

September Newsletter

Academy Coordinator: Jaime Combs

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Academy Students and Parents,

We are well on our way to a wonderful school year! Classes are filled with students participating in real-world, project-based learning. We are looking forward to offering engaging guest speaker events this fall as the district grapples with school bus driver shortages, which have sidelined field trips for now. But, there are some awesome things happening in our Academy classes. A couple examples are below.

If you ever have Academy questions, please feel free to ask:

Jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us

-Jaime Combs, Academy Coordinator

SPIRIT BOX BRINGS HOSPITALITY BUSINESS MANAGEMENT TO LIFE



The upper-level courses in our Academy of Hospitality & Tourism include Hospitality & Tourism Marketing Management and Hospitality & Tourism Entrepreneurship. These courses bring the world of Hospitality business, marketing, and technology together for our Academy students. The perfect way for students to show what they learn is by running a small business.

Enter: The Spirit Box. This new, small-scale school store allows our students to work through all phases of business: from market research, to business plans, to inventory management, even technical support. Recently, our students learned to install a Tap to Pay card reader on the box with the help of a Spirit Box technician over the phone to make the purchase process easier for students.

The Spirit Box, located in the Media Center, features a variety of items, from senior t-shirts to basic school supplies, such as pens, pencils, index cards,



UPCOMING EVENTS

HOMEcomings SPIRIT WEEK

September 26th – 30th

HOMEcomings GAME

September 30th

HOMEcomings DANCE

October 1st

FIRST QUARTER ENDS

October 14th

CAREER ACADEMY STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

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 informing the student and their parent 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 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. Questions? Reach out to Mrs. Combs.

deodorant and headphones. Each week they'll be rotating in items to match that week's game theme. Market research led the students to feature USA-based gear in the box for the "America Out" home football game on September 9th. They ordered and stocked The Spirit Box with specialized items, which led to a huge rush at the vending machine, with a long line before school on game day. For the upcoming Construction-themed Game on Friday, September 16th, they'll have safety vests, bandanas, construction goggles, bracelets, and hard hats.



The Spirit Box also features Sweet Aloha Treats. The treats are a freeze-dried candy that one of our very own Hospitality Academy students makes. If you ever think of an item that you would like to see in the machine, let our Hospitality teacher, Mrs. Amato, know: tara.amato@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Students can purchase items from The Spirit Box using credit cards, cash, or apple pay. They currently have limited dollars for change, so if a student tries to use a large bill to purchase an item, the machine may not accept it. Exact change will always work, though. Proceeds from The Spirit Box support the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism's DECA chapter.

SPORTS MEDIA PROGRAM SHARES BEST PLAYS VIA SOCIAL MEDIA



The Sports Media program, a strand of the Communications Academy, shares the best plays from Nease sports via their social media accounts. You can check out their work on Twitter,

Instagram and TikTok at @NeaseSM. One of their most popular regular posts is the Panther Plays of the Week (#PPotW), which feature highlights from the previous weeks' events. Those are typically posted on Wednesday afternoons. Sports Media students film all JV and Varsity athletic events throughout the entire school year.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY OFFER TUTORING IN ALL SUBJECTS

If students need help in any subject, the National Honor Society offers free tutoring in the media center after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and during Excel time. For after school tutoring, students can just show up to get the help they need on any Tuesday or Thursday. For Excel Time tutoring, students need to get a pass from their teacher to get help in the media center. If a student needs tutoring before school or during lunch, they can get an appointment through Mrs. Milian in the Media Center by stopping in, or by sending her an email at Carolyn.milian@stjohns.k12.fl.us

HOW CAN PARENTS GET INVOLVED?

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: Jaime Combs
904.547.8306

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ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Lisa Kunze

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Mrs. Stacey Johnson

Mrs. Holly Rapp

Mr. Nathaniel Wuellner

DEANS

Ms. Hendrix, 9th grade & 10th O-Z

Mr. Bailen, 11th grade & 10th A-G

Mrs. Burney, 12th grade & 10th H-N

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Mr. Charles Gomes

Athletic Director

Mrs. Heather Davis

Athletic Secretary