

Duval Charter School at Mandarin Celebrates National Animal Therapy Day with \$5,075 donation to Nemours Children's Health Center ADAPT program

WHAT: Celebration of National Therapy Animal Day and fundraiser for Nemours Children's Health System. Duval Charter School at Mandarin students raised 5,075 to help fund Nemours Children's Health System's Assisted Dog and Pony Therapy (ADAPT) program. Funds raised will help to maintain the barn, pay for transportation, food, vaccinations, certification, etc. Classrooms competed to raise the most money to win an opportunity to interact with two equine therapists that will be at the school on National Therapy Animal Day. There was a tie with Mrs. Miller's 2nd grade class and Mrs. Rowan's 4th grade class each raising \$1035. Each class will have 45 minutes to spend with Taco and Buc (equine therapists).

WHO: Duval Charter School at Mandarin students, representatives of Nemours Children's Health System's ADAPT program, Taco and Buc – equine therapists

WHERE: The event will be held at Duval Charter School at Mandarin [5209 Shad Road in Jacksonville.](#)

WHEN: **National Therapy Animal Day, Friday, April 30 from 10 am to noon.**

More info:

The ADAPT program is offered to eligible current Nemours Children's Health System patients as deemed necessary by the patient's psychologist. They have built a new barn and volunteers bring equine therapists daily for the patients. Patients will see the same equine therapist every visit in order to build a relationship. They are still in the process of certifying the canine therapists, and that service will be offered at a later date.

ADAPT is a first-of-its kind model to incorporate canines (dogs) and equines (ponies) into clinical, therapeutic treatment planning for Nemours patients. Through a partnership with local experts at the University of North Florida Brooks College of Health, Nemours will implement an ADAPT program to benefit today's patients and conduct large-scale studies that contribute to research for the benefit of people, and animals, everywhere.

About Duval Charter School at Mandarin

Duval Charter School at Mandarin serves students in grades K-8. It is part of the Charter Schools USA Inc. (CSUSA) family of schools and is governed by Renaissance Charter School, Inc., which has been operating a network of the highest performing charter schools in Florida for over a decade including the State of Florida's first National Blue Ribbon Charter School. Founded by Jonathan Hage in 1997, CSUSA is one of the largest and highest performing education management companies in the United States serving more than 70,000 students and employing more than 8500 educators. Each year more than 10,000 students are on waiting lists. CSUSA is the first education management company to receive corporation system-wide accreditation through Cognia, so every school managed by CSUSA automatically earns accreditation within its first year of operation. In the state of Florida, CSUSA high school's average graduation rate of 93 percent exceeded the state average of 87 percent in 2019. In the 2020-2021 school year, CSUSA will operate nearly 100 schools in five states. Its data-driven education model ensures every student receives differentiated learning to reach individual goals and achieve high academic, social and emotional success. CSUSA's guaranteed and viable curriculum assures every student has access to approved curriculum that complies to state standards and appropriate time is provided to achieve those standards. This sets students up for long-term success and provides educators with easily accessible tools to customize their learning plans to help every student excel. CSUSA schools often outperform their district school counterparts in nearly every category.

About Nemours Children's Health System

[Nemours](#) is an internationally recognized children's health system that owns and operates the two free-standing children's hospitals: the Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del., and Nemours Children's Hospital in Orlando, Fla., along with outpatient facilities in five states, delivering pediatric primary, specialty and urgent care. Nemours also powers the world's most-visited website for information on the health of children and teens, [KidsHealth.org](#), and offers on-demand, online video patient visits through Nemours [CareConnect](#). [Nemours ReadingBrightstart.org](#) is a program dedicated to preventing reading failure in young children, grounded in Nemours' understanding that child health and learning are inextricably linked, and that reading level is a strong predictor of adult health.

Established as [The Nemours Foundation](#) through the legacy and philanthropy of Alfred I. duPont, Nemours

provides pediatric clinical care, research, education, advocacy and prevention programs to families in the communities it serves.

Enrollment for Duval Charter School at Mandarin is underway. Those interested may apply online at www.Mandarincharter.org.

(END)

For further information: Colleen Reynolds, APR Public Relations Counselor – Duval Charter School at Mandarin
OR Marisa Sanchez - 407-797-7258 Margot Winick, Margot.Winick@Nemours.org (407) 785-5766

Additional assets available online: [Photos \(5\)](#)

<https://nemours.mediaroom.com/news-releases?item=122877>