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TSA: Winning Trophies, Gaining Skills

Energy and excitement filled the air as over 400 Manatee County Technology Student Association (TSA) students scurried across the Southeast High School campus recently with projects, dragsters, notebooks, and tool boxes in hand. Competitors from 5th to 12th grade arrived ready to win at the 5th annual Lockheed Martin / Manatee County 2011 TSA District Competition. Students focused and strained to achieve their best, with top performers earning coveted trophies, bragging rights, and the chance to represent their school and advance to the TSA State Conference in April.

Students competed in industry-related events including Agriculture and Biotechnology Issues; Challenging Technology Issues; Chapter Team; Construction Challenge; Construction Renovation, Digital Video, Dragster, Engineering Structure, Essays on Technology, Extemporaneous Speech; Film; Flight; Graphic Design; Lights, Camera, Action; Multimedia Production; Music Production; On Demand Video; Prepared Presentation; Problem Solving; Promotional Graphics; Robot Tobor; Transportation Challenge; TSA Cup: Marine Design; Webmaster; Website; and VEX Robotics. Fifth grade students from Abel, Braden River, Freedom, McNeal, and Prine Elementary competed in the Catapult event.

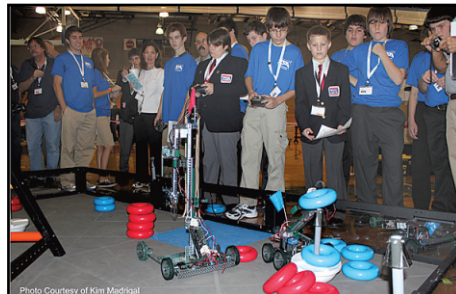
Top three wins at the high school level included 19 for Braden River, 9 for Southeast, 7 for Lakewood Ranch, 6 for Bayshore, and 4 for Manatee. Top three wins at the middle school level included 16 for Haile, 7 for Johnson, 6 for Braden River, 4 for Harlee, 3 for Nolan, 2 for Sugg, 1 for Buffalo Creek, and 1 for Lincoln.

Congratulations to all competitors and a huge thank you to our teachers and TSA advisors, the Lockheed Martin Company, the Adult, Career and Technical Education (ACT) Department, ESS – Engraving Systems Support, Holmquist Educational Consultants, Manatee Education Foundation, Southeast High School, and Chef Mike Niewodowski and the Southeast High School Culinary Club.

TSA is just one of many Career and Technology Student Organizations (CTSO) offered to Manatee County students at the middle and high school levels. TSA emphasizes learning and skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) while fostering personal growth, leadership, and opportunities through co-curricular activities, competitive events, and related programs.

Other active CTSO's include Career Education Clubs of Florida (CECF), Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), FFA, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Florida Public Service Association (FPSA), Future Builders of America (FBA), and SkillsUSA. Why not join one today?

Scenes from the Technology Student Association District competition.



VEX robotics in action.



High-speed dragsters must meet stringent requirements.



Elementary engineers launch catapults.



Working as a team in technology problem solving.

JOBS



Computer Programmers
Salary: \$45,400 – \$75,700*
Workplace: Technology and engineering firms
Hours: daytime



Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators
Salary: \$28,100 – \$39,600*
Workplace: manufacturing
Hours: shifts



Mathematical Occupations
Salary: \$36,200 – \$72,400*
Workplace: Energy, aerospace, technology, manufacturing
Hours: daytime



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

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: What is preventing your child from joining a career and technical student organization (CTSO)? Talk to your student about advantages of joining, such as gaining career and leadership skills, making new friends, and standing out on college and job applications.
- What career electives is your student taking this year? What skills are they learning? Talk to your student about these classes to find out more.
- "Our CTSSO students can be proud of their knowledge and achievements, and apply that knowledge whether they pursue college or a career after high school." Doug Wagner, Director – Adult, Career, and Technical Education, School District of Manatee County. For further information about CTSSO's, contact Elizabeth MacDonald at MacdonaldE@ManateeSchools.net.

FCAT reading comprehension QUESTION

★ Which high school TSA and which middle school TSA won more top-three places at the District competition?

Answer: Braden River High School and Haile Middle School

What's on the WEB?

- www.cecf.org
- www.deca.org/hsd.html
- www.floridafbla-pbl.com
- www.flfccla.org
- www.flaffa.org
- www.fpsainc.org
- www.flhosa.org
- www.skillsusa.info
- www.floridatsa.com
- www.futurebuildersofamerica.org



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