



The Spotlight is on...

Manatee High School



What are your goals?

This edition of Spotlight on Success is shining on Manatee High School (MHS). Building a caring community of productive learners and leaders continues to be the MHS mission. Embracing change, striving for excellence, and asking, "What are your goals?" has become a strong focus here.

Teachers and administrators are working diligently to provide students with a quality education and meaningful experiences as they prepare for a successful and rewarding future. Smaller learning communities—the Academy of Medical Arts and Sciences, the Center for Design and Construction, the Center for Performing Arts, the Freshmen Learning Center, and the AP+ Honors program—together form a solid foundation for an excellent education.

Administration is working to modify the master schedule to better accommodate student career goals and student-selected major areas of interest (MAI). They are also

Job Cuts, Buyouts, Layoffs, and No New Hires

As we muddle through what is sure to be a very long 2009 recession with news of GM, Ford, Chrysler, Circuit City, Home Depot, Rockwell Collins, Electronic Arts, and thousands of others cutting hundreds of thousands of jobs, we are reminded daily of the critical need to prepare our students for successful careers. Students must prepare for stable employment in areas that are growing rapidly and are forecasted to outpace supply for the coming years. Students who have tangible, employable skills in the medical, health science, design, engineering, and technology fields—just to list a few—and those who understand what employers are looking for in a new hire are the ones who have a chance to succeed. Students must gain a competitive edge by obtaining the Ready To Work Credential, industry certifications, and—when applicable—the postsecondary diploma to prove their competencies. These students have an improved chance to become a success story in life. Speak to your students about being prepared for our global economy and remind them that we are seeing competition for jobs like no other time in history.

Doug Wagner, Director
Adult, Career & Technical Education

Upcoming Events

**Academies on the Hill
Legislative Conference**

Tallahassee, Florida
April 7-9, 2009

Career Clusters Institute

Fort Worth, Texas
June 15 - 17, 2009

**From Structure to
Instruction**

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
June 22 - 24, 2009

Model Schools Conference

Atlanta, Georgia
June 28-July 1, 2009

**NCAC Career Academy
40th Anniversary
Celebration**

Philadelphia, PA
November 1-4, 2009



Academy leaders: (l-r) Bob Gagnon, Joan Stencik, Laura Sollenberger, Patti Hartman, Jeff Sharp, Lorianne Keeney, Jim Bruce, Joe Orr, Sherry Lowe, Gareth Olson

exploring different avenues of growing the Center for Performing Arts to continue meeting the evolving needs of students and the community.

Another effort includes continuing the momentum that the TEAM concept has garnered. The TEAM approach—or Teachers as Educational Advisors and Mentors—assigns each teacher a group of students to meet with and mentor on a regular basis. This approach enhances the teacher/student connection and builds rapport with students and parents. The addition of the electronic Personal Education Planner program (e-PEP) is also proving to be a valuable tool in planning and tracking academic progress throughout the student's high school career. Efforts are underway for the e-PEP to be generated at the middle school level where it will follow students to high school.

Teachers and administrators are also promoting Florida Ready To Work (FRTW), a three-part credentialing program offered to juniors and seniors. FRTW places emphasis on having the right skills, the right attitude, and the necessary initiative to succeed in the workplace. It is designed to increase employability by giving students a competitive edge as they prepare for careers and college.

The Freshmen Learning Center: Goal Setting and Transitioning

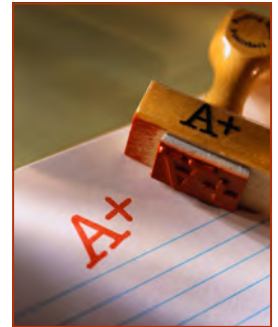
The Freshmen Learning Center, led by Assistant Principal Denis Peters, started the school year off with an information-gathering meeting for all freshmen. Academic Advisor Patti Hartman and Career Advisor Alan Anderson met with the freshmen to discuss goal setting, career aspirations and the importance of a good GPA. A secondary meeting was held to complete their four-year plans with a focus on "Have you met your goals?"

The Freshmen Learning Center is a self-contained environment with state-of-the-art technology, full science labs, and spacious classrooms. It was created to guide students as they transition into a new school and aid them as they embark on their high school education.

AP+ Honors Program: Rigor and Advancement

Ms. Patricia Zalo, lead teacher for MHS AP+ Honors program, hosted an information session for Manatee County eighth graders interested in learning about this academic-focused program. Over 300 students and their parents attended the two-hour event. Ms. Laura Sollenberger, lead teacher for the Academy of Medical Arts and Sciences, and Ms. Joan Stencik, lead teacher for the Center for Design and Construction, were also in attendance and highlighted their programs for attendees.

Dedicated and high-achieving students from ninth grade and beyond are eligible to apply for this prestigious program. The AP+ Honors program consists of rigorous and relevant classes dedicated to enhancing preparation for postsecondary education and careers. Students may earn concurrent credits for both high school and Manatee Community College or Manatee Technical Institute with MHS' AP+ Dual Enrollment program. Freshmen can prepare for the AP+ Honors program by following the pre-AP track.



