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THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY FEATURES A STUDENT AND A CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

# InquiziKidz

Newspaper in Education Presents

Brought to you by Adult, Career & Technical Education

## SCHOOL Biz



### A Win-Win Partnership

Stewart Bergmann supports students with various disabilities by helping them succeed in the world of work. Students in the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program are eligible to participate in a State diploma program called the *Diploma Option 2 Program*, also known as the *work option* program. It provides job skill opportunities for students who would otherwise drop out of school for hardships related to their disabilities. Participants must be 16 years old, approved by a planning team, and must find their own employment and transportation. They work a minimum of 30 hours per week. Students sign a contract along with a parent, the job coach, and a business representative.

Stewart serves in Manatee County as the ESE Diploma Option 2 Job Coach. His job is to make sure participants succeed, graduate, and follow the terms of their contract. He monitors monthly time sheets, performs quarterly evaluations, and helps students achieve a District mandated graduation plan. He helps program completers enroll at Manatee Technical Institute (tuition free!) to gain vocational and technical skills. Stewart currently oversees 85 students in the program, with an additional 25 receiving their diploma in May. The program is truly a win-win partnership between students, parents, the school district, and our local business community.



## KIDZ Biz & Buzz



### Don't Give Up Your Dream

Barry Cox is one of those students whose success stems from participating in the Diploma Option 2 Program. In school, Barry enjoyed creative writing. However, he struggled with math, truancy, and a feeling of disconnectedness from school. Barry and his Mom knew he needed to find something that would keep his interest and focus so he could earn his high school diploma. After acceptance into this work option program, Barry started out at McDonalds where he quickly learned to keep up with the fast pace. He soon realized that the harder he worked, the greater his sense of pride in his accomplishments. Barry earned his Option 2 Diploma at the age of 18 and participated in his class's graduation ceremony held at the Manatee Civic Center last May.

Now, Barry is enrolled in MTT's welding program. Soon he will have earned both his welding and OSHA certifications, skills that will open career doors throughout his life. He'll work in a field he is interested in while earning a good wage and benefits. Meanwhile, that's where the dream starts. You see, in Haile Middle School, Barry had an awesome eighth grade teacher—Mr. Troop—who nurtured his developing creativity and desire to write while at the same time emphasizing the need to be practical. So whether he writes a novel or screenplay, Barry Cox may just be the next Steven King. Congratulations, Barry!

## InnoVators EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

School's almost out, and you have been hearing those adult-sounding, responsibility-filled words, "You need to get a job!"

Where to start? The idea of a minimum wage job may not thrill you, but it's much easier to get a higher-paying job later if you're already employed. Employers like to hire people with experience, and you can't get experience until you have a job! Grocery stores, fast food restaurants, and kids' day camps make good first jobs that eventually lead to others on a higher level. These types of employers are often willing to hire and train young people. Here you will learn *employability skills*, qualities that employers look for in order to distinguish between good workers and the excellent ones. Employers are seeking reliable, responsible people who show up on time and can get along with others. They'll want to know: are you teachable? Are you eager to learn? Do you have a positive attitude? How well do you communicate? Are you honest? It's a good idea to learn technical skills and knowledge, but if you fail to develop employability skills that put you above the average employee, you'll have a harder time getting hired.



## DISCOVER the Future

### Career Pathways in Manatee County

Today's Career Focus – Entry-level jobs

**Today's Career Focus:** Today's focus is on entry-level jobs often available to high school students.

**Regional Careers:** Here are examples of real entry-level jobs in the Suncoast Region.

Occupational Title	Entry	Average
Retail Salespersons	\$8.14	\$13.27
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers	\$7.96	\$10.09
Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	\$7.90	\$10.19
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	\$7.62	\$10.18
Cooks, Fast Food	\$6.83	\$9.99
Food Servers, Non-restaurant	\$7.20	\$8.23
Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, and Coffee Shops	\$6.83	\$9.20
*Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$11.16	\$14.16

Source: <http://fred.labormarketinfo.com>  
 Florida Market Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics and Wages Program

## Explore IT

### Find Your First Job

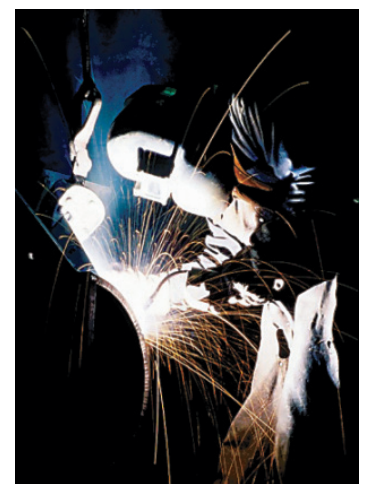
Finding your first job can be intimidating. Follow these instructions and you'll be earning a paycheck in no time.

1. Choose five different places to apply for a job.
2. Visit each place and pick up a blank application. (Grab two—one for practice, and one to fill out perfectly.)
3. Fill out the application as neatly as possible. Include extracurricular activities and volunteer hours, especially if you have no formal job experience.
4. Dress neatly in nice slacks and a dress shirt to turn in your application. While you are there, ask to speak to a manager to inquire about openings.
5. If you are asked to return for an interview, dress up even more nicely and arrive slightly early.
6. Arrive prepared to ask questions about the responsibilities.



7. Look the interviewer in the eye, and speak clearly.
8. Offer a firm handshake.
9. Maintain a positive, friendly attitude. Smile a lot.
10. Assure the interviewer that you have access to reliable transportation.
11. Repeat!

Here's an added tip. Purchase a box of thank-you notes. At the interview, jot down the manager's name and find out the mailing address. After you leave, quickly mail a thank-you note for his or her taking the time to talk to you. You'll make quite an impression! Keep applying for jobs—with different employers or repeatedly at the same employer. The harder you work to find a job, the faster you'll be cashing that first paycheck.



## WEB Wise

Check out the following websites:

- www.manateetechnicalinstitute.org
- www.jobfocus.com
- www.monster.com
- www.hotjobs.com
- www.careerbuilder.com



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