

SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Bushnell, Florida 33513
352-793-2315

Press Release

Date: July 21, 2015
Contact: Colleen Strickland- Curriculum Supervisor

Re: Sumter School District Receives \$2.1 Million 21st CCLC Grant

Thanks to a 5 year \$2.1 million federal grant funded through 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC), students attending four of Sumter's schools will be offered after school programming throughout the school year. The grant funds after school programming at Webster Elementary and Wildwood Elementary five days per week and four days per week at Wildwood Middle High and Sumter Alternatives beginning August 17, 2015. In addition, continued programming will be offered during the summer. Funding through this competitive grant provides salaries and benefits for all program instructional services, innovative curriculum, materials and supplies, as well as transportation.

STEAM Team (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) will be offered at Webster Elementary and Wildwood Elementary for students in grades 2-5 and Wildwood Middle High for students in grades 6-8. While participating in STEAM Team, students will be involved in project based learning activities focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. Eligible high school students from Sumter Alternatives will participate in the Sumter Leadership Academy. The Academy will explore STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) career opportunities and develop work-ready/college ready skills through authentic project-based learning to help enhance skills needed in the workforce or higher education. Students participating in both programs will be offered tutoring, academic acceleration, character education and homework assistance on a daily basis. In addition, each school site will engage parents and family members by providing educational opportunities such as financial literacy, job interview skills, employability skills, GED preparation classes and more. School Superintendent Rick Shirley said, "This large grant enables us to expand educational and technical experiences for our students which can enhance job skills necessary for economic growth as well as provide content instruction."

Community partners providing support for this grant include Career Source Florida, Florida Grande Motor Coach, and Tutors for kids. An advisory board will be assembled to review the grant goals, program implementation and make program recommendations.

Our district is pleased to be able to provide these after school and summer opportunities for students. Parents may begin registering their children for STEAM Team and Sumter Leadership Academy during school orientations.

Program operations are as follows:

| Site | Eligible Students | Days | Program End Time |
|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Sumter Alternatives | grades 9-12 | Monday- Thursday | 4:30 pm |
| Webster Elementary | grades 2-5 | Monday- Friday | 5:00 pm |
| Wildwood Elementary | grades 2-5 | Monday- Friday | 5:15 pm |
| Wildwood Middle High | grades 6-8 | Monday-Thursday | 5:45 pm |