



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS NETWORK NEWS



Summer 2021

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA | CENTER FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Working Together. Realizing Potential.

Center Pilot Hybrid Model Keeps Certifications Going

The challenges of COVID-19 couldn't stop Community Partnership Schools (CPS) from moving forward and becoming UCF-certified, demonstrating their consistency of quality programming and fidelity to the CPS model and its many benefits. Unable to make the required in-person school visits due to COVID-19 restrictions, Melanie Rodriguez and the UCF Center for Community Schools developed a hybrid model, which streamlined the process and reduced both travel time and costs. The model included all the traditional certification elements, such as collection of evidence documents, interviews, focus groups and tours, all done through virtual means.

Using this model, **South Woods Elementary** (St. Johns) became the sixth UCF-Certified CPS. After a three-year implementation process, South Woods met all CPS standards, including

strong relationships with core partners, comprehensive wellness services, and parent and community involvement.

Already UCF-certified, **C. A. Weis Elementary** (Escambia) became the first CPS to receive full affirmation, recognizing years of focus on student success and well-being. "The school has exemplified the concept that educating a child successfully takes stellar leadership, great teaching and a supportive community," said Escambia County School District Superintendent Timothy Smith. bit.ly/2T7pv8a



South Woods Elementary



Note From the Director

The 2020-21 school year presented unprecedented challenges, but harnessing networks of school and community partnerships uniquely positioned Community Partnership Schools to deliver needed services to students and families. We want to thank all of our CPS core partners and community providers for their tireless 'pandemic pivots' and innovative efforts to ensure students and families have what they need to be academically successful. Thank you!

Dr. Amy Ellis, UCF Center for Community Schools Director

“I envision a place where my kids are excited to come and proud to be, and that they leave here with all the tools that they should have and enjoy elementary. Like they should be, being a kid.”

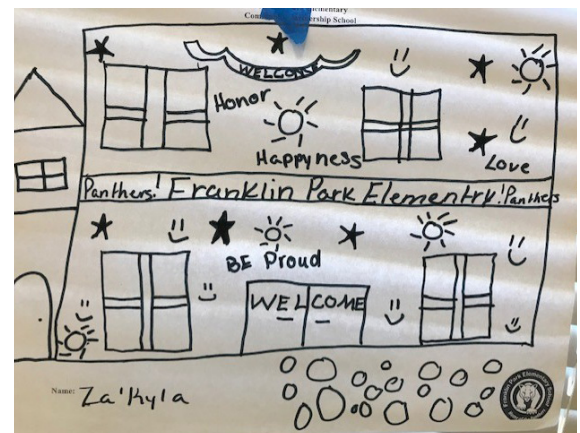
— Michelle Freeman, Community Partnership School Principal

Franklin Park Rebuilds Campus to Meet School Community Needs

Franklin Park Elementary, (Lee) the county's first Community Partnership School, is embarking on a nearly full-campus rebuild, including the addition of an almost 10,000-square-foot community center with food, clothing, medical, mental health, financial and employment services. The new campus in Ft. Myers' Dunbar community is expected to open in August 2024. The rebuild is currently in the planning stages and the school hosted forums for stakeholders to offer input - several students even participated in building design ideas. bit.ly/3i8NjRI, bit.ly/3hG3OWe



Franklin Park students draw new school concepts.



Franklin Park student drawing of new school concept

NEW DATA PLATFORM

After a rigorous selection process, Learning Circle was chosen as the vendor to help construct and develop a robust data management system to be used across all CPS sites. The platform will allow CPS staff to enter data that will offer insight into areas such as course performance and attendance, all as part of a data-sharing agreement with school districts. A limited pilot is expected to roll out in January with full implementation in August 2022.

Partners Use Scale and Resources to Support Community Partnership School Sites

Community Partnership Schools make a positive difference for their students and their communities, in large part thanks to their [core partners](#) and community partners, who use their greater resources to help make that difference happen. After a school year of extraordinary challenges, here are some examples of core partners stepping up to support CPS sites.

Eccleston Elementary's (Orange) core partner Children's Home Society provided a clinical counselor who participated in an evidence-based intervention called MATCH (Modular Approach to Therapy for Children with Anxiety, Depression, Trauma or Conduct Problems), which provided therapy tailored to each child's specific needs. Students self-reported an up to 50 percent decrease in feelings of depression and anxiety.

At **Mort Elementary** (Hillsborough), core partner University of South Florida, and the Teacher Leadership Academy, provided higher learning, credit attainment and degree opportunities for teachers completing coursework and practicum at the school. More experienced and educated teachers lead to higher learning for students and greater student engagement.

Through the connection established by core partner Florida International University, **Arthur & Polly Mays Conservatory of the Arts** (Miami-Dade) will become a site for the Upward Bound program that assists with goal setting, career planning and college financial aid opportunities.

During the 2020-21 school year, core partner Memorial Healthcare facilitated a free afterschool program for 6th-8th graders at **Gulfstream Academy** (Broward). The program featured academic games and enrichment, homework support, health and fitness opportunities, social skills development and team-building activities, as well as a free daily snack and hot supper.

