

Becoming Lifelong Learners

Vana Meyers, business technology teacher at Lincoln Middle School, has a goal for her students. She wants learning to become a lifelong habit. Her secret for guaranteed success? Vana keeps learning fun!

In the classroom, Vana teaches job skills to students who may not yet appreciate how important these skills really are. To help them learn, she first provides a brief lecture about the relevancy of certain technology skills. Then she enjoys watching her students discover for themselves the amazing things technology can do. As they experience first hand how a word processor can check spelling or a spreadsheet program can perform instant calculations, students get excited about learning. Using digital cameras, creating videos, and designing their own web sites are just a few of the ways students get caught up in the magic of learning.

To enhance students' opportunities and further their successes, Vana organized the first chapter of Lincoln's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) four years ago. She continues to support student leadership by leading the club today. It's no secret that Vana Meyers loves learning and enjoys guiding her students towards becoming lifelong learners.



Newspaper in Education Presents **Inquizi**
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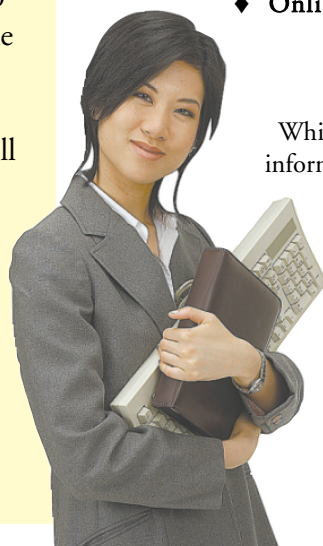
KIDZ Biz & BUZZ



Award Winning Website Creator

By Elizabeth MacDonald

Huda Saleh is a Lincoln Middle School eighth grader who really likes computers—and she knows what she's doing! Last April Huda competed in the Web Design competition at the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) District Conference and came home with first place. She then went on to the FBLA State Conference in Orlando where, instead of designing the required web page, she opted to create an entire website. This outstanding effort won second place in the State and a trophy almost as big as she is! Last year Huda served as reporter for FBLA, a job she really enjoyed. This year she is campaigning to become the club's president. When she's not busy with friends or homework and she's logged off the computer, you can find Huda playing volleyball with her older sister or visiting some of her 40 cousins. Her aspirations include going to college and medical school and then becoming a pediatrician. But next year she'll go to Palmetto High School. Look out PHS, here comes a winner!



InnoVators

WWW: A WILD WORLD OF WONDER

By Shannon Rowe

The school day is over. You come home after a long day of learning, dropping your backpack and armful of homework onto the floor with a sigh of relief. You're done being educated for the day, so you grab a snack and do a few chores. Then you head straight for the Internet (with your parent's permission, of course). Finally, the world of technology opens its doors and launches you into another world—a wild world of terrific tools, endless information, and games galore.

The Internet, a vast network connecting computer systems all over the world, actually began as a means of sharing information between different military fields and for scientific and education purposes. Now it can be used for countless purposes, such as researching a school assignment, buying groceries, emailing friends and family across the country, applying for college, or playing games. It's a vault of relevant and useless information, and its popularity continues to spread. The Internet is a digital representation of our world—and that means the good and the bad! So be sure to stay away from harmful sites, just like you would stay away from harmful people.

There are so many opportunities to have fun online and learn at the same time. If you're bored with your usual websites, try these links for a different perspective on what's available on the World Wide Web:

- ◆ **Natural Reader Text to Speech download** (www.naturalreaders.com) – This tool converts written text to a spoken word. Type messages and then play your own words back in a robotic-sounding voice. Have a blast and fool your friends! One student typed out a greeting and then recorded it on her cell phone's voicemail to catch callers by surprise. A free version is available to download and install.
- ◆ **Club Penguin** (www.clubpenguin.com) – This virtual community is a fun place to visit with your friends—log on at the same time and then challenge each other in mind-bending games and friendship-building activities. Club Penguin promotes a safe, kid-friendly environment.
- ◆ **Discovery Kids** (<http://kids.discovery.com>) – Check out your favorite shows, or try your hand at reconstructing a dinosaur—one bone at a time.
- ◆ **Cool Text** (<http://cooltext.com>) – This graphics-rich site lets you design your own logo, download unique fonts, and create cool images. Choose from different fonts, text patterns, and outline colors. Download it for free when you're done!
- ◆ **Pics 4 Learning** (<http://pics4learning.com>) – Need a zebra for your Africa report or a pretty sunset photo for a thank-you card? Find all kinds of pictures for school projects.
- ◆ **Online puzzles** – maximize brainpower with puzzles. If words are your thing, try www.webcrosswords.com. Sudoku, the popular Japanese number challenge game, can be found at www.websudoku.com.

