

Newspaper in Education Presents

# inquiziKidz

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Could you solve a crime?

## State Champ

by Vickie Miller

Jackson Hughey, a 2004 graduate from Lakewood Ranch High School, earned a trip this summer to nationals by winning the SkillsUSA state competition in the category of law enforcement. Jackson prepared for the competition by taking the high school criminal justice course at Manatee Technical Institute (MTI). This course also convinced Jackson that a career in law enforcement is the right choice for him.

Jackson likes the idea that he will be entering into a profession that is well respected. He has also learned that law enforcement offers a wide variety of options. For example, Jackson loves animals, especially dogs, and says that he would love to work in a canine



Jackson Hughey

unit with a police dog. Since Jackson currently works part-time at Southeast Animal Clinic he's hoping that this experience will give him an edge. In addition, Jackson also has an interest in marine patrol because he has always lived near water and enjoys boating.

To complete his goals, Jackson will be enrolling in the criminal justice academy at MTI this Fall. Later, he wants to complete his bachelor's degree in criminal justice. With Jackson's personal goals and attitude, you can expect him to continue being a champion throughout life.

## Officer Shares His Experiences

by Vickie Miller

Instructor and Police Officer, Andy Glenn, has had many experiences that he enjoys sharing with students. Officer Glenn works for the Holmes Beach Police Department and also teaches criminal justice classes at Manatee Technical Institute.



Andy Glenn

Mr. Glenn's favorite subject is defensive tactics and self-defense. In this class he gathers students in a room that is

padded from floor to ceiling, and he shows them how to handle a difficult criminal. Some of the tactics that he teaches are handcuffing, using arm holds, distracting an aggressive criminal, and "taking down" a criminal.

Officer Glenn says that a career in criminal justice requires many characteristics, including a willingness to help others, a positive attitude, honesty, and self-confidence. A police officer or deputy also needs to be physically fit and be ready to take control of any situation. This also involves understanding and talking to people.

For example, Officer Glenn was recently able to persuade a woman who planned to commit suicide. She had already called 911 and written a note, but Officer Glenn arrived in time to convince her to go to the hospital to get counseling. Helping this woman, he says, was one of the best experiences of his career.

## Criminal Justice

## Crime Solvers

by Dr. Mary Cantrell

Investigating crime is much different today than it was many years ago. Not long ago officers had to rely upon interviewing and luck. Even though that is still very important, now they have even more powerful tools, computers, DNA, and other scientific breakthroughs. People have even been released from jail based on new DNA evidence clearing them.

Have you watched any of the crime scene investigation shows on TV? On these shows, the crime scene technicians are officers who look for evidence left at the scene of a crime. They use this evidence to arrest the person who committed the crime.

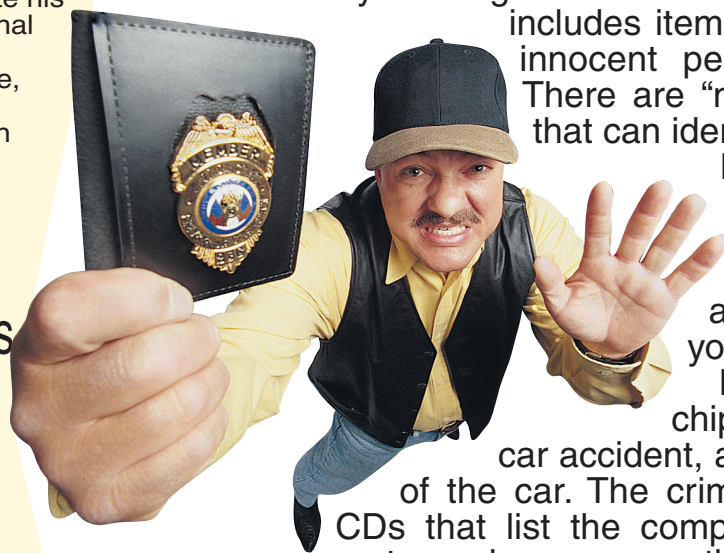
Most people know that no two people have the same fingerprints; even identical twins have different fingerprints. If the police have no suspects and want to match fingerprints found at a crime scene, this can be done very quickly using a computer. The computer can scan the print from the crime scene and see if it matches any on file with the Department of Law Enforcement. If they have a match, the crime is on the way to being solved if that person had no other reason to be at the crime scene. If the print does not match any on file, the law enforcement officers must continue to try to crack the case.

Each person has a unique DNA. Only fifteen years ago, DNA was not a tool available to solve crimes. Now officers can open "cold cases," unsolved cases that are so old that no one is currently working to solve them, and see if any of the evidence includes items with DNA. DNA can clear an innocent person or convict a guilty one. There are "markers" in each person's DNA that can identify ancestors or close relatives.

If your cousin committed a crime and left his/her DNA at the scene, your DNA would not match. But, your DNA would alert the officers that a relative of yours had.

It is even possible to take a paint chip from the scene of a hit-and-run car accident, and identify the make and model of the car. The crime scene labs have books and CDs that list the components of all paints, tires, car parts, and many more things. Again the computer is the officer's tool to scan for a match.

With the right education and training, you too could solve crimes. A career in Criminal Justice can be exiting and rewarding. Think about it!



## Discover the Future

People who work in criminal justice may have the following types of jobs:

- Police Officer or Sheriff
- Forest Ranger
- School Resource Officer
- Canine Unit
- Crime Investigator
- Detective
- Marine Patrol
- Instructor
- Drug Enforcement Officer
- Probation Officer
- Victim Advocate
- Attorney

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>



## explore it

### You Solve the Crime

Jessica arrived at the softball field a little early. She wanted to warm up her swing because she knew that she would be facing Stacy, a pitcher with a fast, left-handed hook. Jessica was surprised to learn that Stacy would not be pitching today. In fact, Stacy had been arrested for breaking into a video arcade game and stealing the money.

Detective Smith came out to the field to question Stacy's teammates and friends, and this is what Jessica learned. Earlier that day at the "Arcade Warehouse," Stacy's batting glove was found. The lock had been picked to the most popular game and the money removed. The theft had been completed perfectly, except for dropping a left blue and white batting glove like the one Stacy wears. It even had her initials marked in it with a black permanent marker. The police checked for fingerprints, but the burglar had either used the glove or wiped the lock clean. There were also fresh, muddy footprints from shoes with cleats, the same size as Stacy's. A witness also said that he saw a girl with blond hair running from the arcade late the night before.

Although Jessica was happy that Stacy would not be pitching against her today, she felt bad that Stacy had been falsely accused. She was able to convince Detective Smith that Stacy was innocent and had been framed. How did Jessica know?

Answer: Stacy was left-handed. Left-handed batters wear a right-handed glove when batting. Stacy did not own a left-handed glove. Someone attempting to blame the crime on Stacy placed the glove at the crime scene.

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



- Haile Middle School
- Lincoln Middle Magnet
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