



MONROE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE JULY 8, 2024

Monroe County School District Launches Groundbreaking IT Premier Pathway with Enhanced Incentives, Supported by John Padget

The Monroe County School District is excited to unveil the enhanced "IT Premier Pathway," a progressive educational program designed to deeply integrate Information Technology skills from 6th to 12th grade. This initiative is supported by the visionary efforts of John Padget and the Golden Fleece Foundation, emphasizing a commitment to adaptive, self-paced learning coupled with substantial achievement incentives.

School Superintendent Theresa Axford praised the initiative: "Integrating IT skills is essential for preparing students for future career landscapes. We are grateful for John Padget's continued support, which enables us to provide these extraordinary learning opportunities."

Tiered Financial Incentives and Award Designations

The IT Premier Pathway now offers a structured reward system that motivates students to pursue and excel in their IT studies:

- **Level 1 Certifications:** Students receive \$50 gift cards for each certification.
- **Level 2 Certifications:** Students receive \$150 gift cards for each certification.
- **Level 3 Certifications:** Students earn checks from the Golden Fleece Foundation with a tiered reward system:
 - **\$300** for the first Level 3 certification
 - **\$500** for the second Level 3 certification
 - **\$700** for the third Level 3 certification, conferring the **Silver IT Premier Award**
 - **\$1,000** for the fourth Level 3 certification, earning the **Gold IT Premier Award**
 - **\$1,500** for the fifth Level 3 certification, achieving the **Platinum IT Premier Award**

Academic Credits and Flexible Learning

Achieving a Level 3 certification also confers three college credits, allowing students to accumulate up to 15 credits. Recipients of the Platinum IT Premier Award could effectively complete half a year of college or university coursework, entirely free of charge. Importantly, students are encouraged to study at their own pace and pass certifications when they are ready, thereby disconnecting the Pathway from rigid classroom assignments. This flexible approach allows students to tailor their learning experience to their individual needs and timelines.

Presentation and Recognition

To celebrate these achievements, presentations will be held in the classroom, allowing students to receive recognition among peers. "Certificates and checks will be presented by Golden Fleece Foundation representatives, making each achievement a moment of pride," explained Caroline Bleske, Career and Technical Education Coordinator. The district will also publicize the success of each Premier award winner, enhancing their academic and professional profiles.

John Padget added, "This pathway not only fosters IT skills but also builds life-long learners. These awards are crafted to recognize significant achievements and inspire a culture of excellence among students."

Students and parents interested in the IT Premier Pathway can contact Caroline Bleske at 305-293-1400, ext. 53389, or via email at Caroline.Bleske@KeysSchools.com for more information on registration and program specifics.

For questions or more information, contact:

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