Core partner University of Florida helped develop an in-house program that helps volunteers work with programs that are embedded in the **Howard Bishop Middle School** (Alachua) culture and build a more consistent relationship with school, potentially leading them to become mentors. This will increase support campus-wide for students and teachers.

Community Foundation of Brevard grants provided a Spanish-speaking clinician at **Endeavour Elementary** (Brevard), who made it possible to communicate with four local churches to assist in spreading the word of the resources available at the CPS. An average of 118 families per month received resources last quarter.

(Continued on next page)

INDEPENDENT EVALUATION

The UCF Center for Community Schools is working with the American Institutes for Research to complete an independent evaluation of the Community Partnership School™ model. The evaluation will include interviewing key stakeholders such as principals, CPS directors and core partners on program implementation, and surveying students to gain their insights on their expanded learning activities. Research is expected to be conducted in Fall 2021 with a projected completion date of April 2022. Learn More: bit.ly/39sBh2q

New Virtual Tours Give Visitors a Glimpse into Community Partnership Schools

Prospective partners, community members, school districts and interested parties across the nation and the world are always curious to see the successful Community Partnership Schools (CPS) model in action. Facilitating school tours was challenging pre-COVID-19, and those challenges only amplified during the pandemic. The circumstances also inspired innovative solutions, and the UCF Center for Community Schools partnered with three of the schools to create pilot virtual tours.



Recently launched virtual tours at **Crystal Lake Elementary** (Polk), **Gulfside Elementary** (Pasco) and **Sulphur Springs K-8** (Hillsborough) highlight the spaces that students, their families and their communities have access to within each CPS site, including family resource rooms, parent hubs, pantries, wellness centers and dental clinics. Continually looking for ways to work collaboratively with the CPS and showcase their endeavors, the Center looks forward to doing more virtual tours and collaborative projects at all the Community Partnership Schools. View the tours:
Gulfside Elementary Virtual Tour bit.ly/3r9Schf
Sulphur Springs K-8 Virtual Tour: bit.ly/3kkfP5h

DID YOU KNOW?

► **Orange Park High School** (Clay) hosted its first Suit-Up Saturday event in April. Volunteers conducted a series of job interview workshops including Dress for Success, Writing the Resume and Professionalism 101, as well as mock interviews and feedback. Participants enjoyed lunch courtesy of Orange Park Mall.



Orange Park student participates in mock interview.

► **Wilkinson Junior High School** (Clay) launched a “Zen Den,” a CPS wellness initiative, where teachers and staff can unplug and recharge.

► **College Park Elementary** (Marion) sent students home with Science Back Packs with supplies for home reading and hands-on experiments to help make up time lost to COVID-19. “Saturday Science” experiments were videoed at school with teachers and student guest hosts, and aired via Zoom.

► The Parent Resource Room/HUB at **Miami Southridge Senior High School** (Miami-Dade) was updated. It contains computers, a printer, conference table, printed resources, school supplies, diapers, back packs, hygiene kits and resources for any family in need.

► **Dodgertown Elementary** (Indian River) received nearly \$10,000 in donations for its Parent Resource Hub, allowing the CPS to provide a reliable space for students, parents and staff to access food, clothing, shoes and other community resources.

► At **Jones High School** (Orange), home visits were made to students who remained in virtual class. The visits helped eliminate barriers preventing students from engaging in learning and helped students feel connected during distance learning.

► After three years operating as a CPS, **Keystone Heights Junior/Senior High School** (Clay) held a grand opening that had been delayed by COVID-19. Members of the Legislature, community leaders, school board members and the superintendent celebrated as stories of how the school has helped students and the community were shared. bit.ly/3bGKAwk

► **Evans High School's** (Orange) mentoring program added 10 new mentors from the community.

Support Learning *(Continued from page 2)*

Homestead Middle School (Miami-Dade) worked with core partner Florida International University's School of Medicine to implement STEM Saturdays monthly workshops for science department students, with 27 students attending consistently with volunteers from FIU and Barry University.

Core Partner University of Central Florida has two ongoing Doctoral Nursing Program projects at **OCPS ACE** (Orange): Improving Identification of Childhood Asthma Through a Teacher-Oriented School-Based Intervention, and Enhancing Nutrition Knowledge for Parents of School-Age Children. Both are in implementation stages.

The Center for Children's Rights collaborated with the **Edward H. White Academy of Leadership** (Duval) to introduce Restorative Justice Talking Circles for students of all walks of life and diverse backgrounds. The program is youth-led and teaches students how to become accountable and responsible in their adolescent years while celebrating their accomplishments.

During the third quarter, **Webster Elementary's** (St. Johns) core partner Flagler Health+ maintained access for students, families, staff and community members to medical, dental and vision services through the Care Connect system. Supports included access to housing, mental health, transportation, utility assistance, food banks, advanced care planning, cancer support, primary care services, financial counseling, past due rental assistance, hospice, prescription assistance plan and emergency shelter.

Manatee Elementary (Manatee) partnered with Feed Tampa Bay to offer a food pantry that is open to all Manatee Elementary families.

