Unit 1: Career Exploration: Portfolio Review

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

Unit Overview

In this unit, students will review their Personalized Learning Plan (Career) Portfolios to update current personal information (i.e. interests, talents, abilities, academic strengths, etc.) which will be used in the career-planning process. Students will use online resources, particularly www.CTE.org (formerly: www.state'scareerclusterrs.org) to research secondary education requirements for the career cluster/occupation of interest. Ultimately, as a consequence of this research, students will be better prepared to plan their high school course selections.

Standards

CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP7	Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
CRP.K-12.CRP11	Use technology to enhance productivity.
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.
CAEP.9.2.8.B.4	Evaluate how traditional and nontraditional careers have evolved regionally, nationally, and globally.
CAEP.9.2.8.B.5	Analyze labor market trends using state and federal labor market information and other resources available online.

Essential Questions

- How does academic training affect career preparation?
- What is the difference between required academic courses and electives?
- How does amount/depth of education affect future income?
- Why are extracurricular activities important in the career-planning process?

Application of Knowledge and Skills...

Students will know...

- that career pathways demand educational training in high school
- the difference between required high school courses and electives
- the importance of personal talents, interests, and abilities and how they relate to career selection

Students will be able to...

- distinguish required high school academic courses from electives
- research career pathways using www.CTE.org to identify high school academic requirements for possible career choice
- revise and plan their personal career exploration process by portfolio review and update

Assessments

- Portfolio Review Formative: Student Portfolio Students will conduct a review of their Personalized Learning Plan Portfolios to identify documents in the Middle School Career Planning Process: Middle School Career Plan, In-class Power-Point Notes regarding career terms and definitions, NBT Creativity Assessment, COIN Interest Inventory, and Information Sheets on Vocational Education. Students will revise the Middle School Career Plan Sheet to reflect current interests and to add extracurricular activities. Students will prepare an update sheet to describe how