not provide transportation to students attending an out-of-zone school. Because transportation is not offered to out-of-zone students in our district, families need to discuss whether they can provide transportation to students who are zoned for HHH, but who choose to continue in their Academy program at Nease. As long as the student can provide transportation, keeps an Academy course on his/her schedule every year, and remains within Academy grade and behavioral guidelines, he/she can attend at an out-of-zone school.

If you have any questions about the Intent to Return process, please reach out to Academy Coordinator Jaime Combs at [Jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

