Unit 4: Career Awareness and Exploration

Content Area: **Guidance**
Course(s): **21st Century Skills**
Time Period: **Generic Time Period**
Length: **5 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

Grade-seven students will build on their understanding of the world of work. They will add to their Personalized Learning Plans as they continue with the second year of Career Exploration. Students will recognize the 16 Career Clusters and will select one or two with which they can align their personal interests and academic abilities. In addition to taking an interest inventory, *Coin Career Targets,* students will explore on-line resources such as O*NET and www.states'careerclusters.org, to identify and research possible career choices.

Standards

CRP.K-12.CRP10	Plan education and career paths aligned to personal goals.
CAEP.9.2.8.B	Career Exploration
CAEP.9.2.8.B.1	Research careers within the 16 Career Clusters ® and determine attributes of career success.
CAEP.9.2.8.B.2	Develop a Personalized Student Learning Plan with the assistance of an adult mentor that includes information about career areas of interest, goals and an educational plan.

Essential Questions

- Why is work important?
- What is the difference between a “job” and a “career”
- Of the thousands of jobs, how do I find the one that is right for me?
- How do the academic subjects I take in middle school build a foundation for career choice?
- Where can I learn about careers that may interest me?

Application of Knowledge and Skills...

Students will know...

- how to identify their personal interests and link those interests to a particular career cluster

- how to research specific careers through exploring online resources, such as O*NET and states'careerclusters.org
- that careers are categorized in 16 different clusters
- that each cluster contains careers that require academic or technical training
- the definition of "career"

Students will be able to...

- distinguish a job from a career
- identify one or a few of the 16 career clusters that align with their personal interests and academic strengths
- outline requirements for specific career interests according to: education needed, description of the career, tasks specific to the career, personal skills and abilities required to perform the job, and salary potential
- research career clusters for specific jobs/careers contained therein
- use an interest inventory

Assessments

- My Career Plan- - Middle School Formative: Student Portfolio Students will revise personal interests, abilities, academic strengths, and extra-curricular activities. They will set short-term personal goals to further career aspirations.
- Interest Inventory Formative: Self Assessment Students will take an interest inventory to assess their personal interests. They will link the results of this inventory to the sixteen career clusters and choose the top three to research.
- Career Exploration using O*NET Online and www.state'scareerclusters.org Formative: Technology Project Students will be given an in-class worksheet to use as a guide in their online research of career choices. They will specifically use O*NET Online and www.state'scareerclusters.org as websites for information.
- Career Development Benchmark: Year 2 Summative: Benchmark Assessment Students will define terms such as career, job, and occupation; distinguish traditional from nontraditional careers; compare and contrast academic degrees and the amount of time typically spent earning each; distinguish talents from abilities and hobbies from interests. They will identify one career cluster and a possible career of interest contained therein. They will be able to define the following about that particular career: education and personal abilities required, salary and growth potential, technical skills and personal skills needed to be successful in the job.

Activities

- Week 1: Review and Update Personalized Student Learning Plan. Students will update the information contained within their PSLP's, specifically their "Middle School Career Plan".
- Week 2: *Coin Career Targets: Interest Inventory.* Students will take a paper and pencil interest

inventory that will link their interests to the 16 Career Clusters. Students will identify their top three career clusters of interest.

- Week 3: Online Research Using O*NET. Students will research one of their top three career clusters of interest using O*NET Online. They will use a worksheet to answer specific questions about academic preparation, subject areas to study, salary, potential growth, skills and abilities needed for the career, etc.
- Week 4: Online Research Using www.state'scareerclusters.org. Students will use a worksheet that will guide their research using an alternate website for career information: www.state'scareerclusters.org . Students will identify career opportunities in their field of interest regionally, nationally, and internationally.
- Week 5: Course Test and PSLP Review. Students will take their end-of-course benchmark assessment. They will define terms, such as career, job, and occupation. They will distinguish the various types of academic degrees and the types of colleges/schools that grant them. They will be able to identify their personal career cluster and career choice/interest and elaborate information they gleaned in their research, such as the education required for the job, skills, technical knowledge, and personal abilities needed to perform the work. They will be able to identify the type of work environment as well as potential salary and opportunities for job growth.

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

he nature of this course is highly individualized; however, more advanced students may conduct advanced searches of possible careers of interest to include those in each of the following:

- Bright Outlook
- Green Economy
- STEM careers

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

- Language Arts/Writing: Students will reinforce their writing skills when summarizing their research work for their PSLP's.
- Technology/Research: Students will reinforce their research skills using online websites.

Resources

Online Career Websites:

- O*NET Online
- www.state'scareerclusters.org

Coin: Career Targets: Career Exploration and Educational Planning Guide

Teacher-made benchmarks and research guide