

December Newsletter

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SUCCESS IN FIRST ROUND OF CERTIFICATION TESTING THIS YEAR!

During the week of November 30th, Digital Information Technology students in both the Hospitality and Digital Design programs had the opportunity to take the Microsoft Office Specialist Word Industry Certification Exam. We are so proud to report that we had a 92% pass rate, with 36 first-year Academy students earning their Word Certification. We also tested distance learners who qualified for the exam after school on December 9th, and had 7 additional students pass! We will offer another round of testing in January.

Students in Digital Information Technology have the opportunity to take the Word, Powerpoint, and Excel Certification Exams during the course. If the student passes all three exams, he/she earns the Microsoft Office Specialist Industry Certification.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Parents, 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:
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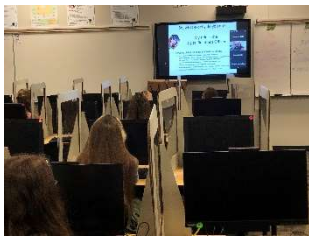
Academy Students and Parents,

We have almost made it to winter break already! Students, keep up the good work as we finish the first semester of the year on January 25th. Have a safe, happy and healthy holiday season as we say GOODBYE to 2020!

Many thanks,

Jaime Combs
Academy Coordinator

PROFESSIONALS BRING THE COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY INTO THE CLASSROOM VIA VIRTUAL GUEST SPEAKER EVENTS



When COVID-19 keeps Academy students from being able to take field trips to meet with professionals...we bring the professionals to them! Recently, in the Communications Academy, we hosted a Digital Design and a Wired virtual guest speaker. Jamie Johnson, Digital Relations Officer for the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, spoke

with students about how to turn a passion for social media and news into a professional career. She shared how she got to her current position, and what her daily duties entail. Jamie also discussed how important it is for students to start monitoring what they're posting on social media NOW, as it will follow them as they get older, when they apply to college and when they start searching for a job. She offered real-world examples of social media mistakes which cost some students opportunities in college and beyond. Jamie also discussed how the skills and software the students are learning in their Digital Design classes will help make them more

competitive candidates in the job market. We thank Jamie Johnson, a member of our Communications Academy Advisory Board, for spending her morning with our students!



In one of our Wired classes, ActionNewsJax Anchor John Bachman joined us for a period to share his experiences in the world of broadcast news. John explained his news background, how he came to Jacksonville, and what his daily schedule looks like as an anchor. He discussed the changing news landscape, and the importance of a strong social media presence when reporting. John also took the class on a virtual tour of the newsroom, where they got to see producers, assignment editors, webmasters, and anchors working on that day's newscasts. Then, he walked the

students into ActionNewsJax's control room and finally, into the studio, where they got to see a first-person perspective sitting in John's chair at the anchor desk. It was an awesome virtual guest speaker event which became a virtual field trip! Many thanks to John Bachman for taking time out of his workday to show our Wired students around!

INTENT TO RETURN PROCESS TAKES PLACE THIS MONTH



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 Toco High School 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 Toco HS, 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 a student checks "Yes" on the Intent to Return roster and then changes his/her mind, they need to inform their counselor about the change during their registration appointment in January/February. The course will not be removed from the student's course recommendations until a Program of Choice Drop Form is returned to Mrs. Combs. Those forms will be given to students if they tell their counselor that



they want to drop their Academy Course recommendation for the 2021-2022 school year.

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