



CANTERBURY NAMED FIRST COUSTEAU DIVERS SCHOOL

Pierre-Yves Cousteau, son of legendary ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau, announced today that the Canterbury School of Florida will be the first Cousteau Divers school in the world. Cousteau Divers is an international not-for-profit organization fostering scientific programs that monitor and conserve marine biodiversity around the world, and Canterbury will now be part of this global program. Students will catalog and track biodiversity in the Gulf of Mexico, create wildlife guide books for the Gulf and monitor water quality through data loggers. Reflecting on his visit last fall, Cousteau said he was “amazed by the incredible facilities and the work and education” going on at the school, which also has a new SCUBA Venturing Crew, a charter under the Boy Scouts of America.

Dr. Peter Betzer, president of the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership, said the relationship between Cousteau Divers and Canterbury is the result of collaboration between the City of St. Petersburg, Canterbury, scientific organizations like the Center for Ocean Technology and SRI, non-profits like Tampa Bay Watch and the Pier Aquarium, and the thousands of scientists at Bayboro Harbor. Betzer told students, “What is happening today will vault you onto the international stage.”

Head of School Mac Hall announced that Canterbury’s Marine Studies Education Center (MSEC) will now be called the Cousteau Marine Studies Education Center in honor of the marine conservation and exploration work done by the Cousteau Family.

The Canterbury School of Florida is a local independent school for students in grades PreK-12. Students in all grades participate in a marine studies curriculum and themed community service projects throughout the year. Projects include planting marsh grass, red drum aquaculture, cleaning local waterways and beaches, and Ocean Drifter tracking. The school offers clubs like kayaking, fishing and underwater submersible robots construction. Relationships with many local resource organizations, including Tampa Bay Watch, Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Eckerd College and the College of Marine Science at the University of South Florida, allow Canterbury's Marine Studies program to offer unique learning opportunities.



Head of school Mac Hall, Director of Marine Studies Jenna Cummings accept the Cousteau Divers flag from Pierre-Yves Cousteau.