While having fun, remember to be safe while using the Internet. Never give out personal information. Don't be fooled by pop-ups promising free gifts; nothing is free! Be sure your computer is protected with an up-to-date anti-virus and anti-spyware program. Stay safe—and have a blast on the wild, wonderful web!



DISCOVER the Future



Career Pathways in Manatee County

Today's Career Focus: Computer programmers write, test, and maintain the detailed instructions (called programs) that computers must follow to perform their functions. Webmasters are responsible for all technical aspects of a website, including performance issues such as speed of access, and for approving the content of the site. Internet developers or web developers, also called web designers, are responsible for day-to-day site creation and design. Other related careers include graphic designers and writers.

Regional Careers: Here are examples of Internet-related occupations and current wages in the Suncoast Workforce Region.

Occupational Title	Entry Level Wage	Mean (average) wage
Computer Programmers	\$19.25	\$29.14
Database Administrators	\$17.56	\$26.73
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	\$19.77	\$27.61
Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts	\$15.56	\$25.55
Editors	\$11.17	\$18.23
Graphic Designers	\$12.64	\$17.61
Media and Communications Workers	\$8.84	\$17.83
Technical Writers	\$17.63	\$25.59

Source: <http://fred.labormarketinfo.com> Florida Market Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics and Wages Program.

Tech Prep Career Pathway: Students desiring a career in website and digital design can find related educational programs at these area schools*:

Lincoln Middle School, Palmetto High School, Manatee Technical Institute, Sarasota County Technical Institute, Manatee Community College, and the University of South Florida.

*Other Manatee schools may offer similar programs. Listed schools are related to today's issue. Source: 2006 Tech Prep Career Pathway Guide, Manatee County Schools

WEB Wise

Check out the following websites:

- www.webgrris.com
- www.fabjob.com/webdeveloper.asp
- www.allartschools.com/faqs/web-design-career.php
- www.manateetechnicalinstitute.org/programs/career/business/webdes.html
- www.floridafbla-pbl.com

Explore IT

Create a "Digital Documentary"

When you visit a website, what catches your attention? Certainly not a boring page with poorly written text and little color. Web page designers usually try to make sites appealing to the human eye and interest. They write the content in a clear, organized way, adding pictures and colorful graphics.

While you might not have the necessary tools to make your own web page, you can create a "digital documentary" instead. A documentary is defined as "a movie or TV program presenting facts and information, especially about a political, historical, or social issue." But it can also be presented in the form of a document, providing pictures, facts, and other information to tell a non-fictional story.

NOTE: This activity requires previous knowledge of how to take pictures with a digital camera and export them from a camera to your computer. Ask an adult for help if you need it.

- You will need:
- ◆ a digital camera
 - ◆ a computer
 - ◆ word processing or desktop publishing software (Microsoft Word or Microsoft Publisher, for example)

Your digital documentary will consist of pictures and words recording a typical day in your life. First, check your camera battery and memory. Once it is charged and ready to go, start taking pictures of your day! Snap your breakfast plate and your dad in his PJs. Capture your brother brushing his teeth. Click the bus stop and the view from the window. Take pictures of your school, friends, and teachers. Have fun taking pictures all day long.

Next, upload the pictures to your computer. You don't have to use all of them—choose as many as you like. Insert the pictures into a word processing or desktop publishing program and put them in chronological order. Add captions, comments, thoughts, facts, quotes, and memories for each one. Use different fonts, add clipart, and use lots of color. Don't forget to save your work frequently! When you are done, print on a color printer and place the pages in a keepsake album. Someday your own kids will love seeing your typical day. Why not print a copy as a gift for a grandparent?



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