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Insertion Date: Wed, Dec 30, 2009 Publication: Bradenton Herald



**STUDENTS...**  
*It takes good SKILLS to live well.*

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## Learning Life Skills

Language arts, history, science, math...these are the familiar school subjects. They challenge students to learn more, study harder, and prepare for successful careers. But at Braden River Middle School (BRMS), students have an additional advantage as they get ready for the future. BRMS students take Family and Consumer Science (FACS), a class dedicated to teaching life skills and values that enrich lives today and play an important role for students as they continue their journey into adulthood.

Meet Mrs. Jill Bergeron, Family and Consumer Science teacher for the sixth and seventh grade "wheels." This required class prepares students with life skills they need to function independently. Students learn how to sew on a button, how to shop for and prepare nutritious meals, and how to care for children. They explore different strategies for balancing work and family life.

"I like the fact that what I teach applies to everyday living," Jill explains. "Students in my class are doing specific tasks and activities for the first time. They are so proud of themselves when they learn a new skill and realize just how much they really can do."

Jill also teaches eighth grade Career Discovery, a curriculum that explores a variety of career paths including event planning, culinary arts, interior design, and childcare. Presently students are working on a multicultural theme that includes selecting a country, researching its traditions, creating a festive atmosphere, and planning, preparing, and serving a traditional meal.

In addition to her normal teaching duties, Jill serves as advisor for the BRMS Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter; a student-based national organization that promotes personal growth and leadership development through family and consumer science education.

Cassandra Rankin, an eighth grader at BRMS, is active in FCCLA. "I like making new friends and learning new skills, especially leadership skills," she said recently. This year Cassandra serves as secretary of the school's FCCLA chapter. She was also recently elected to the office of Historian for the FCCLA District. Cassandra is already thinking ahead and preparing for District competition in March. "Last year I won the silver medal at states for the Florida Writes category," she said. "This year I am planning to compete in the Food Innovations event where you have to create, test, and market a new food product that is high in fiber content and good tasting, too."

Mrs. Jill Bergeron and her Family and Consumer Science classes are creating confident leaders at home and in the community. Students who enjoy this career path can choose to further their experience by selecting FACS and culinary electives and by participating in FCCLA at the high school level.



Career Discovery students prepare to enjoy their traditional meal from Poland. (L-R) Sophia Price, Marina Haynes, Brianna Sheflin, Samantha Hannabass, Alondra Corona, Kayla Nyland, and Itzia Santamaria.



FACS instructor Jill Bergeron, left, and student Cassandra Rankin review upcoming FCCLA events.

## JOBS



**Corporate Event Planner**  
 Salary: \$33,200 – \$50,700  
 Workplace: convention centers, tourism centers  
 Hours: office hours and event times.



**Chef**  
 Salary: \$36,700 – \$55,000  
 Workplace: restaurants, institutions  
 Hours: long hours, flexible



**Interior Designer**  
 Salary: \$31,800 – \$57,200  
 Workplace: design centers, high-end furniture stores, builders  
 Hours: office or retail hours



**FCCLA:** Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America A dynamic national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through Family and Consumer Sciences education.

### PARENT CORNER

- Discussion starter: what if your middle or high school student made a mistake and was in the "wrong place at the wrong time." Would you be willing to come pick your child up at any time of the day or night? Why not develop a secret code word that means, "Come get me NOW please!" Perhaps you could agree that if they spoke that word, you'd respond quickly and ask questions later.
- Does your child know how to write a check or balance a checkbook? Now would be a good time to learn. Personal finance is an important life skill to impart before they grow up and leave home.
- "Students are learning skills and values they can use today and in the future with their own families." Jill Bergeron, BRMS Family and Consumer Science teacher. Jill can be reached at 941-751-7080 ext. 2072.

### FCAT reading comprehension QUESTION

★ What student organization supports Family and Consumer Science education?

Answer: Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

### What's on the WEB?

- [www.fcclainc.org](http://www.fcclainc.org)
- [www.hgtv.com](http://www.hgtv.com)
- [www.behr.com](http://www.behr.com)
- [www.diy.com](http://www.diy.com)

### COMMENTS

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The Careers in Action Page is published every Wednesday in the Bradenton Herald. Provided by Newspapers in Education.  
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