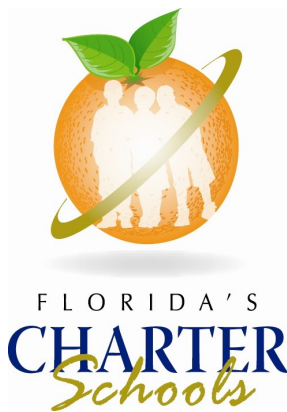


Florida Department of Education

Florida's Charter Schools News

Mater Academy Charter High Helping Raise Florida's AP Rank



According to the 7th Annual AP Report to the Nation by The College Board released on February 9, 2011, Florida ranks first in the nation in the percentage of 2010 senior students taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams while in high school.

The first-place ranking means that 43.5 percent of seniors (65,741) are taking at least one AP exam during their high school career. The Sunshine State surpasses the national average of 28.3 percent. In addition, the report states 22.3 percent of Florida seniors (33,712) passed an AP exam with a score of three or higher, tying the state at sixth in the country and exceeding the national average of 16.9 percent.

The rankings are fueled by solid

gains in participation and performance of Florida's African-American and Hispanic students. Mirroring trends seen last year, African-American and Hispanic 2010 graduating seniors experienced increases in both the percent taking and the percent passing AP exams. Florida also continues to be one of only a few states in the country that has eliminated the AP achievement gap for Hispanic 2010 graduating seniors.

One school helping Florida's AP rank is Mater Academy Charter High School in Miami-Dade County. A Title One school with a 95 percent graduation rate, Mater Academy serves a predominantly minority population and offers students 20 Advanced Placement courses.

In 2009-2010, 64.5 percent of Mater Academy seniors took at least one AP exam during their high school career and 43.4 percent of those students passed an AP exam with a score of 3 or higher.

"We are very happy to see the fantastic statewide results and to see Florida at the top of the nation," said Judith C. Marty, Principal of Mater Academy Charter High School. "We are proud to say that we contributed to this effort."

The 7th AP Report to the Nation is available at <http://apreport.collegeboard.org/>

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Garlic Fest 2011

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On the weekend of February 12 and 13, Delray Beach hosted the 11th Annual Garlic Festival. For anyone enamored of garlic, this was definitely the place to be. As usual, the staff and students at Boynton Beach's South Tech Academy's Culinary Department participated in this weekend of epicurean delight. One of the highlights, the Iron Chef Competition, had four teams creating original works of culinary ecstasy. Nine South Tech Student volunteers helped to set up, assist the chefs

and present the plates for inspection by the audience. Saturday evening from 6:00 -7:00, South Tech Academy sponsored a chocolate demonstration, presented by our own pastry chef extraordinaire, Chef Walter Tanner. Our students made such a good impression that the manager, Blair Johnson, promoted them as part of the Garlic Chef Stadium Team. All are welcome back next year. Thank you South Tech, you sure know the way to a community's heart!!



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Jordan Madnick, South Tech Academy Student and SkillsUSA Competitor, Earns CompTIA Educational Foundation – IT Merit Award

Jordan Madnick, Lake Worth, was awarded the CompTIA Educational Foundation – IT Merit Award for achievements in Information Technology (IT) studies. The award is a \$250.00 cash scholarship to be used in continuation of education in the IT industry.



Madnick is a student at South Tech Academy and has furthered his knowledge and skills in the IT field through the instruction provided. Notably, he represented South Tech Academy in the 2010 SkillsUSA Competition at both the State and National Level and will compete again in the 2011 State Competition. Showcasing his entrepreneurial spirit, Madnick also consults with individuals and businesses to repair computers and capitalize on the skills he has since obtained. He plans to further his education in Network Adminstrating.

“South Tech Academy commends Jordan Madnick for his outstanding work and well deserved recognition,” Clarence Vaughn, E2C Member and Cisco Networking Academy Instructor, said. “CompTIA Educational Foundation’s continuous support of IT education has made it possible for individuals like Jordan Madnick to successfully prepare for their careers.”

The IT Merit Award program underscores the importance of technology training and development in today’s workforce. To be considered for the award, individuals must have achieved a CompTIA certification and are pursuing additional IT certifications. For more information on the certification program or the awards program, visit the Educational Foundation’s website at www.comptia-ef.org.

