MAGNET MATTERS

Name of Magnet: First Responders Academy

Name of School: East River High School

Magnet Focus/Theme: Providing a sound foundation to careers in first responder fields, students will focus on either Criminal Justice (Law Enforcement) or Fire Science Technology (Firefighter). Students will utilize first responder skills with school events and athletic events. Simulations such as crime scene investigations, mock crash scene investigations, conducting traffic searches, practicing proper gear and tool usage as well as physical fitness training will be central to this program. Industry certifications and possible college credit from Valencia College are available.

Key Personnel
- Principal: Mrs. Nikki Campbell
- Magnet Administrator: Mrs. Jennifer Fugate – Jennifer.fugate@ocps.net
- Magnet Coordinator: Mrs. Amanda Carlson – Amanda.carlson@ocps.net

Website Link: First Responders Academy

Notable Quotes:

“The way the teachers teach and promote their courses in this program is amazing. I love how interactive they are, and how caring and patient they are for everybody.” – 10th Grade Law Enforcement Student

“My best experience is when we had an officer come in for a demonstration. I think it's cool that we are able to have people who work in the different parts of the field to come in and inform us about their job.” – 10th Grade Law Enforcement Student

"The First Responders Academy Magnet has benefitted me by giving me a glimpse into a career choice that I have been interested in my whole life, while giving me the opportunity to get a head start on my path to becoming a firefighter." - 11th Grade Firefighting Student
"My best experience has been getting to see kids really shine academically being in a class they're genuinely interested in and have motivation to be successful because they're able to see a direct correlation between what they're doing and learning in this class and what they hope to do in a future career field. I've been able to see students who might struggle in other areas really bloom in this program and see it as a source of pride." - Teacher, Law Enforcement

"This Magnet program is giving students intentional instructional focus in a potential career field. They have the opportunity to earn college credit throughout the course of the magnet program, which ultimately saves families money. Students have the unique opportunity to work with practitioners in law enforcement and the fire service while learning fundamental concepts in both fields." – Teacher, Law Enforcement

"The magnet provides endless opportunities and pathways for careers post-graduation. My favorite part is the HOT training (hands-on) and getting to see the students’ faces fill with excitement when they are doing such training. To see the motivation and determination on their faces is fantastic." - Teacher, Firefighting