

Attention: Bh Circ Nie/pie
 Ad Number: F56469
 Description: kidz
 Ad Size: 6 x 21.25"
 Ad Builder: Cheryl Armstrong
 Insertions: 1

Code: 001300000
 Revision No.: 5
 Sales Rep: Blank #1
 Rep Phone:
 Rep Fax:
 Date: Wed, Feb 7, 2007 - 9:52 AM

Client Approval OK As Is OK After Corrections Signature _____

Insertion Date: Wed, Feb 14, 2007
 Publication: Local

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



Newspaper in Education Presents
Inquizi
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Explore the World of Career Clusters

Career and technical education in our schools is organized around 16 categories that represent most occupations. These 16 career clusters include:

- **Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources** –Includes the production, processing, marketing, distribution, financing, and development of agriculture commodities and resources including food, fiber, wood products, horticulture, and natural, plant and animal resources.
- **Architecture and Construction** – Designing, planning, managing, building, and maintaining the built environment.
- **Arts, AV Technology and Communications** – Designing, producing, exhibiting, performing, writing, and publishing multimedia content.
- **Business Management and Administration** – Planning, organizing, directing, and evaluating business functions essential to efficient and productive business operations.
- **Education and Training** –Planning, managing and providing education and training services and related learning support services.
- **Finance** – Planning, services for financial and investment planning, banking, insurance and business financial management.
- **Government and Public Administration** – Executing governmental functions to include Governance, National Security, Foreign Service, Planning, Revenue and Taxation, Regulation and Management and Administration at the local, state, and federal levels.
- **Health Science** –Planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services and biotechnology research and development.
- **Hospitality and Tourism** – Management, marketing and operations of restaurants and other food services, lodging, attractions, recreation events, and travel related services.
- **Human Services** – Career pathways relating to families and human needs.
- **Information Technology** – Design, development, support and management of hardware, software, multimedia, and systems integration services.
- **Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security** – Planning, managing, and providing legal, public safety, protective services, and homeland security, including professional and technical support services.
- **Manufacturing** –Planning, managing and performing the processing of materials into intermediate or final products and related professional and technical support activities.
- **Marketing, Sales, and Service** – Planning, managing, and performing marketing activities to reach organizational objectives.
- **Science, Technology, Engineering and Math** – (STEM) – Planning, managing and providing scientific research and professional and technical services (e.g., physical science, social science, engineering) including laboratory and testing services, and research and development services.
- **Transportation, Distribution and Logistics** – Planning, management, and movement of people, materials, and goods by road, pipeline, air, rail, and water.

InnoVators

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND PARENTS: CAREER PATHWAYS AIM FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

In preparing for the future, educators, parents, and students must realize that today's students must change their way of thinking about education. The future requires that we look at Education as a partner in a lifelong journey. Education must become a lifestyle. Today's educational decisions must provide a meaningful, interrelated purpose and path to prepare students for life and a career.

Recently enacted to reform Florida's middle and high schools, Florida's A++ Plan requires that all students entering high school for the 2007 school year declare a "major area of interest." Students will still complete designated core academic classes but will also choose four additional career/technical courses to create a major focus of study. To determine this major, students will complete aptitude and interest surveys in order to link classes with interests they already have. A major area of interest will provide the focus for relevant and engaged learning.

Parents and Students Need to Know:

1. Career preparation is changing. Approximately 17% of tomorrow's jobs will require a four-year degree while 83% will require training after high school at a local technical institute or community college.
2. There are affordable, local options and opportunities that can jump-start your career. These options include high school career training, technical programs at Manatee Technical Institute and Sarasota County Technical Institute, as well as degree programs at Manatee Community College and other facilities for post secondary education.
3. **Choosing a major area of interest for high school is not an option—it is required.**
4. The new basic skill requirements are on a higher level of skill achievement than ever, and career and technical education is now integrated into all education. Everyone will use career and technical skills as well as specific skill sets as their careers move forward.
5. Students must choose a major area of interest within February or March depending on the school.

Why Pick a Major for High School?

Nationally more than one-third of students lose interest in education after ninth grade. Selecting a major will allow students to focus their studies and see how their education relates to the world of work, specific jobs, and careers. Selecting a high school major will provide career exploration in more detail than can be experienced in middle school. Students will be able to take interest inventories or explore programs like *Choices* or *Bridges* that help them discover interesting areas of study that are matched to their skills.

