

April Newsletter

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NO SCHOOL

April 15th and 18th

KEEP THOSE GRADES UP!

In accordance with St. Johns County School district standards, Academy students must keep their Academy course semester grade at a 70 or higher. If a student's semester grade is not at least a 70%, a letter will be sent home letting the student and their parent know that they are on Academy Academic Probation for the semester following the one in which they earned less than a 70%. Students must earn at least a 70% or higher for the following semester in order to remain in the Career Academy. If the student earns a grade lower than a 70% for two semesters in a row, that student is released from the Career Academy for the following semester and cannot re-enroll at any time.

If a student needs any academic help, they can get FREE tutoring in any subject from the National Honor Society. Tutoring sessions take place from 4-5 pm on Tuesdays & Thursdays, and during Excel Time in the Media Center.

Teachers are also available to assist students during Excel periods on Wednesdays. Students can get help in their Academy classes during Excel A.

Academy Students and Parents,

As we move through the final quarter of the year, a note to the Academy students...do your best to stay focused throughout spring testing season, try your hardest, and keep your eyes on the prize – summer vacation!

Jaime Combs
Career Academy Coordinator

FLAGLER COLLEGE WELCOMES ACADEMY OF HOSPITALITY & TOURISM STUDENTS



The Academy of Hospitality & Tourism features an Advisory Board of professionals in the industry and in post-secondary education, who help ensure that our students are learning the latest and greatest information surrounding the world of hospitality and tourism. One of our business partners, Dr. David Rivera, a professor and the Director of the Hospitality and Tourism Management department at Flagler College, has taken a special interest in our Academy and its stellar students. Recently, he

invited a group to visit and tour Flagler College, and they enjoyed a one-of-a-kind experience. They started by meeting with Dr. Rivera and several of his Hospitality and Tourism Management students, who shared



information and their experiences in the program. Next, students got to enjoy a tour of Flagler College, and learn more about the school. Finally, they were able to cap off their experience by enjoying lunch in the school's gorgeous dining hall. Dr. Rivera worked to make the experience a special one, and even sent the students back home with Flagler t-shirts. The students who attended said it really opened their eyes to the possibilities of studying hospitality and tourism at the next level. Many thanks to Dr. Rivera for this incredible field trip!



STELLAR ACADEMY STUDENTS VISIT THE FLEET READINESS CENTER SOUTHEAST

Thanks to Stellar Academy of Engineering Advisory Board member Alexis Alexandris, students interested in aeronautical and aerospace engineering had the opportunity to tour the Fleet Readiness Center Southeast, located at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. The tour featured a number of stops, including seeing "trainer" aircraft and their F/A-18 Super Hornets. The trip 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.

CAREER ADVICE COMES TO THE CLASSROOM: GUEST SPEAKERS SHARE THEIR STORIES

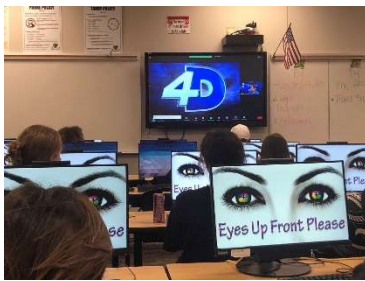
When we can't bring the students into the industry, we bring the industry to our students. Thanks to guest speakers, we're able to offer our Academy students a glimpse into the many paths their Academy training provides. Here are a few of our most recent guests:



Amber Katada, a mechanical engineer in the research and development sector of Medtronic, shared some surprising stories with the students about the winding path she took to get to her engineering career. That path included dropping out of high school, becoming homeless, then following several passions until she landed on engineering. After earning her degree in mechanical engineering, she knew she had found the career she always wanted. Ms. Katada shared three pieces of life advice with the students: 1. Everything is going to be

okay 2. Consult with a professional by reaching out to someone who has already succeed in a career you're interested in 3. Check in with yourself. Are you happy with what you're doing in life? Ms. Katada said that with these pieces of advice, she has created a life for herself that she is really happy with. Beyond life advice, Ms. Katada discussed what her job in research and development consists of, and answered student questions.

