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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



The "Three Rs"—
Reading, Writing, and Real-World Technology

Braden River Middle School (BRMS) prides itself on bringing cutting edge technology to its students. At the head of the Technology class is Kirsten Lawlor. Each day, Kirsten dares them to keep an open mind. As lead advisor for TSA, she encourages students to enhance their experience by participating in this co-curricular, hands-on club. Kirsten keeps the technology lab open before school so students who want extra time and instruction can practice newly acquired critical thinking and problem solving skills. She incorporates math, science, reading, and career readiness into the curriculum. For example, every week students must find and read a technology-related article in the newspaper. They write a summary explaining the article and through this exercise, discover many different careers in technology. Other reading assignments might cover topics ranging from rocket history to different jobs in a printing company.

Kirsten's students also explore different avenues for problem solving. By producing outcomes that students never thought possible, she builds their confidence and self-assurance in a technological world.

KIDZ Biz & Buzz



Leading, Competing, and Winning

Paul Wagner was elected Technology Student Association (TSA) Vice President in the Braden River Middle School TSA chapter. He takes his responsibilities seriously and makes sure everything is running smoothly.

Paul's favorite part of the day is Technology Education. Last year, as a TSA project entitled *Inventions and Innovations*, the students engineered an electric bike kit. Twice a week before school, TSA members assembled the motor, bike, and charging system. It took two months, and when they finished, the students had built an electric bike that could travel up to 30 MPH!

Last year at the TSA State competition, Paul and his team won first place in *Inventions and Innovations* and *Manufacturing Challenge* as well as second place in *Technology Transfer Challenge*. In the National competition, they placed second in *Inventions and Innovations* and *Manufacturing Challenge* as well as third in the *Technology Transfer Challenge*. That's out of the entire United States!

An athlete and musician, Paul also plays competitive soccer for the Braden River Rage and French horn for the BRMS band. Whether at home, school, or at competitions, Paul is a leader and a winner!

InnoVators

SKYSCRAPERS: ARCHITECTURAL WONDERS

When you enter a city, the first things you see are the skyscrapers. They are architectural wonders, symbols of power and advancing technology, and cities fight for the claim of the "tallest building in the world". These buildings are made from a skeleton of steel beams and girders which rests on a heavy concrete foundation.

Cities didn't always have skyscrapers. As city populations increased, builders wanted to maximize land usage; they built up when there was no more room to build out. To make a building taller, though, they found that the base has to be widened. Builders also started making walls thicker because the walls on top are heavy enough to crush those at the bottom. The invention of the elevator allowed for even taller designs; housed in a central core of the building, elevators add support as well as fast access to the top.



Builders had to consider new problems with these tall towers, however, realizing the increased vulnerability to high wind speeds and earthquakes. It's also more difficult to escape from the top floors during a fire.

Skyscrapers come with benefits and disadvantages, but they'll remain as our cities' identifying landmarks and some of technology's greatest achievements. If you'd like to one day build a skyscraper, consider a career as an architect, construction manager, geotechnical engineer, electrical engineer, or structural engineer.



Career Pathways in Manatee County

Regional Careers: Related occupations and current wages in the Suncoast Workforce Region.

Occupational	Average	Exper.
Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$13.49	\$23.72
Architects	\$24.12	\$46.20
Civil Engineers	\$25.06	\$40.69
Electrical Engineers	\$22.64	\$36.81
Engineering Managers	\$32.19	\$62.61
Construction and Building Inspectors	\$17.36	\$22.62
Environmental Engineers	\$25.06	\$35.82

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*:

- Braden River Middle School
- Lakewood Ranch High School
- Braden River 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:

- <http://science.howstuffworks.com/skyscraper.htm>
- www.skyscraper.org/TALLEST_TOWERS/tallest.htm
- www.tsaweb.org
- www.floridatsa.com

Explore IT

Structural Engineering for Beginners

For this activity, your challenge is to build a "tower" from paper and other household materials that can hold up a tennis ball at least 18 inches off the ground. Sounds easy enough, right? Let's make it a little more complicated: can your tower support the ball even when blasted with gusts from an electric fan? You can only use the following materials:

- Tower foundation (tray, cardboard, or piece of wood)
- Straws
- Sheets of paper and/or newspaper
- String
- Tape
- Tennis ball
- Popsicle sticks
- Electric fan

Ask yourself these questions before you start building:

- How can you keep your tower from falling over?
- How can you make it strong enough to support the tennis ball and withstand the "wind"?

When you're ready, put the fan about one foot away from the tower and start it on low. Turn it up slowly. The ball might fall off and the tower might bend, but make the best use of your materials to fix the problems and improve your design.



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