

Florida Department of Education

Florida's Charter Schools News

Palm Bay Charter School Recommended for Accreditation



FLORIDA'S
CHARTER
Schools

Inside this issue:

Inlet Grove High School	2
Palm Beach Maritime Academy	3
National Charter Schools Week	3
BKHM CPAs	3
South Tech Academy	4
Sweetwater Branch Academy	5
Inlet Grove High School Education Foundation	6
Academy of Arts & Minds	7

A team of professional evaluators is giving high marks to Palm Bay Community Charter School and Municipal Charter High School for being in compliance with some of the toughest research-based quality standards in education. The assessment team will recommend the school for accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI).

Five members of the Quality Assurance Review Team (QAR) representing SACS CASI spent three days pouring over the school's policies and procedures, interviewing personnel and evaluating the overall workings of the school to determine if it met the high standards for accreditation. Following its review, the QAR Team reports it will make an accreditation recommendation that will be reviewed at the state level and by the national AdvancED Accreditation Commission which meets in July to make the final decision. "We are very pleased with the evaluation and the recommendation," said Principal David Calvo. "This really speaks volumes to the continuous improve-

ment process that exists in the school."

The recommendation means Palm Bay Community Charter and Municipal Charter High School is in compliance with a set of strict standards set by the commission governing everything from the school's vision and purpose to its teaching and learning practices, documented and measured effectiveness, communication with stakeholders, resources and support systems, and the school's overall governance and leadership. These standards are determined by experts to be a set of rigorous protocols that determine the school's ability to effectively drive student performance and make continuous improvements in their education and learning.

The process began in 2009 with the initial application for accreditation. Since that time field consultants visited the school and reviewed every aspect of its operations, including the type of textbooks being used, how they were used, the curriculum and how it was implemented, teacher training and certification, community involvement, student performance

and every aspect of the educational practices being delivered. "It was a grueling process, but validated that we are providing quality education to our students," Calvo added. The recommendation means Palm Bay is the only charter school to be recommended for accreditation in Brevard County.

Palm Bay Community Charter School first opened in 2006, serving students in grades K-7. It has since grown to serve 826 students in grades PreK-10 and continues to add a grade each year. The school is managed by Academica Corporation, one of Florida's longest serving and most successful charter school management organizations.

School Contact: David Calvo, Principal
Palm Bay Community Charter School -
Patriot Campus
321-409-4500



Article released by
Yvonne Martinez, Public Information Coordinator, 321-426-5194
City of Palm Bay, Florida
120 Malabar Rd. SE.
Palm Bay, FL 32907
321-952-3400
www.palmbayflorida.org

Inlet Grove High School Drama Students Take Top Prizes

Congratulations are due to the very talented drama society students at Inlet Grove Community High School, who participated in the *District XV ONE ACT FESTIVAL* at South Fork High School recently. Their performance of the drama, *Freak*, by Angela Hill was a huge success both for the school and on a personal level for the actors, many of whom were first time performers. Props go to Kiana Albright who received the *ALL-STAR CAST MEMBER AWARD!!!* Drama instructor, Katherine Kanitsch said that this was the tenth-grader's first foray into performing. "From the very beginning, Kiana took direction so well and was really focused on building her character to create a multi-dimensional performance. She is just quite creative," said Kanitsch.

Albright said she wanted to try

something new so she took a chance and auditioned for the role of Maniacal Max. "It was just so much fun and I really leaned a lot," she said. "It is something I discovered I have an interest in and I will continue to pursue my new-found acting bug!"

Drama student Rood Emmanuel took third place at the *Shakespeare Recitation Contest*, which was held at the Kravis Center. The ninth-grader said attempting the performance at all was an awesome feat. "I stutter so I was a little tense at the beginning when I decided to try this," said Emmanuel. "But, it actually helped me with my speech because I realized it gave me more confidence."

Kanitsch said Emmanuel worked tirelessly, often giving up his lunch break to rehearse. "He

decided to portray Hamlet and selected a monologue from Act III, Scene 1," she said. "I am so proud of his accomplishment and I look forward to seeing him perform during the *Alan Lebow Award Reception* at the Kravis Center."

Emmanuel, who will be performing his monologue with the other winners at the end of January, is proud as well. In addition to his award, he will receive a check for \$500 which will be the first deposit in the Rood Emmanuel College Fund. "It's great to have this money and I appreciate it," said Emmanuel. "It was a great experience all around."

