



Smaller Learning Communities Spotlight on Success

Issue 66 May 2011



2011 Smaller Learning Communities ROUNDUP

The 2011 Spotlight on Success Roundup presents a brief summary of every Smaller Learning Community in the District. This issue serves as a reference guide to students, teachers, staff members, and our community.



Smaller Learning Communities: Preparedness for the Workforce, College, and Beyond

Connecting classroom learning with career pathways is a challenging task when a single school holds 2,000+ students. Research shows that students improve their chances of thriving when the large school is broken down into smaller groups. Thus, the Smaller Learning Communities (SLCs) movement was born, and Manatee County has led the charge by implementing District-wide, career-based “schools within a school.” Angie Grasberger heads up the program as SLC Project Manager, and also serves as President of the National Career Academy Coalition.

Today, six District high schools each staff an Academic Advisor and a Career Advisor. Each SLC/Career

Academy also maintains an advisory council consisting of representatives from local businesses. These professionals provide input on what skills and certifications they look for in their industry’s entry-level applicants. Through SLCs, students combine career-based electives with academic classes, whether they are headed for college or the workforce after graduation.

“All SLC’s and Academies are career and college prep programs,” Ms. Grasberger shares. “Whether your student is entering the workforce or entering college, they are leaving school with marketable skills and better prepared for the real world and the career pathways that they chose to follow.”

Smaller Learning Communities, Career Academies, and Centers by High School

Bayshore High School



Career Advisor: Laura Roberts
 robertsl@manateeschools.net
 941-751-7004, ext. 2010

Academic Advisor: Priscilla Goodwin
 goodwinp@manateeschools.net
 941-751-7004 ext. 2206

Bayshore High School SLCs include the Freshman Learning Center, College & Pre-College Center, as well as the following:

School of Business, Global Studies & Leadership

Provides students with high level skills in business, foreign language and international studies, as well as inspiring students to become leaders in public service. The school recognizes student achievement, builds relationships, engages other schools on campus, and improves literacy.

Lead teacher: Jennifer O’Connor.

School of Health, Applied Science & Engineering

Educates students to inspire them to become active

citizens, critical thinkers, and enlightened leaders in our global society. Our focus is on “ethics.”

Lead teacher: Robb Wilson.

Within this school, the Technology, Engineering, Architecture, and Manufacturing (TEAM) Academy promotes skills and careers in these tech-intensive fields.

Lead teachers: Charles Heister and Martha Proulx.

School of Arts & Communication

Provides a real-world, academically integrated arts experience, enabling students to develop creative talents, reach a deeper understanding of the curriculum, and expand horizons beyond high school.

Lead teacher: Paul Champagne.

Braden River High School



Career Advisor: Christie Gionfriddo
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941-751-8230, ext 2285

Academic Advisor: Kelli Kennedy
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Braden River High School is home to the following wall-to-wall academies:

Arts and Communication Academy

Inspires creative students to achieve a greater understanding of interdisciplinary connections, empowering students to accomplish dreams through the determination essential to personal and professional success.

Lead teachers: Bill Ferrell and Jillian Bieber.

Business and International Studies Academy

Prepares students for world citizenship and careers in domestic and global marketplaces by providing an exciting spectrum of experiences with languages, cultures, and business.

Lead teachers: Christy Goehring and Lori Kish.

Engineering, Design and Leadership Academy

Prepares students to be productive citizens and leaders in our society.

Lead teachers: Gil Burlew and Melanie Jurgovan

Science Technology and Health Academy

Encourages the development of responsible, ethical leaders who will utilize effective communication skills

and scientific inquiry to make a positive difference in their school, community and world.

Lead teachers: Deb Barry and Roxanne Schunicht.

Central High School



Assistant Principal: Kathleen Zimmer
zimmerk@manateeschools.net
941-751-7900, ext. 2142

Success Academy

All Central High School students belong to the Success Academy, whose goal is to help students determine goals and then to develop a realistic plan to reach them. The Success Academy supports students by developing positive relationships, helping them to “work their plan.” With positive role models and active involvement, students can achieve success throughout their high school career and beyond.

Leader: Assistant Principal Kathleen Zimmer.

Lakewood Ranch High School



Career Advisor: Michelle Todoroff
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Academic Advisor: Vito Bavaro
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Lakewood Ranch High School is home to the Freshman Learning Center as well as the following SLCs:

Arts Academy

Through drama, music, and visual arts, students improve talents and learn the business of performing arts through community events and live performances. Students explore career pathways and experience cross-curricular integration of the arts in academic classes. Students enrolled in the visual arts classes will have the opportunity to become certified in Adobe Photoshop and Dreamweaver Applications.

Lead teacher—Roxane Caravan.