Essential Skills

We will always need doctors, engineers and scientists, and these professions require eight, ten, or more years of college and professional education and training. Most jobs and careers projected for the future require a high level of basic skills in math and communications literacy followed by focused, targeted courses, certifications and training in specific skill sets. In this era of global competition, each employed worker must become more productive and acquire more than basic math and English skills.

The essential skills for success in a global economy are summarized in a new acronym: "STEM." This stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. For example, the manufacturing industry advises students to accomplish academic competencies, or the NEW basic skills: Applied Science, Basic Computer Skills, Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, Business Writing, Listening and Following Directions, Locating and Using Information, and Speaking and Presentation Skills.

Skills Students Are Learning

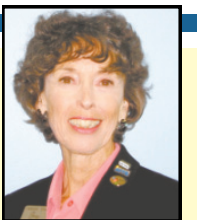
Our students work and learn in teams, plan and organize their studies, learn problem solving and decision-making, and acquire skills in applied technology. *Teamwork, planning, organizing, problem solving, and decision-making* are all workplace competencies that will be taught in high school. Personal competencies are also considered important by today's employers. Often called soft skills, these include *integrity, motivation, dependability, reliability, and a willingness to learn.*

Tools for Career Paths

Academies and Small Learning Communities in our high schools provide the daily setting for our students to explore and experience potential jobs and career paths for their future. These academies and programs offer both core academics and career-related courses that allow students to explore their options. Many offer opportunities for job shadowing and internships in the community.

One tool to help in the effort to expose our students to the many careers available are the interactive monitors in our middle and high schools that allow students to explore local career opportunities. This "Career Pathways" initiative is provided by the Suncoast Workforce Board with assistance from many of our business partners.

SCHOOL Biz



On a Mission for Education

Janice Mee is a dynamic woman on a mission. As the regional Director of the Suncoast Educational Alliance for the Suncoast Workforce Board, her goal is to help parents and students navigate the new options and opportunities available to them at the start of the next school year. With new state requirements currently being introduced at the high school level, Janice is embracing this change and seizing the opportunity to communicate to parents and students what the changes entail. She aims to present the information in an easily understood format that a diverse audience can appreciate and use as a guideline. Parents and students will focus on individual student's interests and strengths and plot a course of study or learning pathway that best serves the student.

Janice has been an advocate for education for several years. Before her current position with the Suncoast Educational Alliance, she served as a parent volunteer followed by a 16-year period as a member of the Sarasota School Board.



Taking the Road to Leadership and Challenge

Students: when planning your roadmap to success, consider taking the high road and joining a career and technical student organization (CTSO). You will work with dedicated teachers and other students who are interested in the same things that you are. You will learn leadership skills, participate in team projects, and gain experience in the field of competition. Many CTSO students take exciting trips to regional and State competitions with their team. Look for these CTSOs at your high school:

- TSA Technology Student Association www.florida-tsa.net
- HOSA Health Occupation Students of America – www.hosa.org
- FBLA Future Business Leaders of America – www.fbla-pbl.org or www.floridafbla-pbl.com
- DECA Distributive Education Clubs of America – www.fldeca.org
- CECF Cooperative Education Clubs of Florida – www.cecf.org
- FFA National FFA Organization (formerly Future Farmers of America) – www.flaffa.org
- FCLA Family, Career and Community Leaders of America – www.fclclainc.org
- FBA Future Builders of America – www.futurebuildersofamerica.org
- FPSA Florida Public Service Association – www.fpsainc.org
- SkillsUSA SkillsUSA – www.skillsusa.org

Regional Careers

Many of our area's best jobs are in the fields of healthcare, law enforcement, and computers.

Occupational Title	Entry	Average
Network Administrator	\$20.02	\$27.96
Computer Support Specialist	\$14.02	\$18.96
Network Systems Analyst	\$15.75	\$25.87
Licensed Practical Nurse	\$15.01	\$18.79
Registered Nurse	\$19.25	\$25.94
Dental Assistant	\$10.72	\$13.57
Police and Sheriffs' Patrol Officer	\$15.99	\$20.64
Physical Therapist Assistant	\$15.24	\$20.07
Paralegal	\$13.14	\$21.54
Automotive Service Technician and Mechanic	\$12.37	\$18.19

Source: FL Labor Market Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics & Wages Program



InquiziKidz page is published every Wednesday in Bradenton Herald. Provided by Newspaper in Education, Brandy Braver (941) 748-0411 ext. 5031, Julie Beacham-Hooie, Page Editor.

