

in the know **seminole county public schools**

## SCPS: On the Cutting Edge of Innovation by Walt Griffin, Ed.D.

Seminole County Public Schools (SCPS) prides itself on being a progressive district, comprised of innovative students who strive for growth and academic achievement. With this being said, it's an absolute honor to be one of 19 national premier school districts accepted into the League of Innovative Schools, a national coalition of forward-thinking school districts. The League of Innovative Schools is organized by Digital Promise, an independent, bipartisan nonprofit organization, authorized by Congress to accelerate innovation in education. SCPS was selected from a competitive and national pool of applicants based on its leadership, evidence of results, innovative vision for

learning, and commitment to collaboration.

As a district, we are constantly assessing the academic needs of our students in an effort to continuously update our methods. This supports our innovative vision for learning, and makes it possible for us to provide advanced technologies that both challenge and engage. I'd like to highlight some of the programs we've recently implemented that set us apart as an innovative school district.

Last year, we saw tremendous success with our kindergarten coding program. This year, the School Board and I made it a priority to expand this program to the first and third grade. This ensures that all of our students received the equal opportunity to have hands-on experience in



the area of computer science. On the topic of computer science, the Computer Science (CS) 2020 program is an exciting new addition as well. It provides computer science instruction for K-8 students, with a goal to have computer science courses available to all students by the year 2020.

In another effort to accommodate our students and prepare them for the future, we have initiated our Blended Learning program that blends traditional classroom learning with digital learning – an approach that creates a cohesive and enriched learning environment. In this ever-changing, technology-focused era, we're committed to redeveloping our instructional methods and curriculum to increase achievement among all students.

As a new member of the League of Innovative Schools, SCPS is now part of a network of public school districts across the nation. It's comprised of members who want to share best practices and innovative ideas to help students improve

their learning, using digital technologies. SCPS is a pioneer in the movement of implementing digital technologies into the classroom.

We feel we have a lot of transcendent ideas to contribute to other districts, and are eager to learn from other thriving districts as well. All of the League's members convene twice a year, in one room, to share these ideas and learn from one another, with the purpose of sharing forward-thinking concepts and curricula that can be applied to their own districts. These members consist of superintendents who were chosen based on the aforementioned criteria, to represent their district at the biannual meetings held by The League of Innovative Schools.

As a newly accepted member, I am honored to attend these meetings on behalf of SCPS. I'm looking forward to exchanging best practices with fellow premier public school districts from across the country and conversely sharing with them what makes SCPS so special.

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