



Issue 48
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The Spotlight is on...
Palmetto High School



Making Strides

Where can you find students doing great things? Palmetto High School. Our SLCs and academies have kept student success and student engagement at the center of their programs. As a result, students have not only become more involved in their classes, but have become concerned about their community. Academy students at PHS are volunteering in record numbers. Students are working with Big Brother/Big Sisters, building houses for Habitat for Humanity, and starting scholarship grants.

Where can you find state-of-the-art facilities? Palmetto High School. With the addition of an auditorium, science classrooms, and space for the Construction Academy, Palmetto High School will be equipped to conduct learning in the twenty-first century.

Where can you find teachers and staff working together for the benefit of students? Palmetto High School. Our teachers have been recognized for their innovations on a national and local level. With the addition of Lynda Elkin, Academic Advisor, and Millie Lugo-Torres, Career Advisor, additional service and support is provided to every student.



Industry Certifications Result in Funding

March 2009 marks the first time in history that Manatee County has ever received bonus FTE funding from the Florida Department of Education for the Florida Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Act. CAPE was created to provide a statewide planning partnership between business and education communities, to expand and retain high-value industry, and sustain a vibrant state economy. We are proud to announce that the Construction Design Academy at PHS received a big check this month in the amount of \$12,787. This amount represents an award on behalf of the graduating seniors who successfully achieved the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) industry certification. Manatee County was one of 19 (out of 75) districts and lab schools to participate in this funding initiative. Next year's check should be even greater and encompass more schools. Congratulations to PHS for being the first to achieve this bonus FTE funding for industry certification.

Doug Wagner, Director
 Adult, Career & Technical Education

Upcoming Events

Academies on the Hill Legislative Conference
 Tallahassee, Florida
[April 7-9, 2009](#)

Career Clusters Institute
 Fort Worth, Texas
[June 15 - 17, 2009](#)

From Structure to Instruction
 University of Nevada, Las Vegas
[June 22 - 24, 2009](#)

Model Schools Conference
 Atlanta, Georgia
[June 28-July 1, 2009](#)

NCAC Career Academy 40th Anniversary Celebration
 Philadelphia, PA
[November 1-4, 2009](#)

ACTE Annual Convention & Career Tech Expo
 Nashville, Tennessee
[November 19 - 21, 2009](#)

Freshmen Learning Center—Promoting Growth and Adaptation

The Freshmen Learning Center (FLC), led by Assistant Principal Mrs. Shannika Triplett, is a supportive environment for the class of 2012. 450 freshmen are enrolled in the FLC where they are guided through the adjustment to a high school environment. Students are in two adjacent buildings, where teachers and staff collaborate to maximize student achievement.



Students demonstrating a need for improvement are encouraged to attend the 21st Century After-School Program, where they receive tutoring in a variety of subjects. Students may also attend enrichment activities like cooking class, crafts, or free gym time. Time that would have been unsupervised is now spent doing homework, receiving help, and socializing with peers and teachers. This worthwhile program meets every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

The FLC's contact with rising ninth graders begins with the registration process. Guidance counselors, our athletic director, the music program directors, and the JROTC staff visit the middle schools to showcase student opportunities. Rising ninth grade students and parents are invited to attend the Freshman Registration Overview on March 31st at 6:30 pm. Not only will course offerings, graduation requirements, and course progressions be explained, but many campus clubs and sports will be present.

This summer, the FLC will be offering Tiger Summer Camp again to rising ninth graders. The camp helps students become familiar with the high school setting so that when they start school in the fall, they know the campus and are familiar with the schedule.

Liberal Arts and Leadership—Guiding toward Postsecondary Education

The Liberal Arts and Leadership SLC prepares students who intend to pursue a postsecondary education. Led by Kari McMillan, the SLC is available to students in grades 10 through 12. The academics and electives for students enrolled in the Liberal Arts and Leadership SLC stress a broad liberal arts education. Students benefit from additional guidance in course selection, applying for college and scholarships, test-taking strategies, and resume writing.

Staff members mentor each student. Mentors and mentees work together so that students can navigate the process of acceptance into a postsecondary institution. Mentor/mentee meetings are scheduled for students to set goals; students are mentored to achieve success, but also to accept setbacks and remain resilient. Students learn failure can change a plan so that the next attempt is successful. Outcomes

of this relationship are that students build leadership skills, intellectual curiosity, become sensitive to societal problems, and develop the drive to improve the world.



Students in the Liberal Arts and Leadership center use laptops to enhance their studies and prepare for postsecondary education.

Education Academy—Training our Future Educators

The Education Academy, directed by co-leads Debora Shannon and Hope Goodwin, focuses on the education of children. Besides studying the stages of childhood growth and development, how children achieve physical and emotional maturity, and how to motivate children, students now have the opportunity to learn about communication dynamics among family members with the addition of Family and Consumer Science instructor JoAnne Bailey to the Academy.

PHS boasts a pre-kindergarten program, which gives students the opportunity to observe and research preschool-aged students in a daycare setting. High school academy students work hand-in-hand with the Tiger Tots staff by relating to the toddlers and by creating activities which are implemented at the childcare facility. Students write lesson plans, implement lessons in the classroom, and write and illustrate children's stories. In February, academy students observed Black History month. They researched, wrote essays, and finally created PowerPoints on inspirational events and



Education Academy students present their Black History Month celebration to their toddler charges.

people important to African-American culture. Academy students then shared African food and presented age-appropriate presentations on Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, and President Barack Obama.

Education Academy students can also join Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), a student organization that promotes leadership and community service. This year FCCLA members have volunteered their time to the Big Brother/Big Sister program. In this exciting venture, academy students mentor elementary students from Palmetto Elementary. The younger students admire their Big Brother/Big Sister, and the older students feel a sense of satisfaction knowing they are helping the youngsters. This partnership is the win-win situation that makes us proud of our Palmetto academies.