Graphic Design Student, South Tech Academy, Captures First Place in the 2011 Educational Technology Conference Program Cover Design Competition

The 2011 Educational Technology Conference Program Cover Design Competition truly exemplifies the talent of Palm Beach County students, as evidenced by the many original cover design submissions. Continuing a pattern of wins for the Graphic Design Academy at South Tech Academy High School, Senior Austin Fawcett captured first place for his design. His cover design was first selected as one of the top five finalists of over sixty submissions, within South Tech Academy. He then advanced against other Palm Beach County schools, many of which had multiple submissions, to gain the accolades of the Conference’s Steering Committee.

Fawcett has earned an Adobe Photoshop Professional Certification through his four years in the Academy, with a year-end goal of obtaining the ACE (Adobe Certified Expert) Certifications for Adobe Illustrator, Dreamweaver, and Flash. Inspired by Leonardo DaVinci, Fawcett also credits his instructors at South Tech Academy for teaching him page layout, typography and color theory in executing this award-winning piece. He says, “Mr. Fiveson gave me the tools and really taught me how to use those tools for everything I need to really be able to push myself to the limits.”

Adam Fiveson, Graphic Arts Instructor and Fawcett’s sponsor, has over twenty-five years of field experience and has served as Art/Creative Director at prestigious companies including Norwest/Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Toys’R’Us, IBM and Immersant/Bowne. Myron Cost, Director of Academies and Operations, oversees South Tech’s career academies as well as industry certifications offered in the academies through the curriculum and courses. Cost says, “Mr. Fawcett is a very talented and dedicated individual who has demonstrated the potential for receiving many more awards within his chosen academy field of Graphic Design.”

The School District of Palm Beach County is holding the annual Conference with this year’s theme being “3-2-1 Blastoff! Destination Innovation.” Presenters will cover topics including the integration of technology in the classroom and proven measures in using technology in the 21st century, specifically as it relates to functionalities within the educational landscape. Fawcett’s work design will be featured on the 2011 Educational Technology Conference program cover. Both Fawcett and Fiveson will be recognized during the Opening Session at the Conference on March 21, 2011.

*South Tech students
continue to excel!*

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River City Science Academy's National History Day School Fair



River City Science Academy held its school-wide history fair and recognized the finalist students at River City Science Academy's National History Day School Fair award ceremony.

Jacksonville Sheriff John Rutherford, Carol Hladki, Director of Police Services, and Greg Burton, Chief Department of Police Services were the honorary guests at the ceremony.

National History Day is a nationwide historical research project competition. Thousands of schools participate each year, and each year has a special theme. This year's theme is **Debate and Diplomacy: Successes, Failures, and Consequences**.

Students around the country create research projects from a variety of categories including: historical paper, exhibit (individual and group), performances (individual and group), documentary (individual and group) and website. The contest is divided into both a junior (middle school) and a senior (high school) division.

All projects must utilize available primary and secondary sources and, of course, adhere to the yearly theme.

These 1st and 2nd place winners from RCSA fair will be eligible to compete at the Duval County History Fair on March 5th at Atlantic Coast High School. Winners from that competition will then go on to Tallahassee for the state competition. Winners at state level will go to the National History Day Fair June 12th – 16th, 2011 at the University of Maryland at College Park.



The winners of RCSA History Fair: *Junior Division*

Historical Paper – (No Group) 1st – Trevor Alden
2nd – Asha La Favor

Performance – Group 1st – Chandler Jackson
2nd – Megan Eggers, Shebah Sawyer, Kari Stevenson, Moriah Taylor

Website – (Only one division) 1st – Sarah Idris and Norin Zhupa
2nd – Steven Carney

Documentary – Individual 1st – Sean Dorrian
2nd – Conyers Pano

Documentary – Group 1st – William Bell, Jonathan Correa, Alexander DeFilippis, Jerry Ridgeway
2nd – Tyson Ellison, Ahmed Hamsic

Exhibit – Individual 1st – Blake Ashe
2nd – Stephanie Metcalf

Exhibit – Group 1st – Jared Norse, Jason Norse
2nd – John Calvin, Javier Hernandez Mark Young

(Continued on next page)



Great Job!!

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New Spring Science Middle School brings home Medals in Regional Science Olympiad



The New Springs Science Middle School (NSMS) Olympiad Team attended Florida's western regional Science Olympiad tournament at Clearwater Catholic High School on Saturday, January 29. The NSMS team had great success at the competition its first year. The team received 3 gold medals, 1 silver medal and 2 bronze medals. Overall, the team received 4th place among 25 middle school teams in the region. New Springs Science Olympiad team also qualified to compete at the state level Science Olympiad tournament on April 16 at the University of Central Florida. Congratulations to all team members and Coach Oz. New Springs Middle School is a Hillsborough County charter school that opened its doors in August 2010.

