

# CAREERS IN ACTION

ADULT, CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY

**Students:  
Here's a good IDEA...  
the IDEA Academy  
at MHS!**

**LEARN today, EARN tomorrow, SHAPE your future NOW**

[www.ManateeACT.com](http://www.ManateeACT.com)

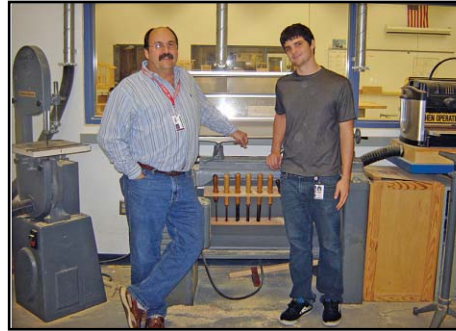
## Students find their place at the MHS IDEA Academy.

Manatee High School (MHS) holds a treasure trove of teachers offering students the knowledge, skills, and experiences needed to transition from high school into college and careers. These extraordinary educators draw on their own real-world experience. They add relevance to what students are learning, show how it relates to various career pathways, and help them discover what steps are needed to reach their goals. Because education has become more personalized and cohesive through career-based small learning communities and academies, students become more vested in their education and successful in their futures.

Under the tutelage of academy co-leader and geometry teacher Mrs. Cheri Briggs, students in MHS's Innovation, Design, Engineering, and Arts (IDEA) Academy are learning new concepts in geometry and applying them in their arts and engineering classes.

"What I like about the IDEA Academy is that it allows us to overlap and integrate our lesson plans, so students can take what I am teaching in Geometry Honors and apply it in their art class or their drafting class. For example, isometric and orthographic diagrams also apply to portraiture, physics, and the engineering of three dimensional items," Mrs. Briggs said.

IDEA Academy senior Chris Callahan is a pro at creating three dimensional objects. "The best part of my day is going to Mr. Orr's room," Chris shared. (Joe Orr is the co-leader and drafting teacher for the IDEA Academy.) "It really motivates me. I like working with the lathes and turning pens. When you can take a concept and draw out a design using SolidWorks, and then construct your design, it's very cool." Chris plans to attend Florida Gulf Coast University where he will study to become a marine biologist.



Manatee High School IDEA Academy co-lead teacher Mr. Joe Orr with senior Chris Callahan in front of the band saw, lathe, and CarveWright equipment.



IDEA Academy teachers. Back row (L-R): Ray Briggs, Rob Reiber, Jeff Sharp, Steve Parisian, Mark Bilter, Chris Peters, Jon Scott. Front row (L-R): Patti Hartman, Carol Sanek, Cheri Briggs, Joe Orr, Ann Chupa, Jason Giacomel, Patricia Harris

In another example of cross-curricular learning, physics and engineering teacher Mrs. Patricia Harris recently teamed up with TV Production teacher Jason Giacomel to take a group of IDEA Academy students to Busch Gardens for a hands-on park experience and Physics in Motion interactive show. Students learned about the science behind the coasters and examined the physics behind the bite force of some of the world's strongest carnivores. Television production students shot hours of footage for a Sarasota Film Rush documentary entry. Mark Rose, Busch Gardens roller coaster designer and Vice President of Design and Engineering, personally spoke with MHS students who filmed and interviewed him for a question and answer session.

Whether creative or concrete, artistic or scientific, dreamer or doer, students are finding their place and exploring career pathways at the MHS IDEA Academy.

# JOBS



**Mechanical Drafters**  
Salary: \$36,700 – \$52,300\*  
Workplace: Energy, aerospace, technology, manufacturing  
Hours: daytime



**Mechanical Engineering Managers**  
Salary: \$69,800 – \$120,000\*  
Workplace: Energy, aerospace, technology, manufacturing  
Hours: daytime



**Mechanical Engineering Technicians**  
Salary: \$29,600 – \$51,100\*  
Workplace: Energy, aerospace, technology, manufacturing  
Hours: daytime



The MHS IDEA Academy is based on Innovation, Design, Engineering, and Arts and falls under the umbrella of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Students may explore interests in construction technology, architecture and drafting, engineering, materials and processes, design (visual arts) and TV production. Focused on green technology and engineering, the Academy boasts an excellent engineering prototype.

Salary data:  
\*Based on the Florida Research & Economic Database (FRED) annual wage or salary survey data for 2010 in Workforce Region 18.

## PARENT CORNER

- Discussion starter: An IDEA Academy teacher was overheard saying, "Geometry drives drawing. Drawing drives construction. What's driving you?" Talk to your student about ideas and connections drawn from this statement.
- Is your child artistic? Explore ways that artistic talents can contribute to science, technology, engineering, and math. (Hint: graphic design, mechanical drafting, computer design, mathematics...the list is endless.)
- "Education should empower a student to achieve his or her goals." IDEA Academy lead teacher Mrs. Cheri Briggs." For further information, contact Academic Advisor Mrs. Patti Hartman at 941-714-7300, ext. 2170.

## FCAT reading comprehension QUESTION

★ What things (or creatures!) were used to teach students physics at Busch Gardens?

Answer: roller coasters and the bite force of carnivores (meat-eating animals)

## What's on the WEB?

[www.funderstanding.com/coaster](http://www.funderstanding.com/coaster)  
[www.real-world-physics-problems.com](http://www.real-world-physics-problems.com)  
[www.themanateehighschool.org](http://www.themanateehighschool.org)



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



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