

ORANGE COUNTY
VIRTUAL SCHOOL
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The Virtual View

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Orange County Virtual School
Learning without boundaries

OCVS Food Drive for Second Harvest

Written by Sarah M.

Orange County Virtual School is collecting non-perishable foods for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida November 4th through the 18th.

Second Harvest is a nonprofit organization that collects and donates food to over 500 non-profit associated agencies in the Central Florida area, including Brevard, Lake, Orange, Seminole, Volusia, and Osceola Counties. Second Harvest's mission is to "Fight Hunger in Central Florida".

According to Flexjobs.com, Second Harvest has helped nearly 732,000 people back in 2011;

imagine how many more people they could help this year, or in years to come! They're objective is to provide at least 644,000 million pounds of food over a 20 year period. This cause is a terrific



There are many volunteer opportunities at Second Harvest Food Bank, which is located at 411 Mercy Drive in Orlando <http://www.foodbankcentralflorida.org>

way to show that you care about the starving kids and families that are in here in Central Florida. So please donate any canned or boxed food that you simply don't eat or that you just want to donate!

These donations will help many families in need during this upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. Donating during this time of year is a great way to show your thanks for what you have, but to also bring joy and thanks to others in need as well.

Drop your donations off at our Tampa Avenue location and help us feed those in need in Central Florida!

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A Message from Administration

Hello to all OCVS students and parents/guardians! Our school year has been off to a great start, and we are now approaching our Thanksgiving break, November 25th - 29th. Please keep in mind that your OCVS teachers will not be available during this week, but students still have 24/7 access to courses and are able to submit assignments. This is a great time for any student who is behind pace to get caught up. It is very important for all

students to follow their course pace charts each week in order to successfully stay on pace. Along with frequent teacher communication, your course pace chart is an essential part of your online learning success. Please be sure to print out your pace charts and focus on the learning goals for each module in preparation for your DBAs and exams.

We encourage all students to take advantage of our Student

Work Days, located in the Student Lounge of our Tampa Ave building. These are held every Monday - Thursday, and facilitated each day by two teachers who are always here to help you! Please refer to the Work Day calendars on Page 6.

We at Orange County Virtual School hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving break with family and friends!

Mrs. Gurley, Principal

A Day in the Life of a Virtual Student



Lexi P., OCVS high school student and bridal model

Written by Jordan C.

There are many different kinds of students at Orange County Virtual School. Some students are actors, singers, athletes, models, or gymnasts. They each have very different and interesting lives outside of virtual school. In particular, five students, Lexi P., Andy D., Hussein S., McCarrie M., and even myself, Jordan C. have chosen to share their lives and reasons why they are in OCVS.

Lexi P. is a 17 year old plus-size bridal model. Plus-size means size 7 and up. A plus-size bridal model is someone who models different kinds of dresses, not just bridal gowns. Lexi models bridesmaid's dresses, homecoming dresses, prom dresses, and sweet sixteen dresses. She has worked with several different companies including David's Bridal, Demetrio's, and Alfred Angelo's. Lexi gets paid anywhere from \$75 - \$200 per modeling session. Most of Lexi's modeling takes place in the spring and summer. She models every couple weeks on Saturdays and Sundays. The reason Lexi has chosen OCVS is because she does not have enough time for school and modeling. Also, she likes the virtual environment, enjoys getting ahead, and completing more school work in a day than you would in a regular public school.

After high school, 8th grader Andy D. plans to go to college or technical

school to study computer research or computer technology. He says, "Virtual school will help me greatly in my college and career choice because I am already well acquainted with online technology and computers because I work with them in my schooling daily." What he likes best about OCVS is being able to do his school work when he is at ease and focused. Andy also likes being able to get ahead of pace, and taking more time on difficult subjects. In his spare time, he likes to play guitar, listen to music, and play video games.

"Virtual school allows you to call your teacher anytime. I find it easier and faster, and there is no bullying", states 6th grader Hussein S. The reason Hussein has chosen OCVS is so that he can get through school earlier to start college sooner, and have more knowledge at a younger age. What he likes best about this environment is having a pace chart, but no set daily schedule. Hussein also likes the fact that you are able to get ahead of pace. In his spare time, he likes to play on his iPod, iPad, other electronics, and go outside to roll down a hill in his yard.

McCarrie M. is an actor on a TV series, and virtual school is most convenient for him. His plans for the future are to go to college,

become the best actor he can be, or become a veterinarian. What McCarrie likes most about virtual school is that he can do school work whenever it's suitable for him. In his spare time he likes to play guitar, play video games, and hang out with friends.