Business, Marketing, and Technology Academy

Examines the changing world of business and technology. Teachers engage students through integrated lesson plans, entrepreneurial competitions, TV produc-

tions, and technology challenges. A network of business partners helps expand the experience. Industry Certifications offered include Soldiworks, MSSC Certified Production Technician, National Certification in Customer Service, Microsoft Office, Apple Final Cut Pro, Adobe Photoshop, Flash and Adobe Dreamweaver.

Lead teachers—Robert Moates and Bryon Stedman.

Public Service and Health Academy

Explores careers and community involvement in family and consumer science, education, criminal justice, leadership, fire science, health care, and agriscience. Students can pursue options in firefighting, emergency medical technician, criminal justice, and culinary arts at the neighboring Manatee Technical Institute. Industry Certifications offered are Child Development Assoc., Certified Professional Food Manager, First Responder & Fire Fighter.

Lead teachers—Rebecca Austerman and Elaine Bowling.

Manatee High School



Career Advisor: Frank Brunner
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Academic Advisor: Patti Hartman
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Manatee High School's SLCs include the Freshman Learning Center, the AP+ Program, and the following:

Innovation and Design through Engineering and the Arts Academy (IDEA)

Equips students with proficiency in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) as they explore careers in construction technology, architecture and drafting, engineering, materials and processes, design (visual arts) and TV production.

Lead teachers: Joe Orr and Cheri Briggs.

Manatee Academy for the Performing Arts

Enriches students through a team approach, diverse electives, a strongly integrated curriculum, and extensive community involvement. Creative students explore community connections and the importance of the arts as they prepare for careers.

Lead teachers: Tommy Jomisko and Linda Boone.

Medical Academy

Launches students towards in-demand healthcare careers through core healthcare education, hands-on internships, job shadowing, and a strong academic base.

Lead teacher: Laura Sollenberger.

Global Leadership Center

Arms students with career exploration, industry certified skills, and leadership training through Early Childhood Education, Business Technology and Web Design, Culinary, and JROTC.

Lead teachers: Nancy Acton and Jacqueline Peebles.

Palmetto High School



Career Advisor: Millie Torres
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Academic Advisor: Lynda Elkin
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Palmetto High School SLCs includes the Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) program and the following academies:

Academy for Business, Law & Leadership

Offers students a variety of educational opportunities that enhance employability skills and, in turn, prepare them for global citizenship and success in domestic and international careers.

Lead teachers: Jennifer Little and Darlene Lott.

Arts, Communication and Design Academy

Encourages students to use their creative talent to expand the way they communicate and compete, whether in the field of fine and graphic arts, mass communications, or architectural design and construction.

Lead teachers: Jim Kapper and Paul Stone.

Science, Health and Education Academy

Improves the physical, mental, and social well being of the individual through ethical conduct in whatever vocation they choose. Students learn to preserve and manage natural and human resources, and to improve the quality of human life through education, health management, and management of natural resources.

Lead teachers: Julie Tillet and Nelson Lopez.

Southeast High School



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Academic Advisor: Brandy Braver
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Southeast High School's SLCs include the Freshman Learning Center, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program, AVID, and the following:

Electronics Communications Center (ECC) Academy

Equips students with the technology skills needed to be successful in today's competitive and evolving technical world. ECC students learn technology skills in television production, digital videography, and 3D animation.

Lead teachers: Bob Burwell and LeAnn Hoffman.

Agriscience, Business, and Consumer Sciences (ABC) Academy

Assists students in exploring occupational interests while experiencing job training and developing skills that will ready students for work or college. Active community and business partnerships connect students to the world of work, while dual enrollment opportunities

connect students to postsecondary education.

Lead teachers: Cindy Rees, Chef Mike Niewodowski, and Cheryl Brown-Santana.

Visual and Performing Arts Academy

Encourages students to embrace their talent within an artist's community where they can hone their craft and gain academic knowledge in order to possess the attitudes of an artist and pursue their passion as a career. Creative students enjoy strong community support as well as a curriculum rich in diversity .

Lead teachers: Barbara Kenney and Kathy Campbell.

Center for Leadership

Promotes next-generation leaders at the personal, professional, community and global level. This Center offers a strong JROTC program and two new career-based learning pathways: Educational & Social Concerns and Health & Science.

Lead teachers: Jennifer Catlin, Steven Craig and John Karl.

Business and Industry Advisory Partners

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Strategic Objective #4: **Actively engage in global outreach.**



Smaller Learning Communities Spotlight on Success

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The Smaller Learning Communities programs are under the direction of the **Adult, Career and Technical Education (ACT) Department** of the School District of Manatee County.

Doug Wagner, Director—Adult, Career and Technical Education

Angie Grasberger, SLC Project Manager and President, National Career Academy Coalition

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.



Career Pathways, Take Stock Times, Careers in Action, Education Today/Career Tomorrow, Transition Times, ACT Update, Technical Education Today, and Spotlight on Success.