Gold Medal in Bottle Rocket: Beyza Gultekin & Justin Jaikaran
 Gold Medal in Science Crime Busters: Angela Jones & Jordan Fleming
 Gold Medal in Tower Building: Nurgul Ulukaya & Beyza Gultekin
 Silver Medal in Microbe Mission: Stephen Stavropulos & Jonathan McKinley
 Bronze Medal in Fossil: Jordan Fleming & Malek Joseph
 Bronze Medal in Awesome Aquifers: Bryan Botero & Jonathan McKinley

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Congratulations!!!

River City Science Academy (continued)

Senior Division

Historical Paper – (No Group)	1st – Olin William Calvin 2nd – Rebecca Smith
Performance – Group	1st – Rodney Carroll, Caleb Jackson, Javon Moore, Thomas Monts
Website – (Only one division)	1st – Savannah Mitchell 2nd – Malaz Idris, Ilma Kovac, Nicole Okuthe
Documentary – Group	1st – Hunter Alley, Franesa Brown, Konstantina Kirkos, Amanda Velez 2nd – Cameron Dorrian, Courtney Dorrian, Justine Henry, Mark Ronan
Exhibit – Individual	1st – Tavarius Horne 2nd – Jacob Hixson
Exhibit – Group	1st – Yasha Alikhanov, Muhamed Sabotic, Ibraim Shakirov 2nd – Allison Fissel, Gabriela Nieves

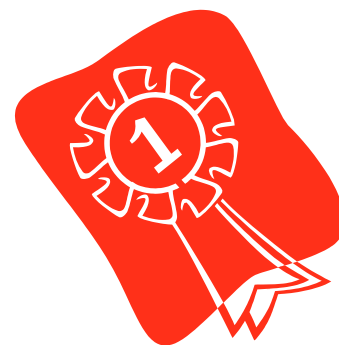
Coordinator, Mr. Adam J. Suslak



River City Science Academy

Congratulations to the Orlando Science Olympiad Science Team!!!

The Orlando Science Olympiad Science Team received **1st** place in the **Central Florida Regional Science Olympiad Competition** in Orlando on Saturday, February 5. The event was hosted by Cypress Creek High School and **forty-one middle schools** and **twenty-six high schools** participated in it from Orange, Seminole, Osceola, Volusia, Brevard and Lake Counties. With this great success, our team will compete in the State Tournament on April 16 at the University of Central Florida. Individual placements are below.



First Places in Middle School Division

Battery Buggy: Cory Ruchlin, Sebastian Gonzalez – *Coach Mr. Aksu*
Compute This: Danh Pham, Cory Ruchlin – *Coach Mr. Altintas*
Disease Detective: Kristen Williams, Markus Zirkle – *Coach Ms. Martin*
Fossils: Kristen Williams, Markus Zirkle – *Coach Mr. Zirkle*
Meteorology: Carlos Barea, Sebastian Gonzalez – *Coach Mrs. Barea*
Solar System: Jordanis Barzana, Samuel Dai – *Coach Ms. Dai*
Tower Building: Lucas Lamoureux, Cory Ruchlin, and Carlos Barea – *Coach Mr. Barea*
Experimental Design: Sebastian Gonzalez, Raquel, and Oscar Guerrero – *Coach Mr. Akgul*



First Places in High School Division

Experimental Design: Kyra San Agustin, Beth Martin, Taylor Ramsey – *Coach Mr. Akgul*
Tower Building: Ahmed Rashid, Sannmit Shinde – *Coach Mr. Barea*



Second Places in Middle School Division

Ecology: Cory Ruchlin, Carlos Barea – *Coach Ms. Longo*
Road Scholar: Sam Dai, Dhan Pham – *Coach Ms. Dai*
Shock value: Dhan Pham, Dilan Patel – *Mr. Yalcin*
Tower Building: Mathew Ansa, Judah Neu – *Mr. Barea*



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Orlando Science (continued)

