



September 25, 2017

Greetings Superintendent Davis,

On behalf of Space Florida, this state's spaceport authority with responsibility for positioning Florida as the global leader in aerospace research, investment, exploration and commerce, I would like to offer our support for the nominated name for Clay County's newest elementary school: **Discovery Oaks Elementary School**, home of the *Voyagers*.

Northeast Florida and Clay County have become synonymous with Florida's renewed and geographically diverse commitment to our nation's expanding space enterprise. This is an opportunity to further that effort.

With the next generation's educational voyage beginning in elementary school, what better way to inspire our youth than to name their newest school after one of our nation's most storied and historic space vehicles: Space Shuttle OV-103, aka: **DISCOVERY**, and to have as a mascot the name of one of humanity's greatest scientific instruments; the Voyager spacecraft, the only sign of man now beyond our Solar System.

As has been brought to my attention, the Oakleaf area, and specifically the Branon Field Master Plan is encouragingly space centric. Discovery Oaks Elementary would seem a logical addition for a public school bracketed by two roadways named for the Space Shuttles Discovery and Challenger. With the Challenger Center business park providing space for Aerospace economic development, and the Cecil Commerce Center and Spaceport as the only licensed horizontal launch spaceport on the East coast, the appropriateness of the Discovery name is self-evident.

Space Florida salutes the Clay County effort to provide children the ability to reach their greatest potential throughout their educational journey using the inspiration of the American space program.

I strongly support the naming of Clay County's newest educational endeavor Discovery Oaks Elementary School. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Please feel free to contact myself or Dale Ketcham, our Chief of Strategic Alliances (dketcham@spaceflorida.gov), should any questions arise.

Sincerely,

Frank A. DiBello
President & CEO

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