



To provide students with a quality and comprehensive education that will assist them in their quest to become productive members of our society.

# JJEC Parent Newsletter

## Make a Difference!

### Join the JJEC School Advisory Committee!

The Department of Juvenile Justice Educational Centers are committed to ensuring that your student's future is bright and secure. What your child experiences and learns in our centers will impact their decisions for the rest of their life.

Become a part of our School Advisory Committee and have your voice heard. Learn about district-wide and site-specific goals and meet the men and women working with your child.

Our school advisory committee is made up of parents and faculty members from each one of our facilities: the South West Florida Regional Juvenile Detention Center; Price Halfway House; PACE Center for Girls, Lee; AMIkids Southwest Florida; Vince Smith Center; and the Lee County Jail and Stockade.

As a member of our School Advisory Committee you will:

- ◆ Participate in data-driven decision making
- ◆ Review relevant data
- ◆ Discuss improvement strategies
- ◆ Be an active participant in your child's future

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

When: May 17, 2016; 5:00 pm

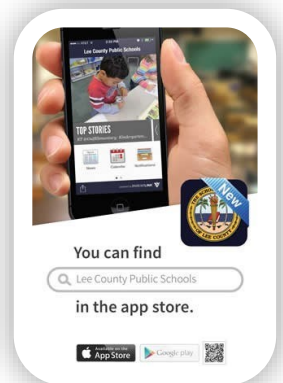
Where: Vince Smith Center

2450 Prince Street

Ft. Myers, FL 33916

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## Parent/Guardian Q & A

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### What are the student eligibility requirements for local residential for neglected or delinquent children?

To qualify to be reported as a student in a residential institution for neglected or delinquent children, a student must meet the following two requirements:

- ◆ Be 5 to 17 years of age.
- ◆ Reside in a qualified institution for at least thirty consecutive days, at least one of which is in October of the reporting year.

### What types of institutions qualify as institutions for neglected or delinquent children?

Institutions that qualify under the provisions of the federal law fall into two categories, schools and non-schools. Institutions must meet all of the following criteria:

- ◆ Public or private residential facility other than a foster home.
- ◆ Operates for the care of children who have been either:
  - Committed to or voluntarily placed in the institution due to abandonment, neglect, or death of their parents or guardians; or
  - Adjudicated to be delinquent or in need of supervision (including adult correctional institutions in which children reside).

Examples of possible eligible institutions include: Juvenile Detention Centers, Children's homes, Halfway house and addiction recovery facilities, County jails and boot camps, Girls' and boys' ranches, and Wilderness institutes. In addition, non-residential institutions for neglected or delinquent children, such as day school and day treatment programs must be reported.

## JJEC Information

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All Department of Juvenile Justice Sites receive funding from Title 1, Part D, Local and State Neglected/Delinquent Allocations.

### Title 1 Part D

The Juvenile Justice Educational Centers are funded in part by Title I Part D. This funding is used to carry out highly qualified educational programs to prepare students for secondary school completion and activities to transition the student from the correctional programs to further their education or employment. The proposed 2015-2016 Title I Part D grant will provide professional development training, supplemental instruction in math, tutoring services, equipment, and supplies.

Department of Juvenile Justice Education Centers • Phone: (239) 335-1585 • Fax: (239) 335-1471

## Out of Field Teachers

Florida State Statute 1012.42 recognizes that teachers at times must be assigned duties in a class outside the field in which the teacher is certified. The following teachers working at Juvenile Justice Education Centers are certified, but may be assigned one or more classes outside their area of certification and are required to take the appropriate steps to comply with the statutory regulations:

To date: Ms. S. Smith is a long-term substitute at Price Halfway House. Ms. Smith is out of field in Science 6-12, Math 6-12, ESOL and ESE. Ms. A. Sloan is a long-term substitute at Price Halfway House. Ms. Sloan is out of field in Social Studies 6-12, Language Arts 6-12, ESOL and ESE.

## JJEC News By: J. Baskin, Transition Specialist

*Pioneer Days to Modern Ways* was this year's Lee County, SW Florida Fair school exhibit theme.



Lead by our Transition Specialist, Ms. Baskin, our dedicated staff designed standards based student projects representative of the theme as well as an outstanding layout for our JJEC booth.



