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

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SCHOOL
Biz



Developing Skills with Warmth and Respect

Tracey Swart's classroom is full of students hard at work doing all kinds of different activities. As Manatee High School's Trainable Mentally Handicapped (TMH) teacher, Tracey plans her days around her students needs, promoting independence and the ability to function as adults. Tracey focuses on participation in daily campus life and activities, encouraging student development and growth in both social and job skills. Tracey's 13 students recently worked hard at creating a menu featuring orange cream and fruit smoothies. They went door-to-door visiting 56 staff members, enhancing their communication skills by taking orders and writing them down. Returning to their room, they assembled the smoothies and then headed back out the door to deliver them. The process was lengthy and time consuming but the rewards were invaluable. Each week the class takes time to make things like meatballs and salad. Tracey and her crew prepare, cook, and serve the Friday night pre-game spaghetti and meatball dinner for the football team. During basketball season, you can find Tracey and her crew running the concession stand. Regardless of student's abilities, there is something for everyone as they share the work together. With warmth and respect, Tracey is guiding her students toward a bright future as they gain skills that help them transition from high school to the world of work.

KIDZ
Biz
& **Buzz**



Young Man on a Mission

Garrott Choate, a senior at Manatee High School, is a young man on a mission. Nominated by his peers for the coveted title of Mr. Sugarcane 2007, Garrott is on the campaign trail. There are ten male nominees for the title, and the one who collects the most funds is crowned Mr. Sugarcane 2007. Garrott is raising funds for the Sugarcane Dance Club. To campaign, he has created a white satin sash decorated in red and blue that he wears while he shakes his can—that's his fundraising can—to raise money for the club. This lover of dancing and hip-hop music already has his date lined up for the big night. Garrott is also very active in Young Life and actively supports anything 'Cane—supporting the school's football team, the Hurricanes. One of Garrott's favorite activities is when he and his friends from Mrs. Swart's class make the salad and dressing for the football team's Friday night pre-game meal. He also helps keep the team's laundry sparkling clean. Whether it is fundraising, dancing, cooking, or cleaning, this young man is all about school spirit and he can do it all! Go Canes!

InnoVators

TRANSITION PROGRAM TRANSITION - MAKING YOUR WAY BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

What is transition? Life is a constant stream of transitions, but here it is referring to the shift every person experiences after leaving high school and preparing to enter the world of work, including starting a job or career, pursuing higher education, or living independently. Preparation for this change starts in high school at the latest, and it can be a challenging and overwhelming task. It is even more difficult for students with disabilities. For these students, it takes a team contribution to figure out what's next. The student, family, teachers, and community play an important part.

Many programs in the educational arena help young people take on the daunting responsibility of becoming adults. Schools may provide assessment tests, concentrating on specific work skills and interests to discover what occupational field or path of higher education would fit each student according to their abilities, likes, and dislikes. There are many kinds of assessments available. For example, **daily living skills assessments** can help determine the type of assistance persons with disabilities might need to live on their own. **Aptitude tests** can measure specific skills or abilities. **Interest inventories** can help identify a student's preferences for a career. **Intelligence tests** measure a student's cognitive performance while **achievement tests** such as the ACT or SAT measure learning. **Temperament inventories** identify a person's disposition as it relates to a career, and **employability tests** can assess the ability to perform specific tasks for specific jobs. The State of Florida recently implemented a work readiness series of assessments called **Florida Ready to Work**. Students scoring at a certain level on these assessments receive a certificate and card designed to show employers that they have the skills to succeed on the job. If you aren't sure about making the transition from high school to work or college, taking an interest inventory or other assessment may provide the guidance you need. Search online for free career assessments, or ask your guidance counselor for advice. (See a list of assessments at http://www.quintcareers.com/online_assessment_review.html)



DISCOVER
the
Future

Career Pathways in Manatee County

Regional Careers: Here are examples of related occupations and current wages in the Suncoast Workforce Region.

Occupational	Entry	Average	Exper.
Educational, Vocational, and School Counselors	\$9.15	\$21.05	\$27.00
Occupational Health and Safety Specialists	\$17.44	\$24.30	\$27.74
Occupational Therapist Assistants	\$18.94	\$23.35	\$25.56
Occupational Therapists	\$22.48	\$31.21	\$35.57
Physical Therapist Aides	\$9.13	\$11.33	\$12.43
Physical Therapist Assistants	\$17.19	\$22.40	\$25.00
Physical Therapists	\$25.57	\$33.38	\$37.29
Special Education Teachers, Preschool, Kindergarten	\$19.49	\$26.14	\$29.43
Vocational Education Teachers, Postsecondary	\$12.63	\$23.24	\$28.54

Source: <http://fred.labormarketinfo.com>
 FL Labor Market Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics & Wages Program

Career Pathway: Students desiring a career in any of these areas can find related educational programs at these schools*:

Manatee High School
 Manatee Technical Institute
 Manatee Community College
 University of South Florida

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

WEB
Wise

Check out the following websites:

www.driveofyourlife.org
<http://quintcareers.testingroom.com>
www.dcdt.org
www.thetransitioncenter.org
www.cpt.fsu.edu/ese/

Explore
IT

Career Interest Inventory

From the following list, choose the one that suits your style the best. Then, compare the jobs in the second list that correspond to your style. (Note: this is a high-level, abbreviated career interest inventory and is only meant to challenge your thinking. For a more comprehensive exercise, explore a career interest website such as <http://www.nycareerzone.org>)

1. Are you interested in jobs that require athletic or mechanical ability?
2. Are you interested in jobs with people who like to analyze, investigate, and solve problems?
3. Are you interested in creative, artistic, unstructured environments?
4. Are you a communicator who likes to work with people?
5. Are you a goal-oriented leader who likes to influence others?
6. Do you like working with facts, data, and specific tasks?

Careers that may interest you...

1. You may enjoy a career in construction trades, mechanic, manufacturing, landscaping, forestry, agricultural
2. You may enjoy a career as a physician, computer scientist, nurse, criminal investigator, or health educator.
3. You may enjoy a career as a creative writer, makeup artist, film editor, architect, graphic designer,
4. You may enjoy a career as a tour guide, trainer, social worker, teacher, personnel recruiter, travel agent, marketing manager, or enjoy a career in hospitality.
5. You may enjoy a career as a chef, construction manager, lawyer, judge, a member of the clergy,
6. You may enjoy a career as a computer operator, pharmacist, medical records technician, librarian, mail carrier, fire inspector, or dispatcher.

Adult
ACT
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Newspaper in Education

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