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Manatee District Mission

The mission of the Manatee County School District is to inspire our students with a passion for learning, empowered to pursue their dreams confidently and creatively while contributing to our community, nation and world.



**High School Academies:
Where Learning Meets Reality**

The high schools in Manatee County have always focused on academics...those fundamentals of reading, writing, and arithmetic that build a foundation for every other subject. At the same time, the District has cared deeply about preparing our young adults for life—whether that means continuing education at a technical school, attending college, or directly entering the workforce.

In 2004, the District—through the Adult, Career, & Technical Education Department—received a grant called the *Smaller Learning Communities* grant. The grant meant a lot of things, but at its core, its intent was this:

- take a large high school and divide it into meaningful communities that allowed all students to be known;
- engage those students in a course of study that guided them into a career choice; *and*
- demonstrate to those students that education is relevant to their future—and keep them interested and in school.

Since the inception of the Smaller Learning Communities programs in Manatee County, all of the high schools in the District have developed *career academies*. According to the National Career Academy Coalition, career academies can be understood as follows:

Career academies differ from traditional academic and vocational education because they prepare high school students for both college and careers. Academics provide broad information about a field such as health care, finance, engineering, media, or natural resources. They weave the themes into academic curricula that qualify students for admission to four-year colleges or universities.

Studies have found that students in career academies perform better in high school and are more likely to continue into post secondary education, compared to similar students in the same schools. After assessing the most extensive, longitudinal study yet on academies by MDRC, William Rasberry, of the Washington Post, succinctly wrote, "The magic, apparently, is in the combination of linking academics to job prospects and the intensive involvement of adults."

BAYSHORE HIGH SCHOOL



The Biz - Bayshore Business Academy

Business education with an entrepreneurial focus. Provides students with a personalized, sequenced, rich array of academic and career experiences, equipping students for success in their future educational, career and social endeavors. Lil Maddox & Bonnie Condor, co-leaders.



FAME

(Fine Arts for a Meaningful Education). A center of excellence for the fine and performing arts, with academics and technology that empower lifelong student learning. Lynne Hodalski, leader.



TEAM

(Technology Engineering Architecture Manufacturing). Pre-engineering academy promoting college readiness and engineering careers by learning logical, succinct, and detail-oriented processes that are essential to success in the world of engineering. Charles Heister and Tim Estep, co-leaders

BRADEN RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

Academy of Business & International Studies

Prepares students for world citizenship and careers in domestic and global marketplaces by providing an exciting spectrum of experiences with languages, cultures, and business. Bill Gaynor and Marlene McCormick, co-leaders.



Academy of Engineering Technology & Leadership

Prepares students to become informed, capable, and conscientious consumers and employees in the world of engineering, drafting and leadership. Gil Burlew and Deb Daigle, co-leaders.



Academy of Fine Arts & Communication Technology

Connects artistic expression and everyday life by exploring communication through performing, writing, reporting and various forms of media. Bill Ferrell and Jennifer Dobbs, co-leaders.

Academy of Science Technology & Health

Provides students with hands-on, real-world experience in the broad area of science and health. Includes the county's only veterinary assisting program, horticulture, anatomy & physiology and more. Deb Alwin and Steve Eller, co-leaders.

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL



Success Academy

Inspires high school students from all backgrounds to attain their full potential through career skills in culinary, travel/tourism, and drafting design. Suzette Marquette, Linda Owens, and Ralph Vincent, co-leaders.

LAKWOOD RANCH HIGH SCHOOL

The Academy of the Arts

Cultivates creative, imaginative, and innovative skills leading to successful careers, with a focus on performing arts, visual arts, print media, drama, choir, or music. Alicia Moody and Roxane Caravan, co-leaders.



The Academy of Business, Marketing & International Studies

Provides a new generation of professionals in the public and private sectors with communication skills and multicultural understanding for today's global business arena. Bobbi Colson and Jason Richardson, co-leaders.



The Academy of Public Service

Focuses on the roles, responsibilities, issues, and trends related to leadership training, law enforcement, public safety, criminal justice, firefighting, and public service. Carol Lidey and Carol Jensen, co-leaders.

MANATEE HIGH SCHOOL



Academy of Medical Arts & Sciences

Prepares students for healthcare and veterinary careers through a rigorous, relevant health and academic program. Laura Sollenberger, leader.

PALMETTO HIGH SCHOOL



Agriscience Academic Academy

Creates a nurturing academic environment where students can learn, grow, and achieve success in agricultural-related careers. Carolyn Gilbert and Adam Baggett, co-leaders.

Academy for Construction Design.



Trains students in all aspects of building and designing while preparing them to build a business. Bob Lounds and David Sell, co-leaders.



The Education Academy

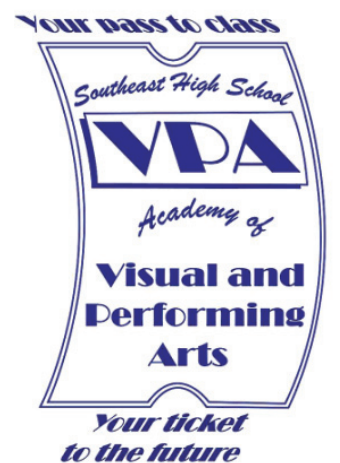
Prepares future educators with an emphasis on technology. Lynda Elkin, leader.

SOUTHEAST HIGH SCHOOL



HALO Academy

(Healthy Alternatives & Leadership Opportunities). Four distinct pathways under one of two areas, healthy alternatives or leadership. Healthy alternatives includes culinary and nutrition. The leadership opportunity includes sports marketing and public relations. Cheryl Gaynor, leader.



Visual & Performing Arts Academy (VPA).

Prepares students for advanced training in dance and drama, music, computer graphics, and fine arts. Kathy Campbell & Barbara Tapley Kenney, co-leaders.



Check out the following websites:

- www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/highschool/bayshore
- www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/highschool/brhs
- www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/highschool/lakewood
- www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/highschool/manatee
- www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/highschool/palmetto
- www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/highschool/southeast



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