Donald Anderson, a project manager and construction engineer with Superior Construction, utilized the smartboard during his engineering presentation to share some of the large-scale, local projects he has worked on in our area. Superior Construction, whose CEO is a Nease alumnus, along with several of its leadership team members, has a strong connection to the First Coast. Mr. Anderson shared that as a project manager, it's his job to use all the engineering knowledge he has amassed to create solutions for problems. He also noted that continuing education is key to remaining a qualified engineer. Mr. Anderson is currently managing a number of projects, including the \$180 million First Coast Expressway. Through his presentation, he was able to show students the designs and the final products for multiple projects. He also answered a number of questions about design engineering versus construction engineering.



Moving from the engineering lab to the digital design classroom, Earl Bersamin, the Art Director for WJXT and the CW station in Jacksonville, visited the design students virtually to provide a look at what life is like when graphic design is your profession. A local, Mr. Bersamin graduated from UNF with his degree in graphic design and a minor in advertising. After spending some time with an agency, and then freelancing, he was hired at the station as a graphic designer and worked his way up to Art Director. He walked the students through the software suite he utilizes for design and gave some insight in how "outside the box" designing can

become...including stories behind the design process for News4Jax's helicopter and news boat. Students were also able to hear from his graphic designer, who put together a reel of some of their best design work. When asked about career advice for digital design students, he shared that communication is key, you should be a good listener, find fun ways to blow off steam, and achieve a work-life balance. He said he loves being a graphic designer because it's a career that has a huge range of applications.

LEONARD'S SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE TO COMMUNICATIONS ACADEMY STUDENTS

Leonard's is proud to open their annual Senior Scholarship applications. Three students will be awarded \$1,000 each.

Students who are in a St. Johns County School Career Academy or a school's yearbook class are eligible to apply with preference given to students in digital/graphic design, photography, communications and/or yearbook. The deadline is **May 6th**.

Scholarship link: <https://new.leonards.com/scholarship/>

LEONARD'S

LEONARD R. TUCKER, SR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Leonard's will award up to three \$1000 scholarships to St. Johns County graduating seniors enrolling in college for the 2022-23 Academic year. Please be sure that you meet the following criteria:

- Eligible to graduate June of 2022
- Full-time St. Johns County student
- Enrolled in one of the career academies or a member of the school's yearbook staff
- Minimum grade point average of 3.0

Preference will be given to those applicants who have an interest in digital media and design, communications, photography, or computer technology.

<p>What students need to complete Scholarship Application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover Letter • Essay (See application for details) • Two recommendation letters from academic teachers • Current high school transcript or most recent report card • Sample of digital media/design or photography, if applicable 	<p>Applicant must also demonstrate The Six Pillars of Character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trustworthiness • Respect • Responsibility • Fairness • Caring • Citizenship
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CONGRATULATIONS, STELLAR ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING COMPETITION WINNERS!

Each year, Stellar Academy of Engineering students test their skills against students from across Florida in the Technology Student Association State Fair. We are proud to say that a number of our talented young engineers brought home awards this year! Congratulations, students!

Winners - 2022 Florida State Fair / TSA Entries

Residential Design:

Anthony Bismi 1st place
Brayden Myroup 2nd place
Sofia Pinilla 3rd place

Live-Work Sustainable Design:

Saketh Challahulla 1st place
Brit Walker 2nd place
Kyan Sanchez 3rd place

Tiny House/ Shipping Container:

Aidan Long 1st place

Workspace of the Future:

Brandon Stowell-Campos 1st place

Modern Seaside Villa:

Logan Rose 1st place + Best of Show
Matthew Schwarz 2nd place
Hannah DeVelder 3rd place



STUDENTS PEEK BEHIND THE SCENES OF COUNTRY CLUB MANAGEMENT



Nease's Academy of Hospitality and Tourism students got a first-hand look at resort club management, thanks to the Sawgrass County Club's General Manager (and new Hospitality Academy Advisory Board Member) C.W. Cook. The students had the chance to tour the brand-new Sawgrass Golf Club and Beach Club, and learn about both the front of house and back of house operations for each location. Students got to see it all, from member services to the club restaurants. Our Academy students also had the chance to hear from both Mr. Cook and the club's Assistant General Manager and learn about how they strive to make the Sawgrass Country Club a wonderful environment for not only their guests, but for their employees as well. Mr. Cook is also generously offering our Hospitality Academy students the chance to intern at the club this summer to get some real-world hospitality experience. Many thanks to Mr. Cook!!

