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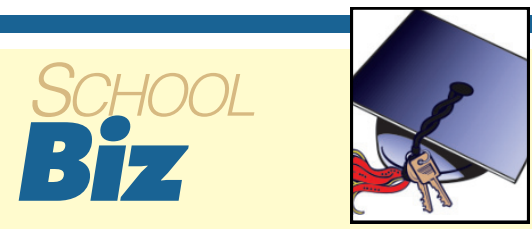
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THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY FEATURES A STUDENT AND A CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Newspaper in Education Presents  
**Inquizi**  
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**Staying Current in the Classroom**

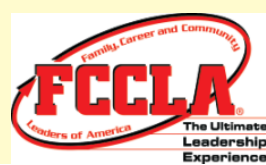
Palmetto High School's Education Academy has a strong leader at the head of the class. Lynda Elkin, Early Childhood Education teacher and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) advisor is passionate about teaching her students how to work with children. Lynda believes that staying current in technology enhances her teaching practices and furthers the quality of education of her students. Her classroom provides a wealth of important information. The Smart Board, an interactive white board that functions as a giant computer monitor, displays the food pyramid. Next to the Smart Board is a synopsis of the Frayer Method, a strategy for helping students understand new words or concepts. Students become familiar with learning, teaching, and reading strategies that not only help them learn but prepare them for a career in education. They learn and use CRISS strategies (**C**reating **I**ndependence through **S**tudent owned **S**trategies) which helps students to better organize, understand, and retain course information. Through technology and proven methodology, Lynda is equipping students with skills to do their jobs well and to keep up with current education trends. Lynda Elkin, you deserve a gold star!



**Leading the Way to Education**

Palmetto High School Junior Alexandra Foor has proven herself as a leader. A student in PHS's Education Academy, Alexandra is a member of the National Honor Society, President of PHS Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), and Secretary for the Florida State FCCLA. Looking ahead to next year, Alexandra is campaigning for the position of FCCLA State Rotative Officer, an elected office where she will have the opportunity to support other State officers. An excellent communicator, Alexandra is a past District winner of silver medals for both *Interpersonal Communication* in 2006 and *Job Interview* in 2007, as well as the State bronze medal winner last year for *Interpersonal Communication*. She is looking forward to this year's FCCLA States competition.

Alexandra works in the before and after-school care program as a teacher's aide at Palma Sola Presbyterian Church. She enjoys helping preschoolers learn by building blocks, finger painting, or leading some other arts & craft project. Alexandra plans to attend Flagler College and major in Education. It won't be long before she achieves her dream of becoming a preschool director.



*InnoVators*  
**SEEING, HEARING, TOUCHING: HOW DO YOU LEARN ?**



Let's say your math teacher is explaining a new concept by silently working out the problem on the board. You carefully watch his every stroke, but you still don't understand. Then your friend helps you out, quietly explaining each step aloud...and it clicks! Maybe you thought math wasn't your thing, but perhaps your *learning style* differs from your teacher's explanation methods.

Everyone learns differently, and research has narrowed these learning styles into three distinct categories: auditory, visual, and kinesthetic. *Auditory learners* usually remember well what they *hear* but have a difficult time retaining information they've read. They like listening to lectures, discussions, debates, audio tapes, etc. Interpreting body language can be a challenge for them, however, as well as reading or writing. *Visual learners* are the opposite; they remember things they've *read* and must *see* information to learn it. If they don't know the spelling of a word, visual learners write it down to see if it "looks" right. It may be hard to pay attention if there are little or no visuals in a lecture. *Kinesthetic learners* describe those who need hands-on activities and learn by interaction or movement. If they were learning how to assemble a car engine, for example, they'd rather get their hands on a real one instead of reading a how-to manual. Sometimes it's hard for kinesthetic learners to sit still for a long period.

What's your learning style? Notice which of your classes capture your attention and convey information in a way you can understand. Not all teachers will teach in your style, but always try your best to learn. Teachers and caregivers who understand these differing learning styles will combine strategies to include each one, making sure all students in the group learn well.



**Career Pathways in Manatee County**  
 Today's Career Focus – Teachers

**Today's Career Focus:** Teachers act as facilitators or coaches, using interactive discussions and hands-on approaches to help students learn.

**Regional Careers:** These are actual teacher salaries here in Manatee County based on the 2006-2007 salary schedules.

| Experience Level     | Entry    | Average  | Specialists | Doctorate |
|----------------------|----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| Step 0 (entry level) | \$37,500 | \$38,609 | \$41,068    | \$43,527  |
| Step 10              | \$41,642 | \$47,948 | \$49,217    | \$51,645  |
| Step 20              | \$51,859 | \$56,635 | \$60,614    | \$63,148  |

**Tech Prep Career Pathway:** Students desiring a career in digital design can find related educational programs at these area schools\*:  
 Palmetto High School, Manatee Community College, and the University of South Florida.

\*Other Manatee schools may offer similar programs. Listed schools are related to today's issue.



**Try it - Teach it**



As a student, it may be hard for you to pay attention in a class that doesn't incorporate your particular learning style. But how much more difficult is it for the teacher? He or she must teach a roomful of kids who all acquire knowledge differently. This activity is designed to give you a glimpse into a teacher's world; your challenge is to teach a younger child a new skill or concept using all three learning styles.

1. First, find a willing child—your younger sibling, a neighbor, a child you baby-sit, a cousin, etc. Be sure to ask the parent's permission. Let's call the child Sally.
2. Decide what you're going to teach Sally, depending on her age. You could teach her about the alphabet, fractions, addition/subtraction, how to spell a difficult word, facts about an animal, the correct structure of a sentence, how to cook spaghetti, or anything else you decide.
  - a. Teach Sally the skill using the *auditory* method. If she's learning how to add and subtract, tell her each

- a. step aloud.
  - b. Now try the *visual* method; show her on paper how it works.
  - c. Finally, use the *kinesthetic* method. Use small objects such as pennies or candy to demonstrate the concept, and let her try it herself.
3. Try another subject, for example: the alphabet.
    - a. Say the alphabet aloud, or sing the alphabet song. (*Auditory*)
    - b. Have the child trace the letters on paper. (*Visual*)
    - c. Now have the child arrange a set of magnet alphabet letters on the refrigerator or other metal surface. (*Kinesthetic*)

Which method worked the best, and how did the child respond? You might find that your favorite method of teaching is the same as your own learning style.



**WEB Wise**

Check out the following websites:

- www.brainpop.com
- www.brainpopjr.com
- http://atozteacherstuff.com
- www.abcteach.com
- www.fcclainc.org
- www.tffccia.org



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