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**STUDENTS...**  
 What if you were the  
**FIRST RESPONDER?**

**LEARN today, EARN tomorrow, SHAPE your future NOW** [www.ManateeACT.com](http://www.ManateeACT.com)

## Preparing for a Fast-Paced, Action-Packed Future

Students enrolled in the Academy of Medical Arts and Sciences at Manatee High School (MHS) are on the cutting edge of the health care learning curve. Under the direction of lead teacher Laura Sollenberger, students learn in a hands-on, fast-paced, and action-based environment. Laura and other Academy teachers establish a solid foundation of knowledge in the classroom complemented by field trips, career shadowing, internships, competitive events, and certification opportunities.

On a recent visit to Laura's classroom, First Responder students were quiet and focused. All eyes were on the whiteboard as the PowerPoint presentation unfolded. The subject? Shock: its causes and effects on the body. So, you may wonder, what is a potential cause of shock? One possibility is *Hypoperfusion*, or decreased or inadequate blood supply. Laura brought this lesson to life by sending students to an eight-hour first-responder class at St. Petersburg College. Students took turns role-playing as the victim and the first responder while practicing extrication from a motor vehicle accident (MVA) using a Kevlar Extrication Device (KED).

"We have strong community support for the Academy of Medical Arts and Sciences internships from Blake Medical Center and Manatee Memorial Hospitals as well as private physician offices, pharmacies, veterinarians, and outpatient surgical centers," Laura explained. "Students also benefit from several articulation agreements, including State College of Florida, St. Petersburg College, and Manatee Technical Institute."

"I team-teach with Manatee County Emergency Management Services educator Lt. Jerome Ruffing," she continued. "A favorite First Responder student field trip is to the Manatee County Public Safety Complex where Lt. Ruffing has students practice scenarios that prepare them to shadow Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) and paramedics in the field during their second semester." Every year all students enrolled in the Academy of Medical Arts and Sciences become CPR and First Aid certified. Students completing the First Responder class also earn three credits from St. Petersburg College. New this year, students have the opportunity to take the National Foundation Health Care Skills Assessment, a nationally recognized certification.

Laura and ninth grade Medical Skills and Services teacher Barbara Lane serve as advisors for the school's chapter of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), an organization whose mission is to promote career opportunities in health care and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people. HOSA members hone their skills and compete in a variety of events including Forensic Medicine, Extemporaneous Health Poster, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, and Medical Terminology.

If you are a high school student desiring an exciting career in health care, start smart by finding out how you can apply to the MHS Academy of Medical Arts and Sciences.



First Responder students practicing MVA extrication on a backboard. (L to R) Isaac Riley, 'victim' Melanie Keely with a cervical spine collar and sling in place, Patricia Maldonado assessing blood pressure status using a portable sphygmomanometer, and Loryn Hendrick.



First Responder teacher Laura Sollenberger observes students Loryn Hendricks (lower left) and Isaac Riley practicing CPR skills.

## JOBS



**Athletic Trainer**  
 Salary: \$26,000 – \$59,000  
 Workplace: sports environments  
 Hours: flexible



**Veterinary Technician**  
 Salary: \$20,000 – \$29,000  
 Workplace: veterinarian clinics, animal shelters  
 Hours: office hours



**Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic**  
 Salary: \$22,000 – \$34,000  
 Workplace: accident scenes, emergency vehicles  
 Hours: flexible



**HOSA**  
 Health Occupations Students of America provides a program of leadership development, motivation, and recognition for students enrolled in health care education programs.

### PARENT CORNER

- ✓ Discussion starter: Ask family members what they would do in case of an emergency. Discuss different scenarios—a medical emergency, a hurricane, etc. Come up with an action plan.
- ✓ It's never too early or too late to discuss and discourage the use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco. Keep communication open with your students...and remember, children model what they see in you.
- ✓ "Assess" is a common medical term. Why not assess your child's career interests and plans? After discussing options with them, help them to pursue career shadowing and internship opportunities.
- ✓ "Students enrolled in the Academy of Medical Arts and Sciences benefit from strong community support, shadowing, and internship opportunities as they explore their interests and career options." Laura Sollenberger, Manatee High School's Academy of Medical Arts and Sciences. For more information about this academy, call Laura at 941-714-7300, ext. 2078.

### FCAT reading comprehension QUESTION

★ What is the name of the device used to extract victims from a vehicle involved in an accident?

Answer: Kevlar Extrication Device

### What's on the WEB?

- [www.hosa.org](http://www.hosa.org)
- [www.innerbody.com](http://www.innerbody.com)
- [www.naemt.org](http://www.naemt.org)
- [www.mccemsauxiliary.org](http://www.mccemsauxiliary.org)

### COMMENTS

We appreciate your feedback! Email your comments about *Careers in Action* to [ManateeACT@gmail.com](mailto:ManateeACT@gmail.com).



**EdVantage Strategic Objective #4: Actively engage in global outreach.**



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