

### **Elementary School Career Planning:**

Counselors address a broad range of career related concepts at the elementary level. In grades K-3, attention is focused on how future work, home, and community life fit together; learning about different work options and their importance; mastering basic economics concepts; and developing the realization that there are limitless career opportunities. In grades 4-5, Career Paths are formally introduced; school and work connections are strengthened; the development of positive study skills/work habits is reinforced; and goal setting, problem-solving, collaboration, and equity are stressed. Throughout the K-5 years, counselors conduct a wide variety of exploration activities and help students research the qualifications, education, and benefits/drawbacks of different careers. Interest inventories are used to help students identify possible career paths, maximize their talents and abilities, cultivate hobbies, and build self-esteem. Counselors emphasize the power of possibility by teaching there are no gender differences for success in careers and also create a planning vehicle for student accomplishment and achievement – at school, at home, in the community, and in their future work lives.

### **Middle School Career Planning:**

At the middle level counselors build on the career concepts introduced at the elementary level. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, career concepts are addressed through classroom visits. An emphasis is placed on interest inventories and how they relate to the Career Pathways/Career Clusters in regard to the student. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, all students are enrolled in Academic Skills I. In this class there is a six week careers unit, wherein the students are introduced to online activities through Missouri Connections. Students register and complete an interest inventory, career search and person match. Through this leg of the program they compare wage trends, education requirements and job outlooks. Assessment results are reviewed and discussed. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, all students further their exploration of careers with a six week unit in Academic Skills II, building upon their Missouri Connections portfolio. Emphasis is placed on educational preparation and training for the careers selected in the student's career cluster. In addition, students begin a four year education plan based on their Career Cluster. Career Day, based on each of the Career Paths, also takes place in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. It is a culminating experience in which speakers discuss their jobs, education, and preparation for their career.

### **High School Career Planning:**

All students take the ACT's PLAN assessment during their sophomore year. This assessment not only gives students a picture of their academic strengths and weaknesses, but also gives them direction in choosing a career. Students take the PLAN and also go over the PLAN results with their advisory teachers. All parents and students are also invited to an evening presentation where PLAN results are explained. The advisory teacher also uses the PLAN results to help guide the students as they select a career path plan. The career path plans are used to aide in the enrollment process. Students also participate in other career exploration activities through advisory such as listening to career speakers and using the Missouri Connections program.

Many students also participate in our career/technical release programs. As juniors or seniors, students can enroll in these programs at the Career Technology Center or Summit Technology Center. Areas of study include Construction trades, Electronics Technology, Information Technology, Computer Support Services, Fire Science, Emergency Medical Technician, Landscaping and Greenhouse Operations, Entrepreneurial Studies, Elements of Engineering, Entertainment Media Technology, Principals of Biomedical Science and Bio-Technology, Pre-professional Nursing, Automotive Technology, Computer Aided Design, Computer Support and Health Occupations. In addition, seniors can participate in the Marketing Education and Business Technology work release programs gaining employment and business skills in the classroom and on the job.