Here is my story: I'm a virtual student who joined OCVS because I struggled emotionally. I have anxiety and at the end of last year, out of nowhere, I started to cry almost every morning, not wanting to go to my zoned school. Since then I have struggled with anxiety over different things. My parents decided to put me into OCVS at the beginning of the second semester last year. I have been getting counseling and striving to my ultimate goal: I miss all my zoned school friends, and I can't wait to go back and join them. Through this hard time, I am very grateful OCVS is a schooling option. I don't know what I would do without it! What I like most about OCVS is that I can get ahead of pace. In my spare time, I play softball and love hanging out with my friends.

There are many amazing students, and these are just a few. This article was written so people can step into the shoes of an OCVS student and see what it is like to be one. Have you found one of these students to be just like you?

"Virtual school allows you to call your teacher anytime. I find it easier and faster, and there is no bullying."

-Hussein S.



Do you like to write short stories, poems, or songs? Do you like to draw or paint? Do you like to take pictures? We want you to share your talents with us! Please submit your work to us so we can feature it in our upcoming issues of The Virtual Voice!

Email your creative work to Mrs. Silvers at jweber33@orange.flvs.net along with your full name, grade level, and a short explanation on your talent and what inspires you to create what you do.

College Scholarship Opportunities



Written by Lexi P. & Alexis D.

Did you know that you could go to college for free? Well, the cool thing is that you can! If you work hard enough in school you may be eligible for one or more scholarships. A scholarship is when the school or program that you have applied to offers to pay for your tuition, books, housing, food, international studies, etc. They pay you to go to their school. This means that in the long run, you will either have to pay off less student loans or, if you get a full ride scholarship, pay no loans at all. This opens a whole new world of opportunities to you for success by providing you with the

It's never too early to plan ahead for college!

books and materials you need when you need them. Many scholarships even provide funding for you to do a study abroad program.

Did you know that hundreds of companies and organizations offer scholarships as well? Some pay the money you receive directly to the institution that you attend, while others pay the money directly to you! This is why it is so important for you to work hard as an OCVS student and do your very best because it not only makes you competitive for colleges, but also for the scholarships that they offer. People who work harder in school and are involved in extra-curricular activities tend to be looked upon more favorably by colleges and scholarship committees. So by working hard now you are opening the door for a long term reward that will follow you throughout your college

life and your career. You can either go to school having to work a part time or full time job while taking student loans to pay for your college education, or you can go to school without working, being able to focus all of your attention on your studies and not have to make loan payments for years after graduation. A little hard work now will pay off for years down the road!

So why not look at these scholarships below. You may find a scholarship that is in your desired career field! Several links will take you to scholarships for careers such as video game programming, culinary, engineering, film, and more. Also in the list below, there are several programs that will help with getting tuition financial assistance. It is good to know that the first, most important step to qualifying for most financial aid or scholarship money is to fully complete your FASFA (Free application for Student Financial Aid) in January of your senior year.



“So by working hard now you are opening the door for a long term reward that will follow you throughout your college life and career.”

www.fafsa.ed.gov

www.studentscholarships.org

www.drpeppertuition.com

www.scholarshipamerica.org

www.esafoundation.org

www.collegesubmission.com

www.scholarships.com/financial-aid

www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org

www.axa-equitable.com



Financial Aid Event at OCVS

ATTENTION PARENTS OF 11th & 12th GRADERS

- \$\$ Do you have questions regarding the financial aid process?
- \$\$ Are you wondering if you qualify for financial aid?
- \$\$ What types of financial aid are available?
- \$\$ What paperwork or forms do you need to fill out?
- \$\$ When can I apply and what is the deadline?
- \$\$ What information do I need from my parents?
- \$\$ How do the colleges and universities get my financial aid information?

COME OUT AND GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

5:30 PM

**OCVS TAMPA AVENUE
COMPLEX**

NyFF your dream, your plan, your future
NAVIGATING YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

If you have additional questions please see your counselor or go to www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org

OCVS Monthly News (Video)

Tune into our YouTube channel each month for important OCVS updates!

This month we discuss:

- * Student Work Day
- * Annual OCVS Food Drive
- * Thanksgiving Break
- * Mentoring Program
- * A special interview with the 2014 Florida Teacher of the Year, Ms. Dorina Sackman (in our first "Teacher Talk" segment)!

Watch November's newscast at <http://youtu.be/535FdxY8EJI>



OCVS Clubs & Organizations

Science Club News



The Science Club met on Tuesday, November 5th to discuss future plans of the club and they also conducted an experiment. Using cornstarch and water, they created a Non-Newtonian Fluid. It was definitely hands-on MESSY! They had a great time and look forward to future events. Keep your eyes open for more emails regarding this club so you can attend! For more information please contact Mrs. Parker or Mr. Besuden.