Lively Technical College (LTC) Barber School visits **Sabal Palm Elementary** (Leon) twice a month. The benefit is two-fold: practical experience for LTC's students as they prepare for the Florida Barber License Examination, and free haircuts for Sabal Palm students and staff. In one month, 79 haircuts were provided at an average cost of \$15/haircut, totaling \$1,185 in services.



Sabal Palm student receives haircut from Lively Technical College.

Thank You, Florida Legislators

The UCF Center for Community Schools and Florida's Community Partnership Schools' network thank the Florida Legislature for allocating \$7.1 million for the third year in a row for funding, support and technical assistance for the community school grant program.

Those funds, matched by at least 25 percent with in-kind donations from the local communities, are reaping great benefits for our students, teachers and families. Thank you, legislators, for being advocates for Florida children, families and teachers!



Center Distributes Laptops and PPE to Meet School Needs

In a typical school year, representatives from the UCF Center for Community Schools travel to Community Partnership Schools, connecting, observing and advising. When the pandemic eliminated that prospect, Center staff and CPS directors looked at how the money once budgeted for travel could be shifted to meet the areas of greatest needs. Bridging the digital divide by providing additional laptops and the need for personal protective equipment emerged as the greatest needs. All in all, 166 computers were donated to the schools, along with 1,552 individual PPE items.

REGISTERED COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL SITES AND CORE PARTNERS (*UCF-Certified)

Arthur & Polly Mays Conservatory of the Arts Miami, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, Nicklaus Children's Hospital, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Florida International University

***C. A. Weis Elementary School** Pensacola, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, Community Health of Northwest Florida, Escambia County School District, University of West Florida

College Park Elementary School Ocala, FL: United Way of Marion County, Ocala Health, Marion County Public Schools, Public Education Foundation of Marion County, College of Central Florida

Crystal Lake Elementary School Lakeland, FL: Heartland for Children, Central Florida Health Care, Polk County Public Schools, United Way of Central Florida, Southeastern University

Dodgertown Elementary School Vero Beach, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, Treasure Coast Community Health, School District of Indian River County, Indian River State College

Eccleston Elementary School Orlando, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, Orange Blossom Family Health, Orange County Public Schools, Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, University of Central Florida

Edward H. White Academy of Leadership Jacksonville, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, Agape Community Health Center, Duval County School District, Boys & Girls Club Northeast Florida, University of North Florida, Florida State College of Jacksonville

***Endeavour Elementary School** Cocoa, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, Brevard Health Alliance, Brevard County Public Schools, City of Cocoa, Eastern Florida State College, University of Central Florida

***Evans High School** Orlando, FL *Flagship school: Children's Home Society of Florida, Orange Blossom Family Health, Orange County Public Schools, University of Central Florida

Franklin Park Elementary School Ft. Myers, FL: United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee, Lee Health, School District of Lee County, Florida Gulf Coast University

***Gulfside Elementary School** Holiday, FL: Youth and Family Alternatives, Inc., Premier Community HealthCare, Florida Department of Health in Pasco County, BayCare, Pasco County Schools, YMCA of the Suncoast and Metropolitan Ministries

Gulfstream Academy and Early Learning Center Hallandale Beach, FL: United Way of Broward County, Memorial Healthcare System, Broward County Public Schools, Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Hispanic Unity of Florida, Broward College

Homestead Middle School Homestead, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, Community Health of South Florida, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Florida International University

Howard Bishop Middle School Gainesville, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, Alachua County Health Department, Alachua County School District, Santa Fe College, University of Florida

Jones High School Orlando, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, Orange Blossom Family Health, Orange County Public Schools, University of Central Florida

Keystone Heights Junior/Senior High School Keystone Heights, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, Aza Health, Clay County School District, Santa Fe College

Mort Elementary School Tampa, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, Tampa Family Health Centers, Hillsborough County Public Schools, Tampa Innovation Place, University Area Community Development Corporation, University of South Florida

Miami Southridge Senior High School Miami, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Florida International University

Manatee Elementary School Bradenton, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, MCR Health, School District of Manatee County, University of South Florida

***OCPS Academic Center for Excellence (OCPS ACE)** Orlando, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, Orange Blossom Family Health, Orange County Public Schools, Boys & Girls Club, Harris Rosen Foundation, University of Central Florida, Valencia College

Orange Park High School Orange Park, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, Orange Park Medical Center, Palms Medical Group, Clay County District Schools, St. John's River College

Sabal Palm Elementary Tallahassee, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, Florida State University Primary Health, Leon County School District, Florida A&M University

***South Woods Elementary School** Elkton, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, Flagler Health+, St. Johns County School District, St. John's River College

Sulphur Springs K-8 Community School Tampa, FL: Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA, Tampa Family Health Centers, Hillsborough County School District, Sulphur Springs Neighborhood of Promise, University of South Florida

Webster Elementary School St. Augustine, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, Flagler Health+, St. Johns County School District, St. John's River State College

Wilkinson Junior High School (7-8) Middleburg, FL: Children's Home Society of Florida, Baptist Health/Wolfson Children's Hospital, Clay County School District, St. John's River State College

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