Center for Performing Arts: Creativity and Networking

Academic Advisor Patti Hartman and the performing arts teachers are working together to create an integrated curriculum that will enhance the Center for Performing Arts. Diverse electives with a strong academic base are designed to strengthen and broaden the student's experience. Meanwhile, students in the Footlighters Drama Guild are busy preparing for three community performances; the Manatee County High Schools Theatre Festival; the "Etiquette Survivor" vignette at the Bradenton Country Club; and the Asolo Theatre's "Shake 'n Bake", where area high schools learn how to perform Shakespeare from the experts. These experiences offer academy students the chance to showcase their hard work as well as network with the performing arts community.



Interior design students (top) and construction technology students are equally at home in the Center for Design and Construction.

Center for Design and Construction: Four Career Clusters

Mrs. Joan Stencik, Center for Design and Construction lead teacher and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America advisor, is dedicated to providing a high quality education to MHS students who select the center to enhance their career choices. The Center encompasses four career clusters including Architectural Design, Interior Design, Construction Technology, and Materials and Processes. Students enrolled in the Center for Design and Construction excel with hands-on learning, technology, mentoring, job shadowing, and internships in drafting or interior design. Students enrolled in this Center for all four years can simultaneously earn credits at Manatee Technical Institute, Manatee Community College, or the Art Institute of Tampa as well as qualify for a Gold Seal scholarship.

Plans for integrating geometry and history into the Center for Design and Construction will help meet some of the criteria for the Center becoming an Academy.

Joan Stencik's upper level design students are preparing for the annual Bruce Williams Designer Challenge. In this challenge, students completely furnish a model home while competing for almost \$1,000 in scholarships.

Center for Design and Construction students also have the option to join a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO). Opportunities for CTSO membership include Future Builders of America (FBA), the Technology Student Association (TSA), and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). Each of these CTSOs offers students the opportunity to develop strong leadership skills while perfecting their newly acquired expertise. FBA, TSA, and FCCLA each offer students the chance to compete at the district level and advance to state and national competitions.

Academy of Medical Arts and Sciences: Relevancy and Community Support

The Academy of Medical Arts and Sciences provides students with a strong academic curriculum combined with core health courses. Relevancy is a vital aspect of the program and is fostered through job shadowing and internships. Community support is vast with over fifty students participating in internships this year. Whether a student's interests lie in small animal veterinary medicine, massage therapy, pharmacy, or a host of other careers, the Academy of Medical Arts and Sciences has much to offer.



Medical Arts students perform emergency first aid on an "accident victim."

This year Ms. Laura Sollenberger, lead teacher for the Academy and advisor for the Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA), hosted the Academy of Medical Arts and Sciences career night. Current academy students, eighth grade students, and all parents were invited to attend. The informative program was sponsored by the MHS Medical Academy Advisory Council members and featured breakout sessions with council members. The sessions focused on exploring future opportunities as well as MHS programs that support the academy.

Laura recently attended the HOSA Leadership Development conference in High Springs, Florida. The conference gave Laura an opportunity to develop a strong network with other HOSA advisors in the state. Currently MHS HOSA members are preparing for the State Leadership Conference coming up in April. Last year, an MHS HOSA student won the national silver medal in Forensic Medicine.

Laura also attended "Reading Strategies for CTE Teachers." This in-service training for Career and Technical Education teachers covered a multitude of topics and effective strategies needed to better prepare students for rigorous academic content.

Hurricanes Love a Challenge—from Principal Bob Gagnon

At Manatee High School, our smaller learning communities have a lot of work ahead of us in the coming months. Our 9th, 10th and 11th grade students will be taking the FCAT soon and are prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead. That is one thing that all Hurricanes love more than anything is—a challenge. We have seen our students rise up to meet all expectations in the classroom and on the field. I am continually amazed at the pride, dedication and professionalism of our staff and know that this team will always do what is best for our school. We are continuing to move in the right direction and I thank our staff, community, parents, and students for their support. Without it, we could never have moved so far so quickly. Together, we will continue to prepare all of our students for the career and postsecondary challenges the future will bring..



Summer Training Opportunities—Angie Grasberger Reports

Our summer SLC training opportunities will have something for everyone: administrators, guidance counselors, and our teachers. Specific workshops will be offered for those already entrenched in the academy and center models and for those new to the SLC concept. Participants will be able to select the workshop they wish to attend to further their knowledge and understanding of SLCs. Following the workshops, SLC teams will have the opportunity for planning integrated and/or themed lessons. Participants will be paid for their time as well as receive in-service credit. Watch for further announcements.

Never,
never, never,
never
give up.

Winston Churchill

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Watch for all of the publications keeping you informed about what's happening around the District in the Adult, Career & Technical Education department.



Manatee Stars, Tech Prep, Take Stock Times, Inquizikidz, Education Today/Career Tomorrow, Transition Times, ACT Update, Spotlight on Success, and Technical Education Today.





Smaller Learning Communities
Spotlight on Success

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