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 Ad Number: F81407  
 Description: kidz  
 Ad Size: 6 x 20.75"  
 Ad Builder: Julie Beacham-Hooie  
 Insertions: 1

Code: 001300000  
 Revision No.: 2  
 Sales Rep: Blank #1  
 Rep Phone:  
 Rep Fax:  
 Date: Tue, Mar 17, 2009 - 2:52 PM

## UPLOADED PDF

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Insertion Date Publication  
 Wed, Apr 1, 2009 Bradenton Herald

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**



## Enthusiasm and Fun

Sugg Middle School (SMS) technology teacher Chuck Routhier believes learning is fun, and his classroom is well equipped to make it happen. Chuck teaches Exploring Technology as a "wheel" class for sixth graders and as an elective for seventh and eighth graders. His goal is to capture students' attention and increase their interest in technology.

So how do you capture a middle school student's attention? Chuck says, "Bring enthusiasm and fun into the classroom and students will respond. I have created several modules in my classroom that make learning more interesting. Whether his or her learning style is visual, auditory, or tactile, there is something for everyone." Classroom modules include the CarveWright, a powerful computer-controlled woodworking system, a sound studio, a flight simulator, architectural software, video game creation software, electronics modules, cartoon animation and programming. The choices and technologies are incredible!

Chuck is also the advisor for the SMS Technology Student Association (TSA). Many of his students recently competed at the Lockheed Martin Manatee County TSA District competition and are now gearing up for TSA State competition. Good luck!

KIDZ  
Biz  
& BuzzBright Student,  
Bright Future

Jacky He, a modest, hardworking, and talented young man, is wrapping up his final year at Sugg Middle School and preparing for high school. Jacky is president of Sugg's Technology Student Association (TSA) and treasurer of the National Junior Honor Society. He enjoys expressing himself musically by playing the guitar, violin, and cello. Jacky also likes to be creative, to compete, and to help others.

Last month Jacky and three teammates placed first in Odyssey of the Mind, an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. This month Jacky is preparing to compete in the TSA State Competition in Orlando. His favorite events include Chapter Team, Problem Solving, Structural Challenge, and Dragster Design.

Jacky's goal is to attend Harvard or the University of South Florida (USF) where he can solve problems and help others by becoming a family physician. With excellent time management skills, determination, and hard work, Jacky's future is sure to be bright.

## InnoVators

## Bridges: the Art and Science of Structural Engineering

When you think of a bridge, what comes to mind? Perhaps you picture the colossal Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco or the log across the creek in your backyard. Both are legitimate examples; they each aid in the transport of people and things from one side to the other. Bridges are structural challenges that must be built according to exact engineering guidelines to support massive weight without collapsing. They are also a form of art, expressions of ability, and trophies of the engineering realm. Famous bridges around the world draw thousands of tourists and grace many postcards.



How different would our world be without bridges? Bodies of water, canyons, even ditches or railroad tracks would present enormous problems for travellers, distributors, and commuters if bridges didn't exist. These structures are miracles of technology and brilliant applications of mathematics and physics. Civil engineers must carefully plan every step of the bridge-building process, from the calculation of costs and materials to the actual design and construction of the bridge. They use specific shapes in the design based on what type and size of bridge is being constructed. Triangles are commonly used in truss bridges, for example, because they're the strongest shape.

You can try your hand at bridge-building by experimenting with toothpicks. Many technology education students build toothpick bridges and then test them with weights to see which bridge is the most structurally sound. Take two boxes of standard wood toothpicks and one small bottle of carpenter's wood glue, and get building! Try out different shapes and put weight on your finished project to see how strong it is.

Bridge-building is a complicated process, but the end result is worth it. Learn to notice and appreciate the incredible engineering feats that surround you, and perhaps that appreciation will lead to a satisfying career in civil engineering later down the road. But you can cross that bridge when you come to it.

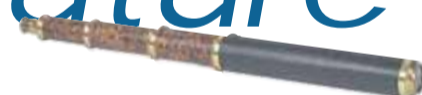
Explore  
IT

## Bridge Trivia

Test your smarts with these trivia questions about famous bridges around the world.

1. This bridge became a tourist attraction when it was remodelled with a 10,000-nozzle fountain that runs all the way on either side:
  - a. Banpo Bridge, in South Korea
  - b. Great Belt East Bridge, in Denmark
  - c. Humber Bridge, in England
  - d. George Washington Bridge, in New York
2. What is the highest steel arch bridge?
  - a. Oresund Bridge, linking Denmark and Sweden
  - b. Sydney Harbour Bridge, in Australia
  - c. Rainbow Bridge, in Tokyo, Japan
  - d. Oliveira Bridge, in Brazil
3. Where is the famous Tower Bridge located?
  - a. Rome, Italy
  - b. Sydney, Australia
  - c. New York City, New York
  - d. London, England
4. Which of the following bridges is a suspension bridge?
  - a. The Brooklyn Bridge, in New York
  - b. Ponte Vecchio, in Florence, Italy
  - c. Chapel Bridge, in Lucerne, Switzerland
  - d. Garden Bridge, in Shanghai, China
5. How long is the Sunshine Skyway Bridge?
  - a. 15,225 feet
  - b. 29,040 feet
  - c. 35,010 feet
  - d. 45,550 feet
6. How long did it take to build the Charles Bridge in Prague, Czech Republic?
  - a. 5 years
  - b. 10 years
  - c. 20 years
  - d. 50 years
7. About how many vehicles cross the Golden Gate Bridge every day?
  - a. 25,000
  - b. 50,000
  - c. 100,000
  - d. 500,000

Answers: 1-a, 2-b, 3-d, 4-a, 5-b, 6-d, 7-c

DISCOVER  
the  
Future

**Regional Careers:** Occupations and current wages in the Suncoast Workforce Region.

Occupation Title	Entry Level	Experienced
Minimum wage	\$7.21	-
Architects	\$24.12	\$42.97
Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$12.23	\$24.57
Civil Engineering Technicians	\$15.46	\$23.15
Civil Engineers	\$26.36	\$38.78
Construction and Building Inspectors	\$17.24	\$24.12
Structural Iron and Steel Workers	\$12.83	\$16.87

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\*:

Sugg Middle School,  
 Lakewood Ranch High School,  
 Manatee Technical Institute,  
 Manatee Community College,  
 the 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://bridgecontest.usma.edu>  
[www.howstuffworks.com/bridge.htm](http://www.howstuffworks.com/bridge.htm)  
[www.tsaweb.org](http://www.tsaweb.org)  
[www.floridatsa.org](http://www.floridatsa.org)

BRADENTON  
 HERALD  
 Manatee County's Newspaper since 1922



InquiziKidz page is published every Wednesday in Bradenton Herald. Provided by Newspaper in Education, Christine Fritch (941) 748-0411 ext. 5464, cfritch@bradenton.com Julie Beacham-Hooie, Page Editor.