



# St. James Christian Academy

Acquisition of the Former Virginia College Building

# St. James Christian Academy



Established in 2000, we are proud to be the only state Accredited Christian School in Saint Lucie County providing Preschool through 12th Grade with a unique blend of traditional education, with modern techniques. Our mission is to raise up young people who will be leaders in their chosen professions so that they may make an impact on our city, our state and our nation. Saint James Christian Academy offers classes designed to help develop children intellectually, socially & spiritually.

*Step Up For Students empowers parents to pursue and engage in the most appropriate learning options for their children, with an emphasis on families who lack the information and financial resources to access these options.* Since 2001 when Florida lawmakers approved the Florida tax Scholarship also known as Step Up for Students, Saint James Christian Academy has been able to utilize this amazing program. This program helps low income/ at risk families to be able to receive a private school education for their children. As of 2019, Saint James Christian Academy accepts the largest amount of Scholarships from Step Up for Students.

St. James Christian Academy / Florida State Christian Academy.

- **Fully Accredited**
- **Dual Enrollment**
- **Athletics & Fine Arts**
- **National Baccalaureate**
- **Vocational Options**
- **Breakfast & Lunch**
- **Magnet School**
- **Aftercare & Busing**
- **S.T.E.A.M. Education**

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We want to thank you for the swift action by Staff and the Council regarding the Conditional Use Permit. This allowed the tremendous vision and opportunity of Synergy School of Tomorrow to continue. We are where we are today because this City went out of their way to provide an educational opportunity to the families of Fort Pierce that go above and beyond the standard. This has allowed us to enroll students and open school for the 2019/2020 school year.

Many students and families that we serve are considered below the poverty line and our education services provides opportunities that are not always available to this financial demographic. But because of the Step Up scholarships many of these families are now enrolled in this program.

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## OUR HISTORY & TIMELINE SINCE 2010 TO PRESENT.

- **2010-2015** - Congregation & School primarily affluent Port St Lucie Residents
- **2016** – Congregation & School moved to Fort Pierce in Orange Blossom Mall (“OBM”);
- **2017** – Purchase Tradition Townhall on Civic Lane in PSL for second Church & School site
- **2017-September**- Hurricane Irma strikes, OBM destroyed- Church relocated to Tradition & St. James Christian Academy relocated to Oleander Ave. campus
- **2018**- Portion of Tradition parcel allocated for future Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade & joint-use for Christ Family Church Sunday School
- **2019** – St James Christian Academy signs contract to acquire former Virginia College Campus for grades 6-12<sup>th</sup> / Oleander remains Pre-K thru 5<sup>th</sup>

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The bankruptcy of the Virginia College parent corporation opened the door to purchase this fantastic facility. The building was purchased in 2009 as a vanilla box and completely built out to suit Virginia College. The building and its content are in top condition and provides a turnkey opportunity to the community. The opportunity includes Vocational Training to middle and high school students in the county. The 76,000+ square foot facility provides ample room to grow. Due to the nature of the service offering that Virginia College once provided, we have the facilities and equipment to educate the students in the areas of :

Pre Med  
Culinary Training  
Cyber Coding  
Cosmetology



INDIAN RIVER  
STATE COLLEGE



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We are also able to provide our students a Fully Accredited program in conjunction with the State of Florida. Our association with **AdvancedEd** allows Dual Enrollment and AP classes to our 6th through 12th grade students.

We are proud to announce that our students are able to graduate high school with their associates degree as well as certifications in various vocations. Our middle and high school students are offered pathways to sample in order to determine their future before college. Indian River State College is now enrolling classes at our Synergy campus as a pilot program which in essence makes Synergy an additional campus for them to the public .

IRSC & St. James Christian Academy are partnering to provide Dual Enrollment and Industrial Arts classes to students in St Lucie County. The joint Articulation Agreement also includes evening college and certification courses now offered at The Synergy School of Tomorrow (formerly Virginia College) campus. ALL students have opportunities for scholarships, certificates, diplomas, and degrees and will receive career and job placement training to launch them into successful careers in the community and the world.



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We are requesting the Councils approval to issue tax exempt private activity bonds to be used to acquire the Virginia College Campus in Fort Pierce.

Please be advised that the bonds will be issued to pay for the purchase cost of the facility and that the bonds are not a financial obligation of the City of Fort Pierce, St Lucie County, nor the State of Florida. Repayment is based solely on the financial resources and pledge of payments by St James Christian Academy.

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Thank you for your consideration and approval  
of our TEFRA Hearing to complete the  
bond issuance process.