For more information about Inlet Grove Community High School's Drama Society you can reach Katherine Kanitsch at (561) 881-4600.



Inlet Grove Student's MLK Essay Takes a Different Perspective

Change we can believe, change we must achieve. That is the theme Inlet Grove Community High School student Jasmin Farrington had to get across when she decided to enter the Martin Luther King Jr. Coordinating Committee's essay contest to honor the fallen leader.

She tried to make a difference, as did Dr. King, by taking a look at his achievements from a different perspective... the perspective of a 16-year-old who was not yet born. "I researched some of Dr. King's speeches and, of course, asked my mom," said Farrington. "I looked at some of the effects of his work, such as our current president is the first black man to hold that position

in the United States of America, and his platform is also change, all these years later. We do have a Supreme Court justice and others in high places in our government, so we have taken steps forward."

Farrington said her debate coach, Ms. Martens, encouraged her to enter the contest, and since she is known among her classmates as a good writer, they unanimously chose her to be their voices. Farrington said the messages of the past are still relevant today. The junior, who aspires to become a pediatric dentist, said there have been many advances over the years since that fateful day when Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated. "As far

as my friends and I, right here and now, our priority is to stop bullying on school campuses. We keep a lookout during school and if we see something, we report it," she said. "That is a change that we think is very important in today's society." Farrington tied for first place and received a certificate and a monetary award.

*Inlet Grove's students
recognized for their
accomplishments!*

Submitted by Georgia R. Jacoviello
Business/Community Manager
Inlet Grove Community High School
600 West 28th St.
Riviera Beach, FL 33404
561-881-4658, Fax: 561-881-4668
Georgia.jacoviello@palmbeach.k12.fl.us

Local Teacher Selected to Set Sail on Research Vessel

Palm Beach Maritime Academy teacher Steve Allen has been selected to sail with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) *Teacher at Sea* program. Just one of only thirty teachers selected to participate, Mr. Allen – a 7th and 8th grade Social Studies teachers – will soon be at sea assisting NOAA's team with coastal and marine resources conservation and management research.

According to the NOAA website, the Teacher at Sea program provides teachers a clearer insight into our ocean planet, a greater understanding of maritime work and studies, and to increase their level of environmental literacy by fostering an interdisciplinary research experience.

A certified diver, Mr. Allen holds a Masters Degree in History from Florida Atlantic University and has Interdisciplinary Certification in Environmental Studies. Named a finalist in the *individual* category of the 2010 Loggerhead Marinelife Center's "Go Blue Awards for Marine Conservation - Blue Friend of Year" for his many contributions to the environment and his work with students, Mr. Allen also organizes Palm Beach Maritime Academy's annual participation in the Coastal Cleanup and the City Of Lake Worth's Street Painting Festival, and has served as a member of Lake Worth's volunteer citizen Tree Board.

Since 1990, NOAA's Teacher at Sea program has enabled qualified teachers from kindergarten through college to go to sea aboard NOAA research and survey vessels and work side-by-side with scientists, officers, and crew. By gaining such rich, first-hand experience, teachers can then incorporate their new knowledge and experience into classroom curricula, while passing along their enthusiasm and kindling their students' interest in science.

Palm Beach Maritime Academy is a K-8 public charter school located at 7719 South Dixie Highway in West Palm Beach. With a focus on maritime studies, science, and technology, Palm Beach Maritime Academy's curriculum is enhanced with field trips to various maritime and marine sites such as Peanut Island, Loxahatchee Nature Preserve, Pine Jog Education Center, the Port of Palm Beach, and local marinas. Students also learn small boat seamanship and navigation through the use of the Museum vessels.

*Submitted by Lynn Norman-Teck
Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools
305-216-6208
www.floridacharterschools.org*

National Charter Schools Week 2011

May 1-7, 2011 is National Charter Schools Week. The theme for this year's celebration is **Public Charter Schools: Because Every Child Can Succeed**. Every charter school is encouraged to visit The National Alliance of Public Charter Schools Website to obtain ideas on celebrating National Charter Schools Week at <http://www.publiccharters.org/ncsw/advocacy-and-tools>.

Please join us in celebrating the many successes of Florida's charter schools. You are encouraged to let us know what you are planning. Send all plans to Charterschools@fldoe.org.

BKHM CPAs

BKHM CPAs in extending an invitation to other groups throughout Florida that would be interested in providing their perspective from a CPA's view at no charge to the following topics: 2010-11 statutory changes in charter school compliance requirements, changes in accounting and auditing requirements and how to best prepare for your school's audit and keep audit costs down.

