Florida League of Middle Schools Newsletter – March 2018
FLORIDA LEAGUE OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS PRESENTS
MIDDLE SCHOOLS RAVE ABOUT EQUITY

The components of equity are found in the acronym, RAVE... Relationships, Appreciation, Values and high Expectations. Equity recognizes that the playing field isn’t always even, and takes measures to insure that students who need more support receive it.

*Special thanks to Valarie Freeman, ACPS Equity Director for her acronym, RAVE

SAVE THE DATE
June 15–16, 2018
Sarasota at the Hyatt Regency

FEATURED SPEAKERS
Roy Dobbs, sharing his program, “Young Men of Purpose” and Dr. Shannon Vincent, Building Equity in our Schools and Classrooms

Other highlights include the Friday afternoon networking social, and Saturday regional meetings, role alike groups, phenomenal baskets, and door prizes.
Let's "RAVE" about equity in our middle schools. Equity recognizes that the playing field isn’t always even, and takes measures to insure that those students who are in need of more support receive it. The "4" components of equity are found in the acronym, "RAVE"...Relationships, Appreciation, Values and high Expectations. If we as educators build upon, model and practice these components, every student should receive what they need to succeed.

Come join us this year in Sarasota as we explore Educational Equity. A pre-conference session on Friday afternoon, will feature Roy Dobbs, Principal of Pike Preparatory, Indianapolis, In. He will share with us his dynamic program, Young Men of Purpose and complete mentoring guide. Our Saturday keynote speaker will feature Dr. Shannon Vincent, the Supt. of Moss Point Miss. school district. Shannon will challenge each of us to better understand equity and how to instill and provide it within our schools and classrooms.

Keeping the traditions we all love will be our Friday afternoon networking Social, Regional Meetings. Role Alike Groups, Phenomenal Baskets and Door Prizes.

We will continue to provide a leadership strand for administrators and breakout sessions from our keynote speakers and practitioners from across the state. I want to encourage you to sign up to present and share exciting programs within your classroom, school or district.

Hope to see you on June 15–16 in Sarasota at the Hyatt Regency, where we as middle level educators will come together for learning and fun as we 'RAVE" about Equity!

Friday, June 15
10:00–3:30 p.m. Executive Board Meeting
4:00–5:30 p.m. Pre-Conference Session
4:00–5:30 p.m. Pre-Conference Session
5:30–7:00 p.m. Conference Social - Tropics (upstairs)
3:00–7:00 p.m. Conference Registration

**Saturday, June 16**

7:30 a.m. Conference Registration
8:30–9:30 a.m. Opening General Session
9:30–10:00 a.m. Coffee Break
10:00–11:00 a.m. Session 1
11:15–12:15 p.m. Session 2
12:15–1:10 p.m. Luncheon
1:10–1:30 p.m. Regional Meetings
1:45–2:45 p.m. Session 3
2:45–3:15 p.m. Popcorn and Lemonade
3:15–4:00 p.m. Sharing/Role Alike groups
4:00 p.m. Baskets and Door Prizes

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**Women's Tennis Participating in C.A.M.P Osprey**

**Women's Tennis**

**Posted: 11/10/2016 3:26:00 PM**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – North Florida women's tennis is teaming up with C.A.M.P Osprey this season and are proud to be mentors with local
education partners.

Under the direction of Dr. Andra Buenaño and Dr. Matthew Ohlson, CAMP Osprey which is a Collegiate Achievement Mentoring Program (CAMP) is an innovative leadership mentoring program that pairs collegiate leaders from the University of North Florida (UNF) with K-12 students to increase student leadership development and college/career readiness skills. The women's tennis team has been working with local Lake Shore Middle School.

"This is a great opportunity for our student-athletes to interact with young women and show them both tennis skills and life skills," said head coach Mariana Cobra. "The young ladies that are interacting with our student-athletes will not be the only ones who benefit. Our girls will get a sense of accomplishment and step outside their comfort zones to take part in this program. All together this is beneficial to both sides."

The first event with the team was when students came out to the courts to take part in a tennis skills academy. The school then returned their new found excitement for tennis by attending the Ospreys final fall event, the UNF Invite.

The student-athletes are given the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills, mentor a child in those same skills and make a difference in their community. CAMP Osprey helps the understanding of community-based, transformation learning that there are cost-efficient and mutually beneficial learning experience that can be implemented.

CAMP Osprey is modeled after CAMP Gator at the the University of Florida. Their research has shown a decrease in suspensions and increase in mentees grade-point averages as well as increased public speaking abilities, goal setting and leadership skills for the mentors.

