Unit 3: Career Exploration: High School Preparation

Content Area: **Guidance**
Course(s): **21st Century Skills**
Time Period: **Marking Period 2**
Length: **3 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

In this unit, students will visit the regional high school, Watchung Hills, to become familiar with general rules and regulations, to tour the campus, to meet administrative staff, and to acquaint themselves with the requirements of the academic departments. Students will understand the meaning of academic "credits". They will understand that course-level recommendations depend largely upon effort and motivation. This, in turn, could have an effect on academic advancement; and, ultimately, on post-secondary education choices.

Students will be assigned career focus groups. Group discussions will address the following topics:

- elective selections, which will enhance career preparation
- extracurricular activities related to career interest
- mapping out an academic "pathway" which will foster career development/preparation

Students will understand that career "preparation" begins in high school and that preparation extends beyond the school environment to part-time jobs and volunteer work that support career development.

Standards

CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP7	Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
CRP.K-12.CRP10	Plan education and career paths aligned to personal goals.

Essential Questions

- What are "credits", and how do they influence my graduation from high school?
- How does academic effort and motivation play a role in career selection?
- Why is volunteer work important during high school?
- What type of work can I do in high school?
- How do extra-curricular activities affect my career plan?

Application of Knowledge and Skills...

Students will know...

- how to select academic and elective courses over their high school term to further advance career goals
- that career preparation begins in high school with the selection of academic courses
- that extracurricular activities and work, whether paid or volunteer, should be viewed as part of the career preparation process
- that graduation from high school is dependent upon accumulation of credits from academic as well as from elective courses

Students will be able to...

- define the term, "credit" and identify the number of credits required for graduation
- identify academic requirements for high school graduation
- list extracurricular, volunteer, and work-related activities that will foster knowledge and training for their future careers
- use the high school course catalog to map out an academic pathway that will prepare them for post-secondary education as part of the career-preparation process

Assessments

- Portfolio Review Formative: Student Portfolio Students will make final additions/revisions to their Personal Learning Plans. They will add their personal reflection on the mentor interview. The counselor will review each portfolio for completion.
- Career Exploration Exam Summative: Benchmark Assessment Students will take an essay exam that will explore their personal career interests. They will discuss their personal talents, abilities, and academic strengths that have influenced their choice. They will elaborate on their high school visits and mentor interviews. They will address the results of their interest inventories and the effect these had on their career interests. In effect, this assessment will be a personal summary of their journey through the career exploration process, an expression of their career goals and how they hope to achieve them.

Activities

- Classroom Activities: Class discussion of terms: credit, course levels, electives versus academic requirements, transcripts, resumes, working papers. Discussion of the relationship between part-time jobs and volunteer experience and career preparation. Portfolios will be evaluated for completion of mentor interview.
- Orientation Night at Watchung Hills Regional High School: Students and parents visit the high school to meet administrators and to take a tour of the campus.

- Small Career Focus Groups: Students will select electives based on career interests and will map out an academic pathway over their high school term in keeping with career selection.

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

The nature of this unit is highly individualized. Advanced students will be more self-directed in research work and will ask questions appropriate to the nature of their career interests.

Challenged students will need a more teacher-directed approach to elective selection.

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

- Cross-Disciplinary: Students will reinforce organizational skills by performing their portfolio review.
- Technology: Students will reinforce online research skills

Resources

- High School Orientation Forms:

1. Registration Form

2. Course Selection Form

- Portfolios
- Watchung Hills "Program of Studies" (online)
- laptop computers