Feel free to contact Neal Renault at 407-998-9000 or via e-mail at nrenuart@bkhmcpa.com or visit the Website at www.bkhmcpa.com.

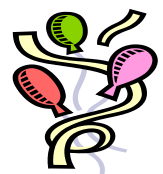
*Submitted by Sheridan Smith
BKHM CPAs
1560 Orange Avenue, Suite 600
Winter Park, FL 32789
407-998-9000*



[back row, far left] Palm Beach Maritime Academy teacher Steve Allen with students at a recent Coastal Clean-up event.

*Congratulations Mr.
Allen!!*

*Celebrate
National
Charter
Schools Week*



South Tech Academy Students Capture Wins in Regional SKILLS USA Competition—Will Advance to State Competition

High School Students across Florida have learned that the competition just became fiercer as South Tech Academy announced that *over thirty* of its students have earned coveted spots in the State competition of SKILLS USA.

Students represented South Tech Academy in the Regional SKILLS USA Competition and Leadership Contests held on February 8th & 9th in Miami, Florida. It was there that they competed against talented students from throughout southeastern Florida. Numerous wins were captured in the top three places in over a dozen categories as students brought discipline, remarkable ability, and an unwavering tone of confidence. Notably, students captured First Place in the following categories: Action Skills, Carpentry, Culinary Arts, First Aide/CPR, and Prepared Speech.

Mr. Alley McInnis, SKILLS USA Advisor, states, “This is an example of how devoted the students are to their future occupation. Also, the types of leadership and dedication the Career Instructors have for their students.”

South Tech Academy has been strongly represented for the past 30 years at all levels of academy and leadership skills. With our thirteen academies offered, South Tech has been a strong competitor in having expertise in an extensive range of categories. In the last two years, every career academy has competed with a total of over *two-hundred students* in Regional contests, moving on to State, and those who then advanced to the National and World level.



S.T.A.R.S. Conference Attended by South Tech Academy’s Culinary Students, Provided 400 Signature Baked Goods

On Saturday, February 26th, Mrs. Hand, Ms. Haffner, and Chef O’Neil attended the 7th annual Start Transition and Realize Success (S.T.A.R.S.) Conference held at John I. Leonard High School as representatives for South Tech Academy’s Supported Employment and Career Opportunities and Related Education (C.O.R.E.) Programs.

The half-day conference serves as a means to empower families, students with disabilities, educators, and other professionals with the knowledge of agencies and services available in our community. Eight South Tech Culinary students, including Chef Suzanne O’Neil, volunteered to serve food that was graciously provided by Panera Breads. Additionally, the Culinary students hand-crafted and individually wrapped about 400 sugar cookies, using South Tech’s Chef Tanner’s signature recipe. This is the second year that South Tech has participated in this event.



The S.T.A.R.S. Committee Members were very impressed by the South Tech students’ professionalism and diligence in their culinary tasks, serving both breakfast and snacks. Bonnie Schuler, Transition Specialist, noted, “...the ‘food service’ turned out beautifully and that was all due to your help as well as your fantastic team of students. I will be happy to be a reference for any of those ‘little chefs.’”

The Supported Employment and C.O.R.E. program at South Tech Academy serves over 140 students. This program guides students in transitioning from high school to either the workforce and/or continuing education. Instructors provide secondary and vocational education, in addition to serving as a resource and liaison pertaining to employment.

*South Tech Academy’s
students continue to
excel!*

*Submitted by Lauren Mabry
Public Relations Specialist
South Tech Academy
561-369-7059 phone
561-374-7212 fax
lauren.mabry@palmbeach.k12.fl.us*

Sweetwater Branch Academy Science Olympiad Team Compete in Regional Tournament



Sweetwater Branch Academy (SWBA) Science Olympiad Team competed in the Regional Tournament at Florida Gateway College Saturday, February 26, 2011, and received the **1st place overall among 11 participating teams.**

The Science Olympiad competition gives students the opportunity to enhance their scientific and mathematical skills while competing with other students from across the state. Events are designed to test a student's critical thinking and reasoning skills. The top 3 teams in each event were given a medal in the tournament. SWBA received 5 first

place gold medals in Bottle Rocket, Disease Detectives, Ecology, Pentathlon, and Road Scholar, and 3 second place silver medals in Battery Buggy, Picture This, and Storm the Castle in 14 events overall. This is the school's third year attending the Science Olympiad and is the highest place it has finished so far.