The Science Club has a fundraiser where everyone can help. We are working with Cartridges for Kids to raise money for our school. Please bring any old, empty, and/or unused ink cartridges, and small electronic devices such as Mp3 players, cell phones, laptops, PDAs, video games and consoles, cameras, DVDs, Calculators, Tablets/E-readers, and GPS devices. Bring your items to our school student lounge and help us make your OCVS experience a more enriching one.

Upcoming SAC Meetings

Tuesday, November 19th @ 6-7pm

SAC meeting in the Student Lounge

Tuesday, December 17th - Online

SAC meeting * virtual link will be posted/emailed

SAC (School Advisory Council) provides leadership opportunities for high school students, parents, and community members. SAC discusses ideas that aid in OCVS's continuous school improvement.

4th Annual Do Something Club at



Donation Sorting

Wednesday, December 4, 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Location

411 Mercy Dr. Orlando, FL 32805

Second Harvest Food Bank receives tons of donations from various sources. Often times, these donations need to be sorted. Volunteers are needed to help check for damages, check expiration dates and repack donations. Please be sure to wear pants and closed toed shoes. It is also recommended to bring gardening gloves, but not required.

There are only 20 spaces available so sign up ASAP! If you still need to complete your collaboration in English I-IV this will count as your PRODUCT, then you will only need to submit the REFLECTION portion once you get home.

Students: Take a few minutes to register in the Second Harvest Food Bank system:

<http://shfbcf.volunteerhub.com/SignIn.aspx>

The GROUP JOIN CODE is A389

Parents/Guardians may also attend (if space is available), but in addition to signing up here will need to sign up with OCVS's ADDitions volunteer system as well

Orange County Writes! in December

Orange County Writes! prompts will be sent to all full time OCVS students again in December. We are looking for 100% participation this time. Please check your email from Mrs. Hogan or Mrs. Ragland and read the instructions carefully.

“Along with reading comprehension, writing skill is a predictor of academic success and a basic requirement for participation in civic life and in the global economy” (Writing Next, 2007). In an effort to ensure that our students are provided the necessary tools and

resources to meet our district vision, “To be the top producer of successful students in the nation”, OCPS is implementing Orange County Writes! this school year.

Orange County Writes! is a systematic approach to formative assessment intended to monitor student writing achievement at regular intervals. This test will be administered two more times this school year (December and January) as to best monitor your writing progress. With the adoption of the Common Core State Standards, the

last administration of FCAT 2.0 Writing will be in the spring of 2014. Therefore, only students in grades 4, 8, and 10 will participate in Orange County Writes!



“Along with reading comprehension, writing skill is a predictor of academic success and a basic requirement for participation in civic life and in the global economy”

Use **Fuelmyschool.com/ocvs** for all holiday shopping to help our school raise money for fun events!



OCVS uses **Goodsearch.com** instead of Google! Just be sure to type in *Orange County Virtual School* as the charity you "search" for, then every time you use this search engine you will help our school raise money!



Why sign up to be an OCVS Volunteer?

- OCVS volunteers can help with student activities, field trips, and other events at our campus and in the community.
- In order to participate in student events and activities or to be in our Student Lounges while students are present, you must be an approved ADDITIONS volunteer.
- All PTSA & SAC Board members should also be registered ADDITIONS Volunteers.

How to sign up as an ADDITIONS volunteer:

- Go to www.volunteer.ocps.net
- Fill out the registration form
- It will take 2-4 weeks for your application to clear
- Mrs. Fields, ADDITIONS coordinator, will contact you when you've been cleared
- Opportunities for volunteering will be sent out as they arise via email, school messenger, and our OCVS newsletter



Goals for OCVS Additions Volunteers in 2013-14:

- Increase family & student participation in school and community events
- Support our OCVS students in academic and extracurricular activities throughout the year
- Help OCVS increase our presence and gain recognition as an outstanding school in Orange County Public Schools and the greater Orange County community

Contact Information:
Mrs. Cichele Fields
OCVS ADDITIONS Coordinator
321-285-9480
CFields44@orange.flvs.net
OCVS Office: 407-317-3327



Sign up to be an OCVS Volunteer today!

School Volunteers Must:

- Register online at volunteer.ocps.net
- Be at least 21 years of age
- Adhere to the guidelines provided by OCPS for appropriate conduct



Celebrate. **WE WILL.**





VIRTUAL SCHOOL DAY with Orlando Magic

BASKETBALL CLINIC INCLUDED WITH GAME TICKET!

