



Monthly Newsletter
September 2023

September 13 - 1st
Nine Weeks Progress
Reports



Mr. Prescott's Animal Science 4-5 students began the class period herding in some bulls to be dewormed (above). Below, Mr. Prescott discusses with students the method of deworming and determining the application amount for the animals based on weight.



ACCORDING TO INDEED.COM, THERE ARE CURRENTLY 316 JOBS AVAILABLE IN FLORIDA LISTED AS RELATED TO ANIMAL SCIENCE, FROM ANIMAL BEHAVIOR ANALYST AT DISNEY TO GRAPHIC DESIGNER AT MOTE MARINE LABORATORY TO ASSISTANT COACH FOR THE KEISER UNIVERSITY EQUESTRIAN TEAM.

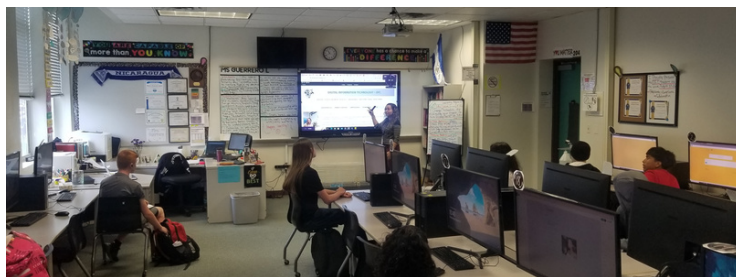
DIGITAL TOOLS

In an effort to eventually expose and provide the opportunity for all elementary students to earn Digital Tools certifications, South Elementary has started preparing 4th and 5th graders to earn multiple digital tools certifications. Students will prepare for certifications in Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google slides, Digital Competency and Cyber Citizen. Teachers in those grades are excited about how well they think their students will do as they take the certification tests this fall.

THE FIRST CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 AT THE OHS MEDIA CENTER. MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE UPDATES FROM LAST SCHOOL YEAR AND MEET WITH INSTRUCTORS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE INDUSTRIES. WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN? CONTACT DARYL ROEHM AT 863-462-5000

OFC WELCOMES NEW DIT INSTRUCTOR

A "new" Digital Information Technology teacher was welcomed to the Okeechobee Freshman Campus. Ms. Lopez transferred from Yearling Middle School to the Freshman campus where students will be completing the Digital Information Technology coursework and working toward earning a Wordpress Certification. DIT is the first course in many of the Business and Computer Arts programs within those career clusters. Upon completion of the DIT course, students then can continue in the Digital Design program where they will have the opportunity to earn multiple Adobe certifications.



OKEECHOBEE STUDENTS ACCEPTED TO INDUSTRIAL SKILLS TRAINING ACADEMY

Three Okeechobee High School Graduates were recently accepted into the training academy hosted by US Sugar. Students are accepted through a rigorous and competitive application process. Upon completion of the program, students are offered a job with US Sugar and are paid during the training program. Students from Okeechobee completed the Technical Agriculture Operations while they attended OHS.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT - ANIMAL SCIENCE AND SERVICES

The Animal Sciences and Services program is part of the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Career Cluster. The program consists of five core courses and an opportunity to complete a work-based learning experience. To be a completer of the program students must complete Agriscience Foundations, Animal Science 2 and Animal Science 3. Animal Science 4 and 5 are also offered. The instructor is Mr. Jared Prescott. Mr. Prescott is a 2007 graduate of OHS and went to University of Florida and earned a Bachelors degree in Animal Science. He has taught the Animal Science 2/3 and 4/5 for eight years. The program includes content that is a vast array of skills and knowledge associated with Animal Care - from working with basic grooming equipment to understanding global environmental issues, health issues, labor issues etc.

