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Dr. Michael A. Grego

## Osceola School District's

# Superintendent's Progress Report To The Community

### **New Pilot Program With DELL To Enhance Student Learning At Home**

In partnership with DELL Computers, the Osceola School District is putting computers and learning software in the hands of English Language Learners (ELLs) to enhance their English language acquisition at home. Phase 1 of the Families and Schools, Together! (Project F.A.S.T.) has begun with the distribution of netbook computers for home use to 150 students at Ventura Elementary and Denn John Middle Schools. Funds for the netbooks will be provided by DELL, the district's exclusive computer vendor, through a Rebate Program on purchases made for schools and departments.

The goal of the program is to close the achievement gap for Osceola's ELL students by expanding the instructional time beyond the traditional school day. Such additional time on task and resources are needed as students with limited English ability often struggle with learning the language at the same time they are trying to learn the content in each academic area. Providing resources directly into homes where little to no English is spoken is a powerful means of reaching not only students, but parents and siblings as well.

### **Announcing the Opening of STEM Choice Programs**

The Osceola School District is pleased to announce the opening of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) themed Choice programs at Discovery Intermediate School and Poinciana High School for next school year. A Choice program provides opportunities for students from outside the traditional attendance boundaries of a school to attend that school and take advantage of one of the special programs offered. These programs are designed to be rigorous and engaging, with enhanced opportunities for hands-on experiences, job shadowing, and industry certification in highly-competitive career fields. The specific STEM programs opening at these two schools for the 2010/2011 school year are as follows:

- **Discovery Intermediate School**  
Academy of Science and Technology
- **Poinciana High School**  
Academy of Engineering/Construction  
Academy of Health Professions  
Academy of Finance

### **District's Accreditation Progress Report Gets High Marks**

In October 2007, the AdvancED Accreditation Commission and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) awarded the Osceola School District districtwide accreditation as a quality school system. In a two-year follow-up this past January 2010, the Commission reviewed and took action on the Accreditation Progress Report recently filed by the district. The Commission accepted the report and granted continuation of the accreditation term with no findings or additional recommendations. In its notification, the Commission praised the district for its continued commitment to excellence in education, and its dedication to continuous improvement and quality assurance.

*Student Achievement  
Is Our  
Number One Priority!*