

February Newsletter

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UPCOMING EVENTS

PRESIDENTS DAY, NO SCHOOL

February 21st

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 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.

We've also enjoyed a few field trips this semester as businesses begin to allow visitors in once again. Read more below.

Sincerely,

Jaime Combs
Academy Coordinator

DIGITAL DESIGN STUDENTS EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE AT JACKSONVILLE

For digital design students who are ready to move on up, but maybe not move on OUT after they graduate, there are a lot of great post-secondary options available to them in the Jacksonville area. In January, students had the opportunity to learn more about what Florida State College at Jacksonville has to offer them, if they want to continue to pursue a future in digital media art and design at the college's south campus. Students got to meet with the head of the Humanities Department, which encompasses many types of visual and digital arts tracks for students to pursue. The group toured painting, drawing, screen printing





and digital media classrooms, then discussed curriculum with professors at the college, including a Communications Academy Advisory Board Member, Professor of Digital Media Art and Design, Julia DeArriba-Montgomery. Students saw the vast amount of equipment and supplies available to the students and learned about the FSCJ Talent Scholarships that are available, which can make their college experience even more affordable. FSCJ offers technical certificates, an associate's degree and a bachelor's degree in Digital Media. The school also has articulation agreements in place so that students can begin their education at FSCJ and then transfer to a four-year university. After touring the arts building, students also had the chance to see the three-story library, complete with a 3D printing lab, tutoring centers and research assistance, in addition to the athletic center, and the academic and financial advising offices. It was a real eye-opening trip for many of our Academy students.



A HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM STUDENT'S SMALL BUSINESS BLOSSOMS WITHIN THE ACADEMY



Hospitality Academy student, Keegan Mapa, has been putting his hospitality knowledge to the test with his new small business, Sweet Aloha Treats 904. Sweet Aloha Treats 904 creates and sells freeze-dried candies and they have quickly become a hit at local farmers markets and here on campus! Keegan has partnered with our Hospitality Academy to sell the freeze-dried candies in our Spirit Box Vending Machine. So far, they have featured "Aloha Puffs", "Bursting Star Fruit Crunch", and "Rainbow Crunch", all of which sold out in less than a week. To incorporate this new product offering into our Academy, students in the Marketing and Technology and Tourism classes have been using the skills from their newly obtained certification, Social Media Strategy, to create content to market the candy. Sweet Aloha Treats 904's popularity continues to grow, and we are excited to watch and support Keegan as he excels in his new business!

The Nease Spirit Box, run by the students in Hospitality Academy's Entrepreneurship class, had a profitable 4th quarter! The Spirit Box was officially opened in October and ended the 2021 year in the green! The biggest sellers were phone chargers and headphones, but the Spirit Box has now added Sweet Aloha Treats, Tide Stain Pens and Wipes, and Nease Senior t-shirts. As the Spirit Box grows, so does out students' experience with running a small business.



STELLAR ACADEMY STUDENTS SEE MECHANICAL ENGINEERING IN ACTION AT WHETSTONES CHOCOLATE FACTORY

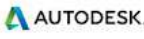


Introduction to Engineering Design and Principles of Engineering students recently enjoyed trips to Whetstones Chocolate Factory. The students learned about the company's founder and former engineer, Henry Whetstone. Connecting the field trip to concepts they've studied in class, students learned about mechanical engineering and processes used to make the chocolates, and had the opportunity to see a small factory setting. In addition to reinforcing their engineering curriculum, the students also had the chance to sample several chocolates, which made this field trip even sweeter.

INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION EXAM TESTING OFFERS ACCOMMODATIONS TO STUDENTS WITH IEP OR 504 PLANS...BUT ONLY IF PARENTS APPLY IN ADVANCE

CERTIPORT

AUTHORIZED TESTING CENTER



All of our Career Academies offer industry certification exams. This is your student's opportunity to prove that she/he has mastered a professional-level software and is ready to utilize those skills in the business world. Passing an industry certification exam also earns the students a Merit designation on his/her high school diploma. As we are a certified testing center, the certification exams administered at Nease are proctored through Certiport, an independent testing platform. Students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 may apply for accommodations on these industry certification exams, but the requests must be made directly through Certiport.

Because it is an outside testing company, like ACT or SAT, accommodations, such as extended time, must be applied for and implemented to the individual student's testing platform by Certiport. The school cannot request these services, the student and their legal guardian (if student is under 18) must submit the request directly to Certiport. Accommodations are granted by Certiport annually, so even if your student was granted accommodations for testing in the 2020-2021 school year, the application must be submitted again for the 2021-2022 school year to ensure that accommodations are provided at the time your student tests.

Certiport has an online accommodations application process which must be completed by the tester/parent, and cannot be submitted by the school. The process is detailed on their website at:

<https://certiport.pearsonvue.com/Educator-resources/Exam-policies/Accommodations.aspx#apply>

In order to have your request for accommodations considered by Certiport, a parent/guardian must submit a completed application online, along with supporting documentation aligned to Certiport requirements. Certiport will notify you directly if your student is approved for accommodations. We plan on administering industry certifications in March, so parents are advised to complete the accommodations request sooner rather than later, as it can take up to two weeks for a request to be processed. If approved, please inform your student's Academy teacher so that we are aware when planning for test administration.

NEASE ENGINEERING STUDENTS NAMED GRAND PRIZE WINNERS IN GLOBAL MINECRAFT EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGE



Congratulations to Nease's Stellar Academy of Engineering students Jack Wilcox, Joshua Becker, Vincent Donnelly and Tristan Bireley! The team of students has been named a Minecraft Global Build Challenge Grand Prize Winner in the "Peace with Nature Sustainable Design" competition. The students entered their design in the "Sustainable Cities & Communities" Challenge. The task was to design a sustainable city, one that respects sustainable development priorities from their social, economic, and environmental perspective, and that allows its inhabitants to live in good conditions and in harmony with their surrounding nature. Student teams from 109 countries entered the competition. Nease's team, and a team from the Philippines, were each named Grand Prize winners after the 10 finalists were announced. The Grand Prize winning teams will get to video chat with the Mojang Studios team, and each member will receive Minecraft-related merchandise valued at up to \$300.