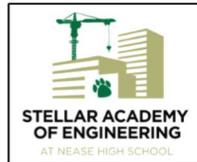


February Newsletter

Academy Coordinator: Jaime Combs

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UPCOMING EVENTS

PRESIDENTS DAY, NO SCHOOL

February 15th

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. 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, 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 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. In addition to industry certification testing, the spring semester means it's time for our Juniors to consider whether they would like to pursue a possible summer internship. More details below.

Sincerely,

Jaime Combs
Academy Coordinator

ACADEMY JUNIORS ARE ELIGIBLE TO PURSUE A SUMMER INTERNSHIP



Each year, Juniors are invited to pursue a possible summer internship, giving them a chance to see the skills they're learning in their Academy courses reflected in the real world. While we were not able to offer these opportunities in the summer of 2020, due to COVID, we are hopeful for district approval to allow for our Juniors to engage in these wonderful opportunities this summer. The process begins with an informational meeting, scheduled for Excel A on February 10th, to take place in the Digital Design classroom, D-002. At the meeting, students can get the internship timeline and application. Students who are not able to attend

the meeting can pick up an application from their Academy instructor. Those applications are due by February 24th, when students are to attend the resume writing meeting, in which they'll learn the basics of resume writing, another important step in the Internship process. Resumes will be turned in by March 11th and then submitted to the district Career and Technical Education office, along with the student applications, for approval.



Following approval, students will be invited to an interviewing skills meeting, participate in a practice interview, and have the chance to preview a list of internship locations. Once students have determined which internship locations they would be interested in pursuing, resumes are sent to the business partners at those locations, and the partners will either request interviews to select an intern (or interns), or they will offer internship positions based solely on the student resumes.



Summer internships can last a maximum of 120 hours. The business will determine whether the internship will be paid or unpaid. Students participating in unpaid internships earn volunteer service hours which they can use towards Florida Bright Futures requirements. Students and businesses work together to determine a schedule for the internship. Internships will start no sooner than June 14th. Following the internship, students are required to submit an Internship Summary PowerPoint to receive their service hours.

HOW AN ACADEMY INTERNSHIP LED TO AN ENGINEERING JOB FOR GARRETT QUEENER, CLASS OF 2018

Can a summer internship set a student up for future success in the industry they're pursuing? Absolutely! Just ask Garrett Queener, Stellar Academy of Engineering graduate. Garrett shared his thoughts on summer internships:



What made you pursue an internship as a Junior in the Academy?

I originally pursued an internship through the Stellar Engineering Academy because I thought it would be great to include on a college application. I really felt like I needed something that would stand out in the application process because I did not have the most outstanding GPA or Test Scores. I felt that if someone could give me an opportunity to showcase my work ethic it would be of benefit, which it was!

What did you enjoy about your internship?

I really enjoyed getting an opportunity to start from scratch and learn about an industry from the ground up. No employer is going to expect a Junior in High School to know everything there is to know about engineering, and having the opportunity to learn from professionals in a real world scenario was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had a chance to engage in.

How did you end up becoming employed with Gulfstream?

I was very fortunate to be in the first group of Interns that was selected to work at Gulfstream. I was originally sold on the fact I wanted the Stellar internship, and when I was not selected, that was a crushing feeling. I was offered the internship at Gulfstream the following week, and completed my

internship in about 3 or 4 weeks. After the 120 hours was up, Mr. Lahti was kind enough to offer me a part-time position where I could continue to grow and learn about Civil Engineering.

What are you currently studying at UNF and when are you scheduled to graduate?

I am currently studying Civil Engineering at the University of North Florida, and am scheduled to graduate in spring of 2022.

How many hours per week do you work at Gulfstream? How do you balance school and work?

Typically I work anywhere from 20-30 hours during the week at Gulfstream during the semester. Balancing school and work has been challenging; however, I firmly believe they go hand in hand. I am able to take experiences from Gulfstream and project them to academic life, in situations like group work, time management, and basic industry knowledge. I am also able to take material I am learning in the class room and apply that my professional life. I still remarkably have decent chunks of free time and have time for things that are sometimes more fun than school or work!

Do you plan on pursuing a full-time job with Gulfstream upon graduation? Or, do you plan on looking elsewhere?

I am always open to the opportunity of a new challenge and path, but as of now I am fully committed to Gulfstream and its growth.

What advice do you have for current Juniors in the Academy considering an internship?

When I left Nease I had a 3.1 weighted GPA, and 1190 on my SAT, and a 25 on my ACT, not super impressive. I was not the ideal college candidate, but I knew that I just needed a couple good opportunities to show my confidence in myself, and work ethic. You never know who you will end up working with or for, the relationships you will build (yes even as an intern for a couple weeks) will benefit you for years to come. My internship experience happened to help me select the college that was right for me, and offered me an incredible working experience while at school. I have found a way to succeed and perform well in my engineering courses after barely passing Pre-Calc at Nease...it is possible! An internship is the best step you can take towards maturity and creating a more well-rounded version of yourself. Do yourself a favor, the worst thing that can happen is that you find out one thing that you don't want to do with your life, and you add something to your resume.

Many thanks to Garrett for taking time to share his thoughts and advice with us!