

CAREERS IN ACTION

ADULT, CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY

Students...
Too young to start thinking
about your career?
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Starting Early on Careers and Skills

When you think of exploring career pathways and developing the skills needed to succeed in the future, do you think of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders? Haile Middle School students do! Especially the ones in Mrs. Rochelle Banach's *Introduction to Computers, Computer Applications II, and Yearbook* classes!

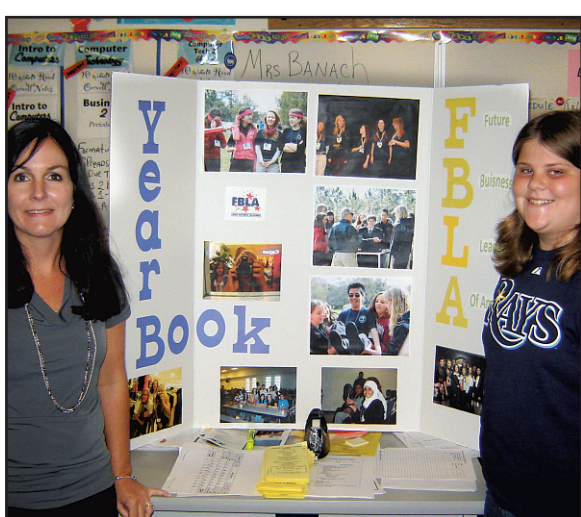
Mrs. Banach draws on her years of corporate experience to demonstrate real-world relevance in the classroom. Her students are working hard at developing the skills that will make a difference for them both now and into their adult lives. Students learn time management, leadership, teamwork, and problem solving as well as computer applications and various software programs.

Mrs. Banach continues to make the school-to-career connection by serving as advisor to students in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club. FBLA is the premier organization for students preparing for careers in business and is the largest student business organization in the world with a quarter of a million members. "FBLA is a great way for students to master the skills they need as an individual and also as a team member," Mrs. Banach said. "The students work hard to gain a competitive edge and confidence in their abilities so that when they get to district and state conferences and compete with their FBLA peers, it all pays off. Seeing my students reach their goals and be successful is the best part of my program. I am very proud of them and what they can accomplish."

Seventh-grader Hannah Neu's favorite class is Yearbook with Mrs. Banach. "I signed up for Yearbook as my elective because last year I took Graphic Design with Mrs. Platt and it really sparked my interest," Hannah shared. "When you're in Yearbook, you're also in FBLA and that's really fun! Right now we are working on our summer spread. We're gathering pictures, interviewing students, and writing articles. My favorite part is putting it all together with Photoshop. I like cropping the pictures and designing backgrounds and graphics."

Hannah is also a dedicated softball player and an active youth group member. She hopes to one day coach softball at the college level and become a graphic arts teacher.

Exploring career pathways and developing skills for success is a part of the middle and high school education process. Joining a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) like FBLA is an option at many schools that increases the learning "fun factor" and enhances student experiences. Contact the guidance counselor or career education teacher at your school to find out more about joining one of these dynamic student organizations.



Mrs. Rochelle Banach and student Hannah Neu recruit newcomers into Haile Middle School's Future Business Leaders of America chapter.



Students Carly Patterson (foreground) and Carly Palkovich work in the Haile Business Lab.

JOB



Financial Operations
Salary: \$34,800 – \$71,500
Workplace: various businesses
Hours: office hours



Graphic Designers
Salary: \$30,400 – \$44,900
Workplace: website firms, marketing departments
Hours: office hours



Computer Systems Analysts
Salary: \$43,800 – \$73,100
Workplace: tech firms and larger corporations
Hours: office hours



FBLA members gain a competitive edge, as the best and brightest students compete in leadership events, share their successes, and learn new ideas about shaping their career through workshops and exhibits.

PARENT CORNER

- Discussion starter: parents, when working with your children on things like being on time, following through on household tasks and chores, and communications skills such as making eye contact while talking, why not introduce the terms "work habits" and "employability skills." Make the career connection at home to improve your child's future.
- What other employability skills can you think of? Ask your child for ideas, and discuss the concept that people with good work habits are often promoted or receive salary increases before people who lack them.
- "My philosophy for teaching promotes stimulating the mind, encouraging group interaction, sparking interest among a diverse group of students and repeating the learning outcomes to foster long term memory of the subject matter. Rochelle Banach, Haile Middle School.

FCAT reading comprehension QUESTION

★ What positive employability skills were mentioned in the article?

Answer: time management, leadership, teamwork, and problem solving



Did you know that high school students who complete a sequential series of graphic design or digital design classes may be eligible for 3 – 24 college credits? The digital design career pathway articulates to Manatee Technical Institute and/or State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota. For more available career pathways and to find out how you can earn college credit for high school career coursework, visit www.CareerPathways.me.



EdVantage Strategic Objective #2: Each student will articulate personal goals, create plans to achieve those goals, and exhibit progress toward their attainment.



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