

**Students...
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Ho, Ho, Ho and a Jolly TSA

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) help Manatee County students gain career skills, practice leadership, enjoy camaraderie with other students, compete across the nation (and world!), and enjoy giving back to the community. One active CTSO is the Technology Student Association (TSA). On December 10, 2010, TSA chapters from across the entire District got into the spirit of the season and threw a gigantic party, technology style, on behalf of children in our community. A total of 23 GAP (Grandparents as Parents) families consisting of over 75 children and at least 35 adult caregivers, along with children from foster care group homes and emergency shelters, were the special guests of the TSA's first annual Manatee County TSA Holiday Community Celebration at Haile Middle School.

The idea for the holiday party was born out of a desire by TSA chapters in the District's middle and high schools to find a way to give back to the community who has supported their efforts as they have sent hundreds of students to state, national and even world competitions. TSA chapters involved in this community service effort included Lakewood Ranch, Braden River, Bayshore, and Southeast High Schools; Haile, Braden River, Nolan, Johnson, Harllee, Buffalo Creek, and Sugg Middle Schools; and McNeal Elementary.

At the party, Haile volunteers cooked up a delicious spaghetti dinner, and TSA students donated desserts and drinks. Meanwhile, TSA chapters and the Adult, Career, and Technical Education (ACT) Department sponsored families and provided each one with a generous assortment of gifts and gift cards.

The excitement of the party centered around hands-on, action-packed activities and demonstrations, with technology as the foundation and FUN as the theme. Children of all ages raced CO2 powered dragsters down a speed track, which they could then take home; created and decorated laser-engraved and candy cane ornaments; launched mini rockets; created paper airplanes modeled after real planes; constructed wooden beanbag-toss games, birdhouses, and bug catchers which were then personalized with a laser engraver; had their photo taken and then framed in a handmade frame; received personalized embroidered wash cloths; got their faces painted; and of course, visited with Santa! Music filled the air, provided by the talented Lakewood Ranch High School jazz band, the Urban Travelers.

When TSA District officers were looking for a place to hold this event, Haile Principal Janet Kerley quickly volunteered her school. The holiday party was held in Haile's cafeteria, and the Haile community rallied volunteers together to help. Business partners Engraving Systems Support (ESS) and Home Depot also contributed donations and materials to the event.

"All of the chapters and schools who participated did a wonderful job," shared TSA advisor and event coordinator Pamela Platt. "The cooperation and generosity of all of the TSA advisors, teachers, students, and families was just fantastic!"



Technology Student Association (TSA) members gain top job skills and integrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts through hands-on activities and competitive events.



TSA students and parents donated a table full of desserts for the party.



The crowd enjoyed the spaghetti dinner.



Haile Middle School students get ready to put on a party!



Technology teacher Richard Platt and his students man the dragster race track.



Lakewood Ranch High School students help guests construct bean-bag toss games.



Santa's chair awaits with lots of presents gathered for the families.



Kid-painted take-home dragsters await their turn for the track.



Technology teachers Quintin Jones (left) and Ryan Bremner help make the party hearty.



Nick "Santa" Levanduski and his Haile Middle School elf, Erin McClure.



Guests make ornaments with help from Braden River High School students and advisors.



Technology teacher Greg McGrew helps a youngster construct a game.

PARENT CORNER

- ✓ Discussion starter: is your child involved in a Career and Technical Student Association? If not, they are missing out on opportunities to build skills and to develop leadership and character. Encourage them to join today!
- ✓ Manatee County offers middle school, high school, and postsecondary school students opportunities to join the following CTSOs: Technology Student Association (TSA), Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), National FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America), Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Diversified Career Technology/Career Education Clubs of Florida (DCT/CECF), Future Builders of America (FBA), Florida Public Service Association (FPSA), and SkillsUSA.
- ✓ "Our CTSOs are recognized throughout the nation for their accomplishments, and throughout the community for their contributions. We're proud of our CTSO students and advisors." Doug Wagner, Director; Adult, Career and Technical Education, Manatee County Schools. For further information about CTSOs, contact the career advisor, guidance counselor, or career education teachers at your school.

FCAT reading comprehension QUESTION

★ Identify some of the technology-based activities at the party.

Answer: CO2 dragster racing, rocket launching, laser engraving, construction, and more.

What's on the WEB?

- www.ManateeACT.com
- www.tsaweb.org
- www.floridatsa.com



EdVantage Strategic Objective #3: Each student will continually participate in the democratic process.



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