Second Places in High School Division

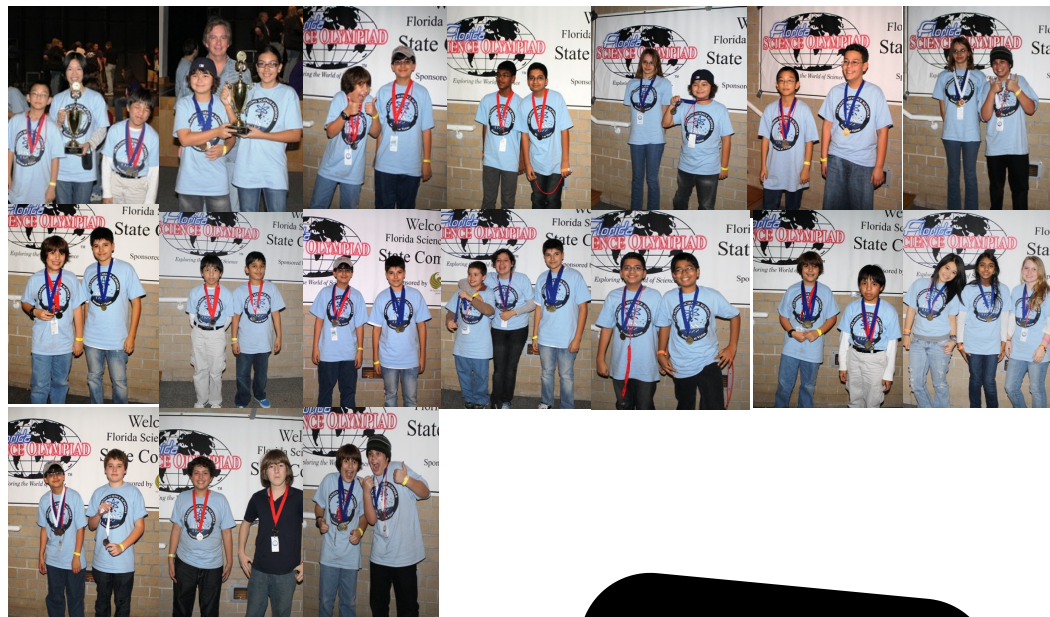
Helicopter: Ahmed Rashid, Mohammad Abdullah - *Coach Mr. Aksu & Mr. Altintas*



Third Places in Middle School Division

Ornithology: Lucas Lamoureux, Kristen Williams – *Coach Mr. Altintas*

Microbe Mission: Carlos Barea, Arthur Santos – *Coach Ms. Corson*



*Congratulations to
students, parents and
staff!*



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Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

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Fax: 850-245-0875

School Choice Hotline:

1-800-447-1636

www.floridaschoolchoice.org

Orlando Science Schools Accredited by AdvancED/SACS CASI



On Tuesday, February 2, 2011, Orlando Science Schools (OSS) were accredited by AdvancED / Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS-CASI). The schools were granted accreditation following a site visit conducted from November 30 through December 1, 2010.

Administrators and teachers at the school were elated to hear the news.

All of the OSS teachers worked very hard to get this accreditation, and are part of a noble profession as educators. This is really wonderful, and we are very excited to have been awarded this honor.

SACS accreditation is a distinction awarded only to schools which meet or exceed high national standards regarding academics.

SACS accreditation is a validation of the administration, faculty, and staff's solid commitment to provide exceptional educational opportunities for the students of Orange County.

This national distinction has been long in the making, as the school has been working on accreditation since opening almost three years ago. A lot of work went into this. The process involves a self-evaluation, and examining the merits and drawbacks of all programs and departments.

School administrators and staff spent a great deal of time collecting data and working to ensure the school has policies and procedures in place that are considered best practices in all program areas, including instruction and school administration.

This process, and our accreditation, will help ensure Orlando Science Schools will continue to provide outstanding educational opportunities for middle and high school students in Orange County, Florida.

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Sweetwater Branch Academy Celebrates Black History Month with the Honored Guest Chief Tony Jones.

On Monday, February 28, 2011, Sweetwater Branch Academy celebrated Black History Month with a speech made by Gainesville's Police Chief Tony Jones. We appreciate him taking time out of his busy schedule to celebrate with us. Mr. Burr presented a brief explanation on African American history. In Social Studies class this month, we assigned an essay about an African American who has accomplished great things in the United States, who forever altered the course of history. The students wrote about a famous African American who achieved great things. First place winner was Jessica Lipori. Second place winner was Leandra Pelham. Third place winner was Jatia Littles. After the speeches, presentation and essay, we enjoyed a delicious dinner courtesy of Sweetwater Branch Academy.



*Submitted by Fethi Goktepe, M.S., Principal
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