Agriscience Academic Academy— Managing Limited Natural Resources



Agriscience Academy students prepare to plant the spring garden.

In the Agriscience Academic Academy, directed by co-leads Julie Tillett and Joni Olson, Agriscience Academic Academy students learn to breed and raise farm animals such as pigs, goats, and cattle and to properly manage land, grow plants, and run a farming enterprise business. Students may present animals and plants at the Manatee County Fair in January. This month students are planting a variety of vegetables and flowers for spring gardens. Seeds are planted under lights, transplanted to the greenhouse, and finally moved outside. The vegetables and flowers will be sold to PHS teachers and at the PHS flea market.

Other academy students are also busy. The agriculture mechanic class is refurbishing the chapter's cattle squeeze shoot and other farm equipment. In addition, PHS has partnered with the Manatee County Sheriff's Office to show and breed Brangus cattle and is housing three heifers and one bull.

In English class, led by Mrs. Olson, students are assisted in keeping agricultural record books, writing essays, creating

advertising, and other skills needed to run a farming business. Students are also creating press releases to inform the public of activities in Palmetto's agriculture classes, with FFA, and in the field of agriculture. In fact, a group of students recently traveled to meet with legislators to educate them about the importance of agriculture to Florida's economy. Students saw government and lobbyists in action and came back with a new understanding of how government runs.

Agriscience Academic Academy students can also join FFA, a student organization that promotes leadership and management of natural resources. In FFA, students can compete at district, state, and national levels in events like extemporaneous speaking, prepared speaking, dairy judging, tractor driving, livestock judging, land judging, and floriculture. This year PHS started an FFA goat club, the county's first since the 1980's, in honor of FFA and PHS alumni Chris Icenhower, whose dream was for a high school to have a herd of Toggenburg goats.

As an exciting aside, Julie Tillett was recently recognized as teacher of the year by a local radio station. Congratulations, Julie. Your dedication to students is noticed. PHS FFA alumni is hosting a pancake breakfast on April 18th to raise funds for scholarship opportunities to support FFA students.

Construction Design Academy—Providing Alternatives to the Energy Crisis

Construction Design Academy students take our energy crisis seriously. Academy co-leads Mr. Lounds and Mr. Kapper received a grant which will allow students to create solar power. Six solar panels were delivered, and academy students, in collaboration with science teacher Mrs. Hill, will install these panels. The solar panels will power the pavilion that Academy students built last year. Go green, PHS!!

Outside of class, Construction Design Academy students and staff are collaborating with Habitat for Humanity and are volunteering their time and skills to build homes for families in



Construction Academy students frame their challenging chalet house.

our community. Students are learning the importance of giving back to their community—a powerful lesson in these uncertain economic times. During class, academy students reviewed house plans and were given a choice of houses to build. Students chose the most difficult plan available—a two-story, four bedroom 2600 square foot chalet house. They are now building a 1" scale model. The model allows students to experience the installation, framing, and fabrication process. They are even milling their own lumber from 2x4s. When the model is complete, it will go on a tour to the PHS Media Center, the Home Builder's Association, and the School Board.

As they participate in academy courses, academy students can earn National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) certifications, which provide students with a considerable advantage in the construction job market. Palmetto's program is so successful that James Kapper and Robert Lounds presented at the National Career Academy Coalition conference. Kapper and Lounds explained how to integrate the National Standards of Practice into the curriculum, and participants were duly impressed. Thanks for representing PHS in such an exemplary manner!

energy of the changes on campus surrounds you. We are in the middle of a construction project that will give the community a twenty-first century auditorium, state-of-the-art science classrooms, and an impressive Construction Design Academy area where building can go on even in inclement weather. An added bonus of the campus construction is the opportunity it is giving our Construction Design Academy students to watch a commercial project evolve. Talk about real world learning; it's happening at PHS.



Another exciting addition to our campus is the nationally-recognized program *Advancement via Individual Determination* (AVID). AVID will be implemented in our freshman learning center next year. AVID targets students in the academic middle who show the potential and have the work ethic to take pre-advanced placement (AP) and AP courses. By participating in the program, students will learn techniques to make their academic time more productive. By the time these students graduate, they will attend a four-year institution and have the skills to complete their degree. While eight teachers are the core AVID group on campus, the SLC grant is sending an additional eighteen teachers to the AVID conference this summer. With this many PHS teachers willing to volunteer their time to participate and learn strategies to teach our students, all of our students will benefit from AVID.

Finally, Palmetto is making the move to wall-to-wall SLCs next year. With the Major Area of Interest (MAI) requirements from the state, the time is right for us to plan our smaller learning communities. Palmetto will boast four SLCs next year—the Freshman Learning Center, the Liberal Arts and Leadership SLC, the Arts and Education SLC, and the Business and Technology SLC. With these streamlined SLCs, we are confident every student will have an SLC to call home and feel more connected to their school and community.

Palmetto has always been a great place to be. With the help of our students, staff, faculty, district, and community, it is even better.

Changes are in the Air!
Principal Debbie Valcarcel

Exciting things are happening at Palmetto High School. All you have to do is come to PHS and the


Spotlight on Success

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Share our Tiger Pride!!!!!!



AROUND THE DISTRICT

Watch for all of the publications keeping you informed about what's happening around the District in the Adult, Career & Technical Education department.



Manatee Stars, Tech Prep, Take Stock Times, Inquizikidz, Education Today/Career Tomorrow, Transition Times, ACT Update, Spotlight on Success, and Technical Education Today.