Our students worked diligently on their projects and were excited to know that their work would be on display for all to enjoy. Congratulations to all participants on a job well done!

## Welcome Mr. Ball, Culinary Arts Instructor at Price Halfway House!

We are thrilled to welcome Mr. Joseph Ball as our new Culinary Arts Instructor at Price Halfway House.

Mr. Ball was born in Coral Gables, attended college at Virginia Commonwealth University, and trained as a chef in Williamsburg, Virginia. In the early eighties, he began his career as chef of the Snug Harbor Seafood Restaurant and went on to open his own restaurants - the Fishmonger Restaurant on Fort Myers Beach and the Morgan House Restaurant in downtown Fort Myers.

As the Culinary Arts instructor, Mr. Ball teaches his students a basic culinary arts curriculum and employability skills. Students are also afforded the opportunity to earn Safe Serv certification which gives them a slight edge when applying for employment in the food industry. Proudly, several students have completed the program and gone on to find employment in various area restaurants.

## Calendar of Events

April 4, 2016	Professional Duty Day - No class for students
April 5 - 8, 2016	FCAT 2.0 Reading & NGSSS Algebra 1 Retakes
April 5 - 15, 2016	FSA ELA Reading Grade 10 Retakes
April 11 - May 6, 2016	FSA ELA Reading & Math
April 18 - May 13, 2016	FSA Algebra 1, Geometry, & Algebra 2 EOCs
April 18 - May 20, 2016	FCAT 2.0, Biology, Civics, & US History EOCs
May 17, 2016	SAC Meeting
May 27, 2016	JJEC Math Fair
May 30, 2016	Memorial Day - No class for students

## **Student Insight** By: C.D., A Vince Smith Center Student

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Some of the students in Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) schools are not comfortable being in a classroom doing group projects, or learning as a whole class. They are in favor of a more independent style of learning. Many kids prefer to learn their subjects on their own for multiple reasons. One reason is because they feel as if they're an outcast because they have missed some school and they're further behind in class than the other students. In a typical classroom environment, holding up the entire class because you don't understand a topic is a huge insecurity for many students.

Another reason students prefer to learn on their own, instead of as a group, is because they work better independently and prefer to ask the teacher questions one on one. Instead of trying to understand what the teacher is explaining in a forty-five minute to an hour and a half class period, it's a lot easier for students to work at their own pace and ask questions about what they're learning when they get stuck. I know for me personally, this is very true because working in a classroom makes me zone out and get bored. I don't want to have a teacher tell me when to flip a page, or when to start doing an assignment. I feel as if working on my own will get me way further ahead than being told what to do and when to do it.

My educational experience at the Vince Smith Campus (VSC) has been a little different. Upon arriving here, my best guess as to what my educational life would be like was that all of the schooling would be online, or I would be placed in classes way under my grade level. However, I was completely wrong! My first day here, I was asked which classes I remembered being enrolled in at my last school (since my official transcripts had not been received), so I could get started working on my graduation requirements. I was then given textbooks and syllabuses for each class I needed. I opened up a textbook and started working right away! Any questions that I had about what I was doing, or for example, how to write a summary for my English class, were answered immediately by the teacher who was right there in the classroom and more than willing to help me understand my work. Just the fact that I have a teacher who I can go up to and ask questions to about where I'm stuck makes it a lot easier for me to understand what I'm working on.

One of my biggest fears about doing my school work at VSC was that it wasn't going to count towards a high school diploma. Once again, I was wrong. The guidance counselor for the Department of Juvenile Justice Education Center schools came here to the Vince Smith Center to speak with me about where I'm at, where I needed to be, and how I was going to get there. She explained that I would earn credits towards a high school diploma and that all of the classes successfully completed here would go on my transcript. In addition, she explained my options for when I leave here and go back to public school, the testing that I have left, SAT's and ACT's, different colleges that I can start applying to when I leave and how I could accomplish these tasks.

If you do end up at VSC or another DJJ school, the teachers and staff are willing to help you get to where you need to be in life. They will help you get on track to earning your high school diploma and accomplishing your future goals.



### **The School Board of Lee County, Florida**

Steven K. Teuber, District 4 (Chairman)

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