*90 Minute Basketball Clinic hosted by NBA Academy
*Arts & Craft Session
*Meet & Greet with Orlando Magic celebrities

Wednesday, November 13th @ 1:00PM


vs.


**ONLY \$25
PER
PERSON!**

CAREER MENTORING PROGRAM

The OCVS Career Mentoring Program is currently taking applications from interested students. After filling out an interest survey, you will be matched with a mentor from the Central Florida business community who will help you learn about their career and explore your personal interests. Please visit the link below to access the Student Guide for more information. In order to participate, all students must return the Media Release form and Career Mentoring permission form to Mrs. Fields, Mentor Coordinator, at cfields44@orange.flvs.net

OCVS Student Work Days at Tampa Ave

School lunches will be available for purchase for \$3.00. / Lunch is .40 cents for students that qualify for reduced lunch.
Lunch is free for students that qualify for free lunch. / Students may also bring a lunch.

November 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 Student Work Day 9am-3pm <i>Fields/Schonborn</i>	5 Student Work Day 9am-3pm <i>Booker/Besuden</i>	6 Student Work Day 9am-3pm <i>Ragland/Melendez</i>	7 Student Work Day 9am-3pm <i>Lohr/Schonborn</i>	8	9
10	11 <i>SS/Math/Reading/PE</i> Mandatory Student Work Day 9am-3pm	12 <i>Science/LA/Spanish</i> Mandatory Student Work Day 9am-3pm	13 <i>SS/Math/Reading/PE</i> Mandatory Student Work Day 9am-3pm	14 <i>Science/LA/Spanish</i> Mandatory Student Work Day 9am-3pm	15	16
17	18 <i>SS/Math/Reading/PE</i> Mandatory Student Work Day 9am-3pm	19 <i>Science/LA/Spanish</i> Mandatory Student Work Day 9am-3pm	20 <i>SS/Math/Reading/PE</i> Mandatory Student Work Day 9am-3pm	21 <i>Science/LA/Spanish</i> Mandatory Student Work Day 9am-3pm	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 	29	30
No School – Thanksgiving Break						

Teacher schedules may change, so always make sure to read emails & check announcement pages for Work Day changes!

December 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Student Work Day 9am-3pm <i>Parker/Siefker</i>	3 Student Work Day 9am-3pm <i>Hogan/Gindlesp.</i>	4 Student Work Day 9am-3pm <i>Silvers/Lohr</i>	5 Student Work Day 9am-3pm <i>Booker/Besuden</i>	6	7
8	9 Student Work Day 9am-3pm <i>Ragland/Melendez</i>	10 Student Work Day 9am-3pm <i>Lohr/Schonborn</i>	11 Student Work Day 9am-3pm <i>Parker/Siefker</i>	12 Student Work Day 9am-3pm <i>Hogan/Gindlesp.</i>	13	14
15	16 Student Work Day 9am-3pm <i>Silvers/Fields</i>	17 Student Work Day 9am-3pm <i>Booker/Besuden</i>	18 Student Work Day 9am-3pm <i>Ragland/Melendez</i>	19 Student Work Day 9am-3pm <i>Fields/Schonborn</i>	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	No School – Winter Break			

Teacher schedules may change, so always make sure to read emails & check announcement pages for Work Day changes!



Newsletter Staff

Mrs. Silvers

Lexi P., 11th grade

Alexis D., 10th grade

Sarah M., 10th grade

Karina D., 10th grade

Jordan C., 7th grade

Muhammed S., 7th grade

OCVS Staff

Mrs. Gurley, Principal

Mrs. Sims, Guidance Director

Mrs. Vital-Horne, Academic Dean

Mrs. Johnson, Registrar

Mrs. Diaz "Mickey", Secretary

Mr. Garver, IT/Tech

Mrs. Besuden, K5 Calvert

Mr. Besuden, Science

Mr. Booker, Math

Mrs. Cuomo-Yokel, Math

Mrs. Curran, PE

Mr. Curran, PE

Mrs. Fields, Social Studies

Mr. Fisher, Science

Mrs. Geiser-Hogan, Lang Arts

Mrs. Gindlesperger, PE/Reading

Mr. Hauser, Art

Mrs. Lohr, Math

Mrs. Melendez, Spanish

Mrs. Parker, Science

Mrs. Prewitt, Business

Mrs. Ragland, Lang Arts

Mrs. Schonborn, Math

Mr. Siefker, Drivers Ed

Mrs. Silvers, Social Studies

Mrs. Thuringer, K5 Calvert