Here is what the players are saying:

To me, this partnership means I have the opportunity to help someone. It feels really good to be a part of the girls' lives and encourage them to follow their dreams. I was like them once and I am grateful I had someone to look up to. Now its my turn to be the one they look up to. I look forward to seeing them again soon.
- Freshman Lucia Montaño

This partnership has given me a connection to young girls like no other. I have never been part of anything like this and it feels to reach out and be part of something bigger. I believe the more time our teams spend with the girls individually, the more impact we will have on their future. I am excited to see them grow into the person they strive to be. I believe in them.

- Sophomore Kinga Gartner

Being a part of the CAMP Osprey team is an experience I will look back on with a smile on my face. Being surrounded by those sweet, middle school girls who dream is to one day go to college and grow as young women, made me feel grateful and lucky. I hope to be an inspiration for them as they were for me and I look forward to many more experiences with CAMP Osprey.

- Senior Michelle Valdez

This partnership means a lot to me. I feel like we can really have a positive impact on these girls and their development. I am very excited to be part of their journey. It is important to have people to look up to. We all have them and if we can be that person for someone, that is a great accomplishment and responsibility that I am willing to take on. I can't wait to build a closer relationship with the girls and get to know them better.

- Junior Luise Intert

This community service impacts my life because I understand how little actions can change so much. I like the idea of having a younger girl to reach out to and influence in a positive way and give the girls the opportunity to feel secure to come talk to use. Finally I love the fact that I am helping in the community.

- Sophomore Rafaela Gomez

This partnership is very important for me to keep me on track of my dreams. Young girls help me remember where I am coming from and that I have a long path to fulfill. In addition, it gives me power to positively influence someone's life. The girls let me connect to them in a way that is both beneficial for us and I am grateful for this experience.

- Junior Irina Karagozshivili

I just want to say, thank you to CAMP Osprey, for this opportunity. So far
I just want to say thank you to CAMP Osprey for this opportunity. So far it has been a motivating experience that I am enjoying. The girls that I have met have a good heart and all seem to have goals and a desire to achieve them and that is something I can relate to. It is nice when someone looks up to you because that makes you want to be better and that is the impact that these girls are having on me. They make me want to do more just to show that everything is possible. Thank you for this experience and I look forward to continue to work with them.

- Senior Quetzali Vazquez

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Equity Poetry Contest-
Sponsored by Florida League of Middle School

Show the world your brilliance -- your expressive emotion through the power of words -- by submitting your poetry to the following contest. The contest comes with recognition and prestige that you deserve for the beautiful words you have written from the heart.

Deadline to Enter: April 13
Best of the Best: $100
Most Creative: $75
Poet in the Making: $50

Complete guidelines:
Florida League of Middle School is pleased to announce an Equity Poetry Contest. Poetry submissions may be of any style and the any length up to ten lines, but must have a theme of Equity. Poems must be previously unpublished.

Enter one submission.
Open to all students in middle school
Please submit your poems by email. Poems must be received by April 13, 2018
Please submit your poems all in one file or inside the body of an email. Be sure to include the author’s name, address, telephone number, school name, English teacher’s name, and email address. There is no cost to enter this contest.
Submissions must be received no later than April 13, 2018. Please note: We are sorry to say we are unable to provide personal evaluations/reviews of individual poems.

Winners will be announced on or before May 31, 2018, on the Florida League of Middle Schools website: www.flms.org. Winning poems will be published on the Florida League of Middle Schools website and the Florida League of Middle Schools Newsletter (authors retain full rights to their poems).

How to submit: By email: flmspoetry@yahoo.com
JUDGING: Entries will be judged on creativity, originality, imagery, artistic quality, and mastery of poetic expression. To all our participating poets, thank you for your beautiful words. We look forward to reading your poems!

Congrats to our Geography Bee Winner!
Last month, Florida Virtual School (FLVS) 6th-grade student Jacob Maynard won the school competition of the National Geographic Bee. FLVS is the first virtual school in the competition’s 30 years to participate! FLVS students and families came from Deltona, Jacksonville, Coral Springs, and Bonita Springs for the face-to-face final competition held in Orlando. Emily Maynard placed second and Michael Berlin came in third. Mrs. Elise Harris, FLVS social studies cohort teacher and Geography Bee coordinator, said she and fellow teachers created the Geography Club in August with hopes to nurture an appreciation for geography and how it can help students better understand the past, current events, and our neighbors in a fun and educational way.

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE!

Drop us a Line
Do you have a story to share?
We would love to have your input!
Contact Terri Golden at tgoldenhart@yahoo.com
to submit an article for publication.

Join FLMS

Why Join?

- Support middle level education throughout the state of Florida
- Have access to great resources and professional development
- Attend state and regional conferences

Click here to Register