FORMER GRADUATE DISCUSSES HOW THE ANIMAL SCIENCE PROGRAM HELPED HER

Edana Scalf, a 2019 graduate of OHS and Animal Science program completer, recently graduated with her Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from Louisiana State University. In a recent interview, she shared that she is now looking to pursue a Masters degree and eventually a PhD in the Swine field, and is applying at various universities across the nation. She states “enrolling in the Animal Science program was easy for me, it was a way to help me understand what this county(Okeechobee) has to offer”. She went on to discuss how “Mr. Prescott’s class set me up to be a better student” at the university level and allowed her to succeed “because I had first-hand experience to relate back to”. Her experience in high school gave her a better understanding of animal husbandry, in which she excelled while other classmates struggled. She recommends to current and future high school students keep an open mind. “While it is not the easiest class or work, it is very rewarding”. She realizes that the advice “to make connections” makes a lot more sense now and to take full advantage of the various opportunities the class has to offer. You can read the entire interview [HERE](#) as it is very thorough and informative.

CURRENT ANIMAL SCIENCE SENIOR PROVIDES INSIGHT

Current OHS Senior, Isabella Puga, recently spoke about her involvement in the Animal Science program. Ms. Puga will be graduating in the spring with her AA from IRSC and plans on transferring to the University of Florida to pursue a degree in Animal Science with a minor in Ag Law and Business, with a primary focus on Ag in government. Being involved in agriculture since she was three, her family owns and operates a cow calf farm, she has always been a part of agriculture. After taking Ag Foundations her sophomore year and learning about how agriculture got started and different commodities in agriculture, she eagerly enrolled in Animal Science. It wasn’t long before she realized she made an excellent decision. In Animal Science 2/3, she began “to be exposed to so much more than cattle alone”. “I was surprised about the amount of hands on activities students did both in and out of the classroom” she stated. Students recently assisted another school rebuild their Ag classroom. Her plans ultimately involve working with policy makers that affect Agriculture policy, either at state or national level. Her message to younger students - “I would encourage any student that is interested in agriculture to enroll in agriculture classes and, more importantly, stick with them”, she stated. “Being involved in programs both in and out of school, such as FFA and 4H, helps students in so many different ways and provides very valuable experiences”.

Pictures: Left, Right and Below - Ms. Scalf in various activities and lessons while attending LSU and pursuing degree in Animal Science.



JOIN FFA TODAY - Students must be enrolled in Agriculture Education course to be a member. When scheduling occurs in the spring, students should see their counselors about scheduling courses that fulfill this need.

PLANS UNDERWAY FOR NEW PROGRAMS AT OHS IN SPRING OF 2024

In an effort to bring more opportunities for our students, a collaboration of people and organizations are working diligently to bring more programs to OHS. High School administrators, staff at the School District, the Education Foundation of Okeechobee, the Okeechobee County Fire Department and the Okeechobee County Sheriffs Office are all working together to bring a Fire Academy and a Dispatcher program to the high school. The planned program start date is January of 2024. Recruitment activities began in late August and continue through the fall. Students will need to sign up and a meeting will take place later in the fall with students and parents to further discuss enrollment.



CTE PROGRAMS ARE IN FULL FORCE WITH HANDS ON ACTIVITIES

Career and Technical Education students, especially those in the upper level programs are fully engaged in the hands-on activities applying what they learned and were exposed to last school year. From inspecting and repairing vehicles to building websites, students are working to gain more knowledge in their respective programs and prepare for industry certifications exams.



Above and right, students in Automotive are inspecting, diagnosing, and repairing issues with vehicles in Automotive 2-3 classes. Left, Ag Foundations students preparing seeding trays.



DID YOU KNOW? STUDENTS IN OHS CTE COURSES HAVE NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES TO EARN ARTICULATED CREDITS. AGREEMENTS ARE IN PLACE WITH INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE, IMMOKALEE TECHNICAL COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, AND UNIVERSAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE. ARTICULATED CREDITS CAN BE ALSO EARNED VIA EARNING CERTAIN INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS. FOR MORE INFORMATION REACH OUT TO THE CTE SPECIALIST IN THE OHS GUIDANCE OFFICE.