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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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SCHOOL Biz



It's All New

Five years ago Richard Platt made a life-changing resolution. After spending 28 years in the business world, Richard stepped out of industry and into education. Currently teaching Communication Technology at Buffalo Creek Middle School (BCMS), Richard draws on his experience gained in the field of space technology—having worked with NASA and the space program—as well as Computer Aided Design (CAD), graphics, and marketing.

Under Richard's tutelage, students prepare for the future in our technologically advanced and highly competitive world. The foundation of his class is that students will learn the tools to build their own websites. They'll learn HTML, the original web developers' code; and they'll become proficient in the Adobe Creative Suite applications including Flash, Photoshop, and InDesign. Students have the opportunity to explore many diverse areas of communication including animation, video, and podcasting.

Richard also serves as the advisor for the BCMS TSA club. Students recently competed in the Lockheed Martin Manatee County TSA district competition and came home with wins in the Cyberspace Pursuit, Dragster Design, Structural Challenge, TSA Multimedia, and Video Challenge events. Congratulations to all!

KIDZ Biz & Buzz



Keeping up with Coral

Coral Nimz is enjoying her first year at Buffalo Creek Middle School (BCMS). In October she attended the Career Technology Student Organization (CTSO) rally held at Braden River High School where BCMS students won the "Spirit Stick" award. Next, Coral was selected as President of the BCMS TSA club and attended the TSA Leadership Conference in Orlando where she learned about parliamentary procedure. As a seventh-grade student in Richard Platt's communication class and a member of TSA, Coral is exploring digital video and digital photography. She competed in the Lockheed Martin Manatee County TSA District Competition where her project placed first in the Middle School Video Challenge event.

In her free time, Coral plays ice hockey and works toward a black belt in Tae-kwon-do. She is also a member of Mensa and tutors younger students at Mills Elementary. What does the future hold for Coral? This April Coral will compete at the State level TSA event in Orlando. Then farther into the future, Coral plans to head to California to attend Cal Tech. One thing is certain: Coral's technology skills will take her far!



InnoVators

WHAT'S UP WITH PODCASTING ?



Perhaps you've heard a new word floating around your techie friends' ever-growing vocabularies: *podcast*. What are they talking about? The word *podcast* stems from a blend of the words *iPod* and *broadcast*. Podcasts are digital media files that are distributed freely over the Internet. These files can be played on personal computers or on portable media players (such as the iPod), and they can be syndicated (brought from other websites), subscribed to, and downloaded immediately when new content is added. Podcasts can be audio or video. Video podcasts are sometimes called *vidcasts* or *vodcasts*. (No wonder new dictionaries are needed each year!) In plain English, a podcast is a broadcast delivered online. The key to this new media is that podcasts are available on demand—whenever the listener wants to listen.

Because of their syndication abilities, most podcasts require specific programs called *podcatching clients* (or simply "podcatcher") to play them. Radio stations, public speakers, politicians, teachers, faith-based organizations, and other special interest groups use podcasts to get their messages out into the public. Podcasts abound in every topic imaginable—a perfect media for those who like to learn. One popular use for podcasts is in the study of foreign languages; audio lessons speed the learning process along. The education community uses podcasts as a means to distribute lessons and communicate between teachers, parents, and the community. Richard Platt's Buffalo Creek Middle School students explore podcasting as part of their Distance Communication class.

Try it! You'll be surprised at how much information and entertainment is broadcasted via podcasts.



Explore IT

Learning by Podcast

Want to learn something new? How about a foreign language for your future travels? Free podcasts are just a few clicks away.

1. Go to <http://www.oculture.com>. This site, called Open Culture, was created by a Stanford professor with a mission to highlight educational and cultural content including a library of podcasts.
2. Click *foreign language*.
3. Scroll down the page and choose a language lesson. Look for titles such as "French for Beginners" or other starter lessons in another language.
4. Choose your podcast player source listed after the title. If your computer already has iTunes, the free download provided by Apple, click that option; if not, choose "web site".

Depending on which language you choose, there are different options on what to do next. Most sites will have a podcast player and you can click the play button indicated by a triangle. Make sure your computer's speakers are turned up. Learn how to say "hello", "goodbye", "my name is..." and you're off to a good start! Welcome to the world of podcasting!

DISCOVER the Future

Career Pathways in Manatee County

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

| Occupational | Entry Level | Exper. |
|---|-------------|---------|
| Computer Programmers | \$20.97 | \$36.79 |
| Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software | \$28.68 | \$50.27 |
| Computer Support Specialists | \$13.17 | \$23.55 |
| Graphic Designers | \$19.05 | \$29.98 |
| Video Producers and Directors | \$12.31 | \$15.51 |
| Media & Communication Equipment Workers | \$14.94 | \$28.94 |

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*:

- Buffalo Creek 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:

- www.tsaweb.org
- www.floridatsa.com
- www.oculture.com
- www.richardplatt.net



InquiziKidz page is published every Wednesday in Bradenton Herald. Provided by Newspaper in Education, Connie Fusaro (941) 748-0411 ext. 7971, cfusaro@bradenton.com, Julie Beacham-Hooie, Page Editor.

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