

## October Newsletter

Academy Coordinator: Jaime Combs

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



Academy Students and Parents,

The first quarter is behind us already, and hopefully everyone is off to a strong start! If not, remember that extra help is available from teachers during Excel time and from National Honor Society tutors after school and during Excel time. See the side bar for more information.

To catch up on the extra opportunities we've offered our Academy students recently, read on!

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

### FIRST DAY SHADOW ACADEMY INTERNSHIP EVENT A SUCCESS!



At the start of the school year, we were informed that the district's bus driver shortage would hit the Career Academy programs hard – no field trip buses would be available for our students *indefinitely*. Charter buses are an option, but they cost over \$1,000 per field trip. With one of our goals focused on giving students real-world experiences in the industries

they're studying; this presented a unique challenge.

Enter: Day Shadow Internships. Short-form, real-world, professional-led opportunities for students to learn about the industry they're interested in.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### END OF 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER

October 14<sup>th</sup>

#### TEACHER PLANNING DAY

October 17<sup>th</sup>

#### REPORT CARDS RELEASED

October 25<sup>th</sup>

### ARE YOU STRUGGLING IN ANY CLASSES?

Now that report card grades are being released for the first quarter, is there a subject that has been particularly challenging? Remember, in accordance with St. Johns County district standards, Academy students must keep their Academy course semester grade at a 70 or higher, and they must hold at least a 2.0 overall GPA. If you need any academic help, students can get FREE tutoring in any subject from the National Honor Society. Tutoring sessions take place from 4-5 pm on Tuesdays & Thursdays, or during Excel Time in the Media Center. If a student can't make it to tutoring after school on Tuesdays or Thursdays or during Excel, NHS also offers tutoring before school or during lunch, but an appointment needs to be made in advance. See Mrs. Milian in the Media Center for more information.

Our trial run of this effort took place on the teacher planning day, October 17<sup>th</sup>, so students wouldn't have to worry about missing class. We reached out to business partners in the Stellar Academy of Engineering and the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism and they delivered! Opportunities presented to Academy Juniors and



Seniors included day shadow internships with the Sawgrass Country Club, The Treasury Collection Event Venues, Apex Technologies, NAS Jacksonville engineers and Stellar. 23 students took part in the event, which included half-day visits with professionals at their businesses. At the Sawgrass Country Club, three Hospitality students enjoyed a tour of the location led by the director of Human Resources, learned about the various departments at the club, and spent time with the director of member services. Meanwhile, in St. Augustine, one of our juniors in the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism enjoyed a packed agenda planned by The Treasury Collection Event Venue's Director of Operations and their Wedding & Event Manager. Our intern met with the marketing, sales and event staff, toured both event spaces at The Treasury and the Lightner Museum, and learned about future internship opportunities with the company.

Students in the Stellar Academy of Engineering had three different options to choose from: a morning at Stellar Headquarters, a look inside the F/A-18 hangers at NAS Jacksonville, or experiencing professional life in a locally-owned construction engineering firm with Apex Technology. At Stellar, a dozen engineering students received a general introduction to Stellar, and then enjoyed presentations by professionals from the process engineering, civil, architectural, structural, refrigeration, mechanical (HVAC and piping) and electrical divisions. They also enjoyed a virtual-reality walkthrough of one of Stellar's building designs, a brief discussion with Human Resources and



learned a little about "VDC" (virtual design and construction). Just over the Buchman Bridge at NAS Jacksonville, students spent time with structures engineer Nathan Pavich, who works on the F/A-18 Legacy Hornets. Students got up close and personal with the aircraft, and learned about the day to day work that takes place in the aircraft hangers and in the offices at NAS Jax. In Regency, students spent the morning at Apex Technology, where a team of local professionals run an innovative, full-service construction engineering company, focused on designing and engineering single-and-multi-family residences for homebuilders. This was a fantastic opportunity to learn directly from professional engineers working in structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and component engineering and design.

We thank our business partners, all part of the Stellar Academy of Engineering or Academy of Hospitality & Tourism Advisory Boards, for providing our students with these phenomenal experiences. We are hoping to host another day shadow internship event in February, with a focus on all three Career Academy realms: Engineering, Hospitality & Tourism, and Communications. If you are involved in a business willing to take on one or more internship students for a few hours on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, please reach out to Jaime Combs at [jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us).





Eric Goodman, Communications Academy class of 2015 grad, has his hands full in the best possible way these days...as pictured with his Emmy Award. Eric received the award thanks to his producer role during NBC's coverage of the 2020(21) Olympics coverage. Recently, Eric was a featured virtual guest speaker in the Sports Media program, dropping in to share his experiences in professional sports production. After learning the sports media skills for success during his time in Nease's Communications Academy, Eric went on to continue his studies at the University of Texas, where he worked on The Longhorn Network. Post-college, his resume includes work on the 2016 and 2020(21) Summer Olympics, the 2022 Winter Olympics, the 2018 and 2022 Men's World Cup, and the 2019 Women's World Cup. A true young professional in the world of

sports media and journalism, Eric shared the importance of making a positive impact in the industry, starting with internships. He noted that by being a great team player and a friend to all during internships, you have a chance to network and earn jobs down the line. Eric also noted that while the starting salaries in the industry may not be great, it's a truly fun profession, and offers lots of opportunities. We appreciate Eric taking time out of his busy schedule to talk with our students, just days before heading to Los Angeles to help produce programming for the World Cup.