I wish to express my thanks and congratulations to all of our students and coaches! We would also like to thank all of our parents for their support and encouragement. After this achievement, our team is advanced to the State final for the third consecutive year since its opening in 2008.

The following students have received top placements:

Bottle Rocket: 1st Place - Jenise Hall, Nathaniel Hermansen
Disease Detectives: 1st Place - Isaac O'Hern, Sahil Patel
Ecology: 1st Place - Zachary Vance, Quennon Ewing
Pentathlon: 1st Place - Isaac O'Hern, Quennon Ewing, Zachary Vance, Cullan Hennessy
Road Scholar: 1st Place - Quennon Ewing, Cullan Hennessy
Battery Buggy: 2nd Place - Nathaniel Hermansen, Natalie Liu
Picture This: 2nd Place - Lauren Newman, Jenise Hall
Storm the Castle: 2nd Place - Phoneix Houston, Mustafa Goktepe



Awesome!!

SWBA Academy Olympiad Students Visit the Mayor at City Hall



On Monday, March 7, 2011, Science Olympiad students and Principal Goktepe were invited to visit Mayor Craig Lowe at city hall. Upon arrival they were congratulated for their recent accomplishment of placing 1st in their regional competition and qualifying for state. Mayor Lowe met with the students and it was an experience the students really enjoyed. This is the second time Mayor Lowe has honored SWBA. Earlier this year, during the Fall, he came to

visit SWBA during Red Ribbon Week. SWBA is grateful to have the support of Mayor Lowe and the time he has taken to honor the students and school.

*Submitted by Fethi Goktepe, M.S.,
Principal
Sweetwater Branch Academy
1000 NE 16th Ave. Bldg C & D
Gainesville, FL 32601
(352)375-8838 -113
Fax: (888)241-5125
www.swbacademy.org*



Florida Department of Education

Office of Independent
Education and Parental
Choice

325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 522
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Phone: 850-245-0502
Fax: 850-245-0875

School Choice Hotline:
1-800-447-1636

www.floridaschoolchoice.org

The Inlet Grove High School Education Foundation

First Annual Scholarship Awards Gala

Saturday, May 14, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Palm Beach County Convention Center Grand Ballroom

Keynote Speaker is Television and Screen Actor

Mr. Richard T. Jones



Star of Tyler Perry's "Why did I get Married?", "Why did I get Married Too?", "Judging Amy," and "Sarah Connor Chronicles"

For additional information, contact Georgia.jacoviello@palmbeach.k12.fl.us.

Charter School Training
Needs Assessment
Deadline: May 6, 2011
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2011CharterNeeds>

15th Annual Florida Charter School Conference
November 14-16, 2011
DoubleTree Hotel at the Entrance to Universal
Orlando
Visit <http://www.charterschoolconference.com/2011/>
for additional information.

Academy of Arts & Minds Junior, Michael Font, Receives the Gold Key from the Scholastic Writing Awards



Every year the Miami-Dade County Region and The Scholastic Writing Awards invites young individuals to write a creative story and be recognized. Five different types of awards are presented to the students; the Gold Key Award being the highest honor. Five hundred and fifty students submitted a creative story, and only 35 students were presented with the Gold Key Award. Michael Font, a junior at The Academy of Arts & Minds, in the Theater Academy, submitted a story titled "The Accused Mental Persons Who Wait for a Bus" and received a Gold Key Award.

Michael chose to submit his play to the Miami-Dade Region of The Scholastic Writing Award at the suggestion of his teacher, Andrea DeHaan. Font describes his play as being theater of the absurd due to its "cerebral" experience and avant-garde style.

"The Accused Mental Persons Who Wait for a Bus" begins with an elderly man, played by a young girl, and elderly woman, played by a young man, waiting for the bus. Both characters are confused by each other's sense of being and end up questioning each other. As the play progresses, more characters are introduced, including a judge who is the antagonist and a young lady who argues with the elderly woman about love. Michael Font describes his play as not having a plot but, being a "social commentary of generations." Death also lingers around the play and is seen at the end by a beautiful woman. Font hopes to produce "The Accused Mental Person Who Wait for a Bus" at Academy of Arts and Minds and further the play by transforming it into a musical.

*Submitted by Mily Lopez, Grant Consultant
Academy of Arts & Minds Charter High School
3138 Commodore Plaza
Coconut Grove, FL
Phone: 305-448-1100
Website: www.aandm.net*