

Newspaper in Education Presents

# inquiziKidz

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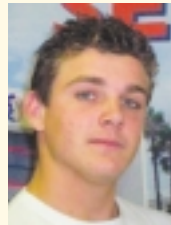
Is TV Production For You?

**kidzbiz**

## Making Films, Creating a Career

If he has his way, Southeast High School senior Chaz Daly has a five-year plan. He'll have graduated from the School of Film & Digital Media at the University of Central Florida (where he will have played football) and he'll be working at Disney Studios making films. This hard-working guy has two passions—filmmaking and football—and has enjoyed success with both at SEHS. Chaz started taking TV production classes as a freshman, and has taken them every year of high school.

When Chaz watches a movie, he's not watching it like most of us. He's analyzing it, imagining how he might have done it, and figuring out how they did it. Sometimes he'll watch a DVD's bonus features, the behind-the-scenes look at the making of the film, *before* he even watches the movie! Chaz is planning on entering films in two upcoming competitions; one for SkillsUSA, a new school club at SEHS, and one for the Sarasota Film Festival. He's already skilled at creating, producing, directing, filming, and digital editing of films. And because of his experience at Southeast, he's well on the way to meeting the qualifications for the Florida Gold Seal scholarship. Hey, Chaz, good luck on your filmmaking career!



By Leslie Rowe

That's what TV production teachers across Manatee County sometimes hear from seniors who take an action-packed TV production class late in their high school experience. They're kicking themselves for not getting an early start on their film production career, and for more reasons than the fact that it's so much fun!

Each high school in the county has a fabulous, fully functioning, high-tech television studio. Visit one and you'll find state-of-the-art equipment, multiple cameras, professional lighting, digital editing software, and colorful sets—all in the capable hands of creative students, led by experienced teachers. Depending on the school, these students produce everything from live morning announcements to documentaries, public service announcements, and short, creative films. Some films are entered in regional and national competitions through SkillsUSA and the Technology Students Association.

So what's the advantage of starting out early, taking Television Production\* as a freshman? Advantages include learning the ropes behind making TV shows and films; getting promoted to producer or director; and the potential for an attainable college scholarship.

Face it—you have to begin at the beginning. Television I courses start out with the basics of equipment operation, safety, and theory. Advance to Television II and things start getting more creative! Students experiment with news writing, commercial production, digital video editing, and on-camera talent. Television III students operate cameras and equipment and direct other students in advanced projects. And Television IV students develop independent projects and try internships or job shadowing at area television studios.

If you enjoy being in charge, only advanced students get to boss everyone else around—completely necessary if you are the director of live television shows. Students in higher-level Television Production classes are selected to lead others.

One type of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship is the Qualifying for this scholarship is attainable for good students—yet you don't have to be at the top of your class to meet the requirements. The scholarship pays 75% of tuition and fees to a Florida public institution. Qualifying students must have a 3.0 weighted GPA using the 15.5 core credits required for high school graduation; a 3.5 unweighted GPA in a minimum of *three vocational credits* in one vocational program (that's three TV production classes, for example); and certain college entrance test scores. See your guidance counselor for more details, but realize that this scholarship is *not* that difficult to attain for many students.

The following teachers head up TV production in Manatee Schools. Eighth graders and freshmen, why not stop in and visit their classrooms to find out if TV production is for you?



By Leslie Rowe

- Bayshore High School: Mary Ann Kaufman
- Lakewood Ranch High School: Byron Stedman
- Manatee High School: Pam LeBuffe
- Palmetto High School: Dan Olin
- Southeast High School: Mike Sanders
- Braden River High School: Dan Crumpler

\*Note: some schools offer TV Production in classes called "New Media Technology" or "Communications Technology."

## Discover the Future

Careers in filmmaking may include:

- Actor
- Animator
- Camera Operator
- Casting Assistant
- Director
- Documentary Photographer
- Editor
- Film Strategist
- Gaffer (head of lighting)
- Graphics Coordinator
- Hair/Makeup/Wardrobe Artist
- Media Specialist
- Newscaster
- Producer
- Production Assistant
- Production Coordinator
- Production Technician
- Props and Lighting Designer
- Screenwriter
- Sound Mixer
- Storyboard Artist
- Videographer

For more career information see your school counselor and get information on-line at:

<http://www.khake.com/page42.html>

OR

<http://www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/lessons/middle/careers.htm>



**School biz**

## In From the Drop Zone

Mike Sanders, TV production teacher at Southeast High School, knows what it's like to hang out of an airplane speeding at 120 MPH, video camera in hand, perched at 14,000 feet and ready to jump. Talk about an exciting side job! As a professional skydiving videographer, he films the "drop" for first-time skydivers. In his 25 years of teaching, Mike has taught television production, technical theater, and speech communications, and served as play director, technical director, and set, sound, and lighting designer. Now in his second year with Manatee County, he's excited about television production at Southeast.

"As soon as they walk through that door,"

Mike said recently, pointing to the doorway of the studio, "it's no longer 'school.' It's work; it's a real job; and we are professionals in there."

Students in his classes are given real-world experiences in production work, electronic news gathering, and editing. They enjoy the SETV studio, a state-of-the-art, closed circuit, three color camera facility.

Students create commercials, talk shows, demonstration shows, and news shows, all under the watchful eye of this dynamic teacher. With Mike Sanders, it's lights, camera, and especially ACTION!

(Note: for a virtual tour of the SEHS TV studio, visit [www.virtualtours-sarasota.com/setv](http://www.virtualtours-sarasota.com/setv))



By Leslie Rowe

## explore it

Here's an assignment for all of you "wannabe" filmmakers: create a documentary film about someone close to you. A documentary is a movie that presents objective information without adding anything fictional. Your assignment is to make a film covering one day in the life of your chosen person. What about filming a grandparent? Your documentary may create a keepsake to remember them long after they're gone.

You will need the following:

- video camera (if you don't own one, can you borrow one?)
- blank video tape
- notebook
- any props you decide to include
- a willing friend or family member

1. First, choose your subject. Make sure you explain the project fully before you begin. Determine a time when you are both free to hang out together for a day. If the person is an adult, can you shadow them at work? Find out where you'll be on filming day—it will help you prepare any props or questions to ask.
2. Prepare any props or signs. For example, you could create a poster with "A Day in the Life of (name)", and film it at the beginning of your documentary.
3. In your notebook, jot down a list of questions to ask your subject during filming. You could start the film with simple identifying questions or statements:

- Today's date?
- Your name, age, and occupation?
- Tell me about your plans for the day.

Imagine you are filming your subject as they are going about their daily routine. Get them talking with questions like:

- Can you explain what you are doing now?
- Do you do this every day?
- How did you learn to do this?
- How long have you (lived, worked, played, etc.) here?

4. Gather your supplies: camera, blank tape, notebook, and any props.
5. Start filming! Each segment does not have to be long, but include anything you want. You'll laugh later if they let you film them brushing their teeth! But don't make it too boring—just a few seconds of teeth brushing is enough!
6. (Optional—for more advanced filmmakers: If you have access to a digital video camera and video editing software, have fun editing your film and adding transitions, music, and more.)
7. Gather your family or friends around the TV, pop the popcorn, and enjoy watching your documentary debut!

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- Daughtrey Preparatory Magnet
- Harllee Middle Magnet
- Johnson Middle Magnet
- Lee Middle Magnet



- Lincoln Middle Magnet
- Manatee Elementary Magnet
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