

## YOUR FINAL PROOF

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

Newspaper in  
 Education Presents  
**Inquizi**  
 Brought to you by  
 Adult, Career &  
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SCHOOL  
Biz

## Digital Champions

Manatee Technical Institute prepares students for tomorrow's workforce, and students now have the opportunity to enhance their information technology (IT) knowledge through the newly offered New Media Technology program. At the head of the class is Ms. Vera Bourenina. Vera, a former computer engineer, says, "We cover any information that can be transmitted digitally. We teach desktop publishing, web design, digital design and rich internet application (RIA) using video, audio, and vector animation. This program is unique in that it combines advanced computer technology and creativity."

"My teaching philosophy is very simple—teaching to think and analyze, not to memorize; and teaching to integrate everything that is learned into real-life projects. The students actually complete real world projects for the community."

Vera is an advisor for SkillsUSA, an international organization devoted to promoting excellence, employability skills, and ethics to students in career and technical education. Vera's students have consistently won gold medals at the SkillsUSA State and National levels every year for the past seven years. The SkillsUSA buzzword is "Champions at Work"—which truly describes Vera and her students.

KIDZ  
Biz  
& Buzz

## Lifelong Techie

Ryan Clark began his intense connection with computing when he was about four feet tall. "I've been coding since I was seven," Ryan says. "...HTML, tag, body tag, taking a sequence of numbers and uploading them. Creating web pages is my forte—I like to enhance the picture quality and design." In creating web pages, Ryan emphasizes spatial design while focusing on color and clarity. Is it clean and crisp? Does it please the designer's eye? Is it easy to use? Will clients be pleased?

Ryan graduated from Southeast High School last year where he took as many computer, art, and graphics classes as possible. He credits SEHS teacher and Future Business Leaders of America (FLBA) advisor Mrs. Cindy Reese with constantly challenging him to expand his knowledge and gain expertise. Ryan is now working towards industry certifications as a Certified Internet Web (CIW) professional, Master Designer, and Certified Flash Developer at MTT's New Media Technology program. He then plans to earn a degree in web design and business management at either DeVry University in Orlando or International Academy of Design and Technology in Tampa. Impressive!

## InnoVators

## Decoding the Internet Mystery

Have you ever talked to a computer-savvy person and felt like they were speaking another language? You nod and smile, maybe throw in some little agreeing noises or comments ("Oh yeah, you gotta love those RSS feeds...I personally love them myself"), but you actually have no idea what they mean. The internet can be a mystery, and its jargon can seem overwhelming. However, like any language, the words have meaning and function. Here are a few common internet terms and their meanings.

- **Browser.** This is simply a program that accesses web (internet) pages. Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, and Safari are popular examples.
- **HTTP.** This is *hypertext transfer protocol*, and you'll see these letters in the beginning of every web address. Http is a set of rules that regulates the transfer of information on the internet between a client (you, the internet user) and the server.
- **HTML.** It stands for *hypertext markup language*. Websites have links, titles, paragraphs, lists, etc.; they're usually not just one chunk of black, same-size words with a boring white background. Web designers use HTML to give instructions on how the text will appear.
- **Search engine.** A site used to find information on other sites. Google, Yahoo! Search, and MSN Search are among the most-used search engines.
- **Keywords.** These are references to the content or information in a website's HTML code. If you're searching for a dinner recipe, you might type the keywords "chicken recipe" into a search engine, and sites with those words in them will show up in a list.
- **SEO.** An acronym for *search engine optimization*. This is a way to organize and edit website content to increase its chances of showing up high in the search engine's list when certain keywords are entered, thus gaining more "traffic" to the site.
- **Virus.** Malicious software (a computer program) intended to spread from one computer to another and hinder operations and functions. Viruses are passed primarily through email attachments.
- **Spyware.** Software that is stealthily installed on a computer and takes control of the user's interaction, collects personal information, and even changes computer settings.
- **E-commerce.** The *e* stands for *electronic*, so this term refers to the buying and selling of products through an electronic system. EBay and Amazon are some examples of popular e-commerce sites.

These are only a few well-known terms used in internet lingo. If you come across a term you don't know, type it into a search engine. Try the keywords "common internet terms" and see what comes up.

DISCOVER  
the  
Future

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

Occupational Title	Entry Level	Experienced
Arts & Design: Technical Services	\$11.78	\$29.45
Media and Communication Workers	\$9.16	\$22.12
Art Directors:		
Information Technology	\$23.12	\$34.15
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$39.60	\$67.87
Computer Technical Support Specialists	\$14.03	\$19.15
Technical Writers	\$19.46	\$31.99

**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 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.picnik.com  
 www.photobucket.com  
 www.manateetechnicalinstitute.org  
 www.skillsusa.org

Explore  
IT

## Do-it-Yourself Digital Photo Editing

Until you get the chance to enroll in MTT's New Media Technology program, you'll have to settle for a little DIY—that's *do it yourself*. Professional graphic designers use expensive software programs like Adobe Photoshop (retail: \$649) to edit photos and graphics for websites. Instead, here's a FREE online tool to have fun editing your digital photos. It's called "Picnik"—and former Microsoft programmers created it.

You will need:

Digital photos from a camera, CD, or other source  
 A computer with internet access.

1. Upload photos from camera to computer, or insert a photo CD into the disk drive.
2. Open an internet browser and go to <http://www.picnik.com>
3. Click the **Get started now** button.
4. Click the **Upload photo** button. Choose a photo from your computer and upload it.
5. On the **EDIT** tab, you can improve your photo. Click any of these tools: auto-fix, rotate, crop, resize, exposure, colors, sharpen, and fix red-eye.
6. Click the **CREATE** tab and try different effects on your photo.
7. When you are done, click the **Save and Share** tab and choose **Save Photo**.

Here are a few examples of the fun photo editing you can do on Picnik.com.



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.