

Newspaper in Education Presents

# inquiziKidz

BROUGHT TO YOU BY MANATEE COUNTY'S MAGNET SCHOOLS & ADULT CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Do you know plumbing?

## Discover the Future

Careers:

- Plumber
- Pipe fitter
- Plumbing estimator
- Fire sprinkler technician
- Supervisor of plumbers
- New construction plumbing – commercial and residential
- Service plumbing – commercial and residential
- Government – plumbers employed by cities, counties, and school boards



For more career information see your school counselor and get information on-line at:  
<http://www.khake.com/page42.html>  
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### Kidzbiz

## A Plumbing Tool Belt

Villaire Diejuste moved to Florida from Haiti more than 20 years ago. He has three children. As an adult learner, he is a good role model for his children and would encourage all his children to enroll in the MTI Plumbing Program. Plumbing is another tool in Villaire's tool belt. He is accomplished in food preparation, a skilled computer technical, a medical CNA and a pastor at his church. He "likes going to school and learning many different types of skills." As a trained plumber I can build a



house, fix plumbing problems in my own house and I don't have to pay the expensive service call fee. I can save a lot of money." When Villaire completes the ten-month program he wants to work for a plumbing company. There are many jobs available and with experience he will be eligible

to work towards being a master plumber. In the program he has learned how solve plumbing problems; drive a forklift; and to follow OSHA safety standards. At MTI Villaire has worked on a number of projects, including building a wooden frame of a house with both kitchen and bathroom plumbing of PVC and copper piping.

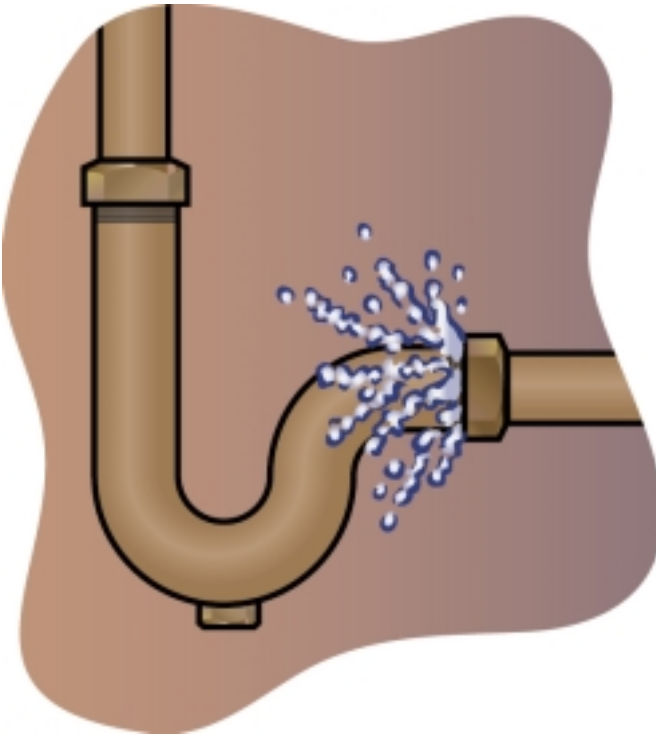
## A Place for Plumbing

At MTI the hands-on plumbing program teaches future plumbers the skills they need to be successful in the trade. These skills include blueprint and job specifications, building codes, pipe-cutting-and-joining, and rough and trim plumbing. Students also learn about water heaters and storm drains. Math and safety standards are critical components of their academic coursework.

Students are required to pass the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Literacy) to enter the program. MTI offers the SAIL Lab (directed by Mrs. Marshall) for students who need to develop their academic skills, preparing them for the TABE and the plumbing program. In the program, students complete 960 hours of academic work and practical application of the skills they learn in class. Practical application includes hands-on experiences using their skills in both new construction and service work arenas. All students must meet the rigorous course requirements to graduate from the program.

There are three levels of the plumbing profession. The first is working as an apprentice where students study with a journeyman or master plumber learning the skills of the trade. At MTI, the Manatee/Sarasota Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors (PHCC) Association sponsor apprenticeships. The next level is that of a journeyman. This level enables working plumbers to serve as job site supervisors. Every job should have a journeyman supervisor. To qualify as a journeyman, plumbers must pass a

state exam. A journeyman must work for a master plumber before being eligible for this next level. A master plumber must have a state or local business license. With this license a plumber is eligible to own his or her own business, hire journeymen, or work for other contractors. It takes two years to obtain a master's plumbers license.



## explore it

Complete a small plumbing job at home. Replace the flapper in your toilet.

Answer the following:

1. Why would you need to replace the flapper?
2. What caused the flapper to go bad?
3. How much did the flapper cost at your local home improvement store?
4. How much would a plumber charge for a service call to come fix the flapper?
5. What would be the total cost?
6. How difficult was the replacement job? Would you do it again?
7. List as many plumbing jobs as possible you are not qualified to fix or repair and would need to hire a plumber.

### School biz

## A Plumber's Rewarding Career

John D. Kenney has taught plumbing in the Construction Technology Department for more than five years in both the evening and daytime programs. As a journeyman plumber, Instructor Kenney worked for a master plumber in a local Manatee County contracting company. Eight high school and seven adult students are enrolled in John's program. The high school students attend their core academic classes at

their districted high school in the morning and the plumbing program in the afternoon learning the essential skills of the profession. An apprenticeship is not required for the adults in the day program, however it is

highly recommended. Instructor Kenney thinks an apprenticeship is most appropriate for those with no plumbing experience or students making a mid career change. John enjoys teaching both the high school and the adult students. "The industry needs qualified plumbers. Teaching is one way I can help train in the education and hands-on application of knowledge and skills to prepare students who will contribute to the field." John enjoys the opportunity to share his knowledge and experiences with students and MTI provides him the top-quality environment in which to teach his trade.



John D. Kennedy

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