



## Flagship Program Q&A

### 1. What are the Flagship programs?

Flagler Schools Flagship programs offer opportunities to discover paths that lead students in grades K-12 from classroom to career success.

Students can explore and grow in the worlds of Agriculture, Aerospace, Green Technology, Health Science, Engineering and Computer Science, Marine Research, Finance and Business, Leadership, the Arts and more.

### 2. Are the Flagships an afterschool program?

Opportunities to explore the focus areas of the various Flagships vary by school and level. At the elementary schools the Flagship focus may be found in lab settings such as the engineering lab at Wadsworth Elementary or the health lab at Rymfire Elementary. Flagship labs may be accessed by classrooms at all grade levels through scheduled visits or classes on “the wheel” of curriculum choices. In addition to the labs, Flagship focus themed lessons are taught across the curriculum through the latest collaborative teaching methods. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math skills are especially focused on in the Flagship School programs.

While embedded heavily in daily curriculum, Flagship programs do extend beyond the school day. Hands-on enrichment activities that connect to the school’s Flagship theme are also offered in before and after school clubs, as well as at daytime or evening showcases that invite parents and community.

At the middle school levels the Flagships may be elective courses, club activities, or lessons embedded in the curriculum. Evening showcases or events may also be utilized at the middle school level.

At the high school levels the Flagships may be a series of elective courses the student chooses to take such as the Embry-Riddle courses offered at Flagler Palm Coast High School on Private Pilot Ground License or Unmanned Spacecraft or the Culinary courses at Matanzas High School.

The Flagship at the high school level may also be a comprehensive program such as International Baccalaureate or the i3 Academy, where all of a student’s courses throughout their high school career are embedded in this program.

### **3. What do the Flagship programs mean for our students?**

Flagships provide enrichment and relevance to our curriculums, while focusing on skills and opportunities that lead to college and career readiness. The focus of Flagship programs are designed to align with the targeted industries in Flagler County as well as skills identified as critical by the business communities through studies by the U. S. Department of Labor and surveys conducted through local organizations such as Career Source. These are skills such as communication, enthusiasm and attitude, teamwork, problem solving and critical thinking, dependability, flexibility, confidence, etc...

The development of the Flagship courses create a relevance that is engaging for students and has created multiple opportunities to explore, grow, and succeed for students at all levels while embedding skills that will help them be college and career ready.

### **4. How will the Flagship programs contribute to student academic achievement?**

Real-world instructional and educational experiences have proven success in increasing student engagement. Students who are engaged in learning during their K-12 school experience are more likely to become successful life-long learners. Engaged students also have better school attendance and an overall positive feeling about themselves as bright and capable people. Flagship program participation helps our students compete, distinguishing them as “the best of the best” among their peers.

In addition to the Flagship programs, Flagler Technical Institute and Career and Technical Education courses offer opportunities for our secondary students to complete industry certifications; this plus college level coursework available in our schools prepares our students for post-secondary college or career placement.

### **5. Will the Flagship Curriculum be reviewed by the Curriculum Committee?**

At the initial inception of the Flagship Programs a team of district curriculum personnel and leadership met with each school to review the schools proposed Flagship program and the vision of the school for how the identified Flagship enhanced the relevance of the general student curriculum as defined by our state standards.

The structure that has been developed for enhancing all of our programs that fall under the Classroom to Careers initiative includes annual or bi-annual reviews of program content through the curriculum department. These programs include Flagship, Career and Technical Courses, and Flagler Technical Institute courses.

### **6. How often will schools change their Flagship Curriculum?**

Flagships are designed to bring relevance to our content and provide an enriched education infused with the essentials for college and career readiness. The Flagships are not necessarily a curriculum but a focus area that can guide that relevance through varied avenues and opportunities.

Learning opportunities within the Flagships will continue to grow and evolve as teams at the schools and district continually review and evaluate how we are serving our students. If a

school feels the need to modify the Flagship focus for their school, educators would work through the district office to address any such proposal.

### **7. Are there specific qualifications for some Flagship programs?**

The only time there would be a question of qualifying for a program would be if an elective course had a prerequisite requirement or if a student wished to explore the STEM Academy, i3 or the IB program. As comprehensive academy style settings those three programs do have an application process.

### **8. How would parents and the community be notified of any changes in the Flagship programs offered by a school?**

Schools publicize not only their Flagship programs but multiple events and accomplishments through a variety of means. Such venues may include newsletters, email blasts, phone homes, and their websites. Website information specific to the Flagships can be found at [www.classroomtocareers.com](http://www.classroomtocareers.com).

These communication tools will continue to be utilized by the schools to keep the community informed. This would include new or refined Flagship programs. Of course all schools welcome direct contact from parents or community members who may have specific questions about any of our educational programs.

### **9. What type of collaboration and partnering will exist between the public schools and community partnerships?**

Community members and organizations who wish to be a part of enhancing our student's educational experiences are encouraged to become involved. Volunteer opportunities include: consulting in the volunteer's area(s) of expertise, contributing resources, offering job shadowing opportunities, internships, mentoring and job opportunities.

Businesses and individuals who wish to become involved are encouraged to register at <http://classroomtocareers.com/get-involved>. This form allows registrants to indicate their area of expertise and interest.

### **10. How are Flagships being funded?**

Flagships provide enrichment and focus to our instructional continuum. Costs for things such as professional development and training, resources, or instructional materials come from a variety of sources. These include grants such as Title 1, Title II, and grants from private organizations. Many programs are tied directly to established courses, such as the biotech courses in plant and marine science at MHS and as such, costs may be covered in a school's general budget.

Flagler County Education Foundation is a separate 501c3 that works in the community to secure in-kind and cash donations from community partners to support public education in areas in which public funding is not available. The foundation is able to access matching funds from the state for grants awarded to schools and teachers.

### **11. How will the Flagship program be different than an academy?**

Academies typically are comprehensive programs that may provide a specialized setting where the entire school experience is in that setting. Flagler County Schools have a few programs that do function in this manner. The i3 Academy at FPC is a school within a school where students are in this setting for the full high school career, the International Baccalaureate program at FPC is also a comprehensive program where the student's full coursework is designed within the program.

At the elementary level the STEM Academy also functions as a small school setting where the students who apply and attend receive their full school year at the Academy.

In other districts Academies typically are only in the high schools and are designed around a specific focus such as a law academy or a health academy. Students in these settings would take the elective courses designed around the Academy focus and many of their core content courses would also be tied to the focus area. ***Flagler County is unique in that our Flagships run from K-12.***

## **12. How can parents be involved in the Flagship program?**

Our schools welcome parent involvement. Parents should contact their child's school to see how they can be involved in the Flagship programs as well as all of their child's educational experience.

Parents may wish to register as a school volunteer. Individuals interested in doing so may contact the district office at 386-437-7526 to complete the process. Individuals interested in supporting Flagship programs by making a donation and/or volunteering on a Flagler County Education Foundation board or committee may call Deborah Williams, 386-437-7526 ext 3125, or email [williamsd@flaglerschools.com](mailto:williamsd@flaglerschools.com)