

Newspaper in Education Presents
inquizi **kidz**

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Your Career:
 Do you have a dream?

kidzbiz
Team Quincy

By Leslie Rowe

Quincy Watkins, Jr. knows a lot about the importance of teamwork. After school he plays football with his friends—and Quincy is part of the team. At the Boys and Girls Club he plays basketball, and he knows how important it is to pick a good team. And in his Career Exploration class at **Johnson Middle School**, Quincy practices teamwork almost every day. With a partner or two, you might find Quincy researching careers on the Internet. He recently learned what it takes to become a police officer, and he's giving it some serious thought. With a team, he'll be presenting a mock TV commercial demonstrating proper phone etiquette—a skill he'll need in his job some day. Besides exploring career choices, Quincy and the other students have been learning about "soft skills"—those qualities valued by employers like teamwork, resourcefulness, and having a good attitude. Quincy must have learned a few soft skills already from his family



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school biz
Gretta Sancho Gets Real

By Venetia Theile

One of Gretta Sancho's students described her this way: **She keeps it real!** Gretta teaches Career Exploration and Technology Wheel at Johnson Middle School, and being real with her students is what she's all about. "Our job is to get them ready for the real world," Gretta explained. "We incorporate math and reading, but the students are most excited with hands-on activities." After studying careers and soft skills—those attitudes and values that get people hired—Gretta took her students on several field trips to expose them to more possibilities. They visited Manatee Technical Institute and learned about career prep programs; Manatee Community College where they learned about AA degree programs; the University of South Florida in Tampa, a state university; and Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona, a private university.



A former attorney and employment law consultant, Gretta is enjoying teaching immensely. "I'm fulfilling my calling," she explained. "I first worked with kids as part of a public service project in my sorority. Now I love seeing the spark in their eyes when they learn something new." Gretta Sancho is the real thing—an enthusiastic, intelligent teacher who *really* cares.



Information and Education:
The Keys to Finding Your Dream Job

Here's a life question that everyone eventually has to answer: *which career is the right one for me?* It's a huge decision. But with some help from parents, teachers, your school's guidance counselor, the Internet, and other resources, you'll find yourself well on the way to *your* dream job. The keys? *Information and education!*

Maybe you have a special career in mind, but you don't yet know what is required to reach your goal. With a little research using the Internet or the library, you can find out what education is needed for that job you're thinking about. For example, if you're interested in becoming a teacher in the state of Florida, the first thing to do is decide what subject or what age group to teach. You'll need to earn a bachelor's degree majoring in education in your chosen subject area. That means four years of college. So, now you know that to become a teacher, you will need to start thinking about college.

Not all careers require a four-year college education. For instance, jobs such as computer technicians, emergency medical technicians, electricians and cosmetologists all are taught at local vocational technical schools. Many of these jobs require two years of schooling or less. Health careers are in hot demand—and there are many to choose from that require a year or two of specialized training.

Research is probably the most important tool in your quest for career information. If you can access a computer and use the Internet, within a matter of minutes you can discover tons of information about virtually any job. For example, go to www.google.com and search on the keywords "career court reporter." Within five minutes you can learn that a two-to-four year degree is required from either a vocational technical school or college and that court reporters earn an average of \$62,000 a year. Some states require that court reporters first become a Notary Public, while other states require state certification. You must also have excellent listening skills, and good English, grammar, and punctuation skills. And you must be able to capture a minimum of 225 words per minute. That's a lot! But the specific training prepares you for the demands of this fascinating job. The Internet provides very specific information...which is exactly what *you* need before deciding if this is the career for you!

Information is the key, and research is the way you get the information that leads you to the right education. The more you know, the better equipped you are to decide which job is the right job for you. Do you have a dream? Then take action! Start researching, gather and study the information, and head toward your dream. Anything is possible!

explore it

Answer these questions about yourself. Once you've responded, you'll have a good idea of your own strengths and interests. Think about which careers best fit your personal interests and qualities. Then, try your hand at a little research. To begin, take out a piece of paper and write down your answers.

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| 1. What subject do I like best at school? | 2. Which hobbies do I enjoy most? |
| 3. What skills do I have? | 4. What extracurricular activities am I involved in? |
| 5. Do I enjoy being around people? | 6. Do I prefer more alone time? |
| 7. Am I athletic? | 8. Would I rather work outside or inside? |
| 9. Do I enjoy working with my hands? | 10. Do I want to help others? |
| 11. Do I enjoy helping animals? | 12. Am I interested in politics? |
| 13. How important is money to me? | 14. Which adults do I respect? What are their careers? |
| 15. Which jobs seem to hold the most appeal for me?
(Hint: ask an adult about possibilities that fit your profile.) | 16. My dream job is: |

Now for some easy research. If you don't have Internet access at home, try this at school or the library. Go online to www.google.com. Using your answers from items 14 and 15, type in the keywords "career" and your specific dream job title. Try to find out what education you will need to reach your dream. And don't forget to dream big!



Discover the Future

The list below just begins to identify some of the career opportunities available locally and nationally. A great resource is the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* which lists thousands of jobs and tells you which jobs will be hot in the future. This resource is at your library and available online at <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>.

- Computer Technician
- Electrician
- Air Conditioner Technician
- Window Washer
- Factory Worker
- Retail Clerk
- Engineer
- Veterinarian
- Pastor
- Gardener
- Lawn Maintenance
- Sprinkler Installer
- Photographer
- T.V. Journalist
- Reporter
- Dancer

For more career information see your school counselor and get information on-line at:
<http://jobstar.org/tools/career/spec-car.cfm>
 OR
<http://www.acinet.org/acinet/default.asp>

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- Sugg Middle School
- Ballard Elementary Magnet
- Daughtrey Preparatory Magnet
- Harlee Middle Magnet
- Johnson Middle Magnet
- Lee Middle Magnet



- Haile Middle School
- Lincoln Middle Magnet
- Manatee Elementary Magnet
- Rowlett Elementary Magnet
- Tillman Elementary Magnet
- Wakeland Elementary Magnet

Schools listed in red offer instruction in the subject area featured in today's InquiziKIDZ



- <http://www.careervoyages.gov/careeradvisors.cfm>
- <http://www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/mti/>
- <http://www.mccfl.edu/>
- <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>
- http://www.kids.gov/k_careers.htm
- <http://www.khake.com/page64>
- <http://www.myfuture.com/>
- <http://www.bygpub.com/books/tg2rw/careers.htm>
- http://www.quintcareers.com/teen_books.html

