

Exciting. Relevant. Real. That's High School!

Live TV production. Cutting-edge technology. Career shadowing opportunities. College credits through dual enrollment. Does this sound like high school to you? It does if you make it happen and take advantage of all the possibilities offered right here in our career academies in Manatee County.

The Lakewood Ranch High School (LRHS) Academy of Business, Marketing and International Studies offers all of these advantages and prepares students for a broad range of college and career opportunities. The academy provides relevant, real-world applications in the classroom and beyond.

Academy co-lead teacher Bryon Stedman teaches TV Production, and his students gain skills rivaling that of a commercial TV station. "We are living in a media-driven society," he explains. "The skills students gain in the classroom will better prepare them for a higher earning potential because they will already be familiar with many programs that are being used in the field."

Bryon is proud of the state-of-the-art equipment and the creative freedom his students experience. One of the ways students prepare for the future is by 'going live.' That's right—built into the school's daily schedule is a ten-minute slot where all eyes are watching live announcements, news, sports, and even "commercials" produced by Television Production students. Behind the scenes, senior Cameron Helweg is a valuable team player with a can-do attitude. He has cross-trained for whatever it takes to make a live production successful. Whether it's the technical lighting, sound, or video switcher, Cameron does it all. "I love the adrenaline rush," he said. "You've got to get it right the first time. It's a good stress."

Cameron's TV Production classes are preparing him for his dream job. "I would like to tour with a major show production as a rigger, a rigging assistant, or an electrician," he explained. "For me it's about getting lost in the technical abyss of the concert." To support his goals, Cameron is a member of Technology Students Association (TSA), an organization that fosters leadership and competitive opportunities in technology, design, and engineering.

Fellow senior Rebecca Stoll's interests lie in journalism and the medical field. She is the vice-president of public relations for the LRHS Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter. Rebecca also participates in dual enrollment, earning tuition-free college credits at State College of Florida while still in high school. Recently she shadowed local family physician Dr. Josette Grice. "When you're finished with your patients in the office, you still aren't done," observed Rebecca. "You have to go to the hospital next to make your rounds. It's a long day." Rebecca's essay on shadowing earned high marks for her Advanced Placement Literature and Composition class.

At LRHS and throughout the county, education comes alive through career academies. Students—are you taking the career classes that provide real skills and increase your earning power?



Cameron Helweg behind the scenes of the LRHS live news show.



On-air "talent" Juan Leguizamon and Chelsea Williams delivering the news during the live morning show.



Rebecca Stoll squeezing in some study time in the media center.

JOBS



Video Equipment Technicians
Regional Salary: \$36,000 – \$41,400
Workplace: television studios, commercial video services
Hours: flexible



Reporters and Correspondents
Regional Salary: \$25,800 – \$47,900
Workplace: television studios, newspaper, online media
Hours: flexible



Producers and Directors
Regional Salary: \$25,600 – \$68,600
Workplace: television studios
Hours: flexible



TSA: Technology Student Association.
A nationwide organization of over 150,000 middle and high school students aspiring to be future engineers, scientists and technologists. Leadership, competitions, and fun!

PARENT CORNER

- ✓ Discussion starter: According to a recent survey (USNews.com), one third of teens admitted to using cell phones to cheat in school, either by storing facts or by texting a friend. 80% of "high achieving" high school students admitted to cheating. Discuss ethics with your student. People with high moral standards make successful employees and business owners, winning in the long run.
- ✓ Learning idea: purchase inexpensive white shower curtain liners. Using a permanent marker, let younger students write spelling and vocabulary words on the shower curtain. Bath time is now study time! (Note: search online to purchase shower curtains with world maps, SAT prep vocabulary words, Spanish words, and more.)
- ✓ "We are a media-driven society and I teach how to create media." Bryon Stedman, LRHS TV Production teacher. For further information on the LRHS Television Production program, contact Bryon at stedmanb@ManateeSchools.net or 941-727-6100, ext. 2153.

FCAT reading comprehension QUESTION

★ What are some of the advantages to taking career classes in high school?

Answer: career shadowing opportunities, cutting-edge technology, real skills, increased earning power.

What's on the WEB?

- www.tsaweb.org
- www.fcclainc.org
- www.broadcastingcareers.com
- www.filmmaking.net

COMMENTS

We appreciate your feedback! Email your comments about *Careers in Action* to ManateeACT@gmail.com.



EdVantage Strategic Objective #4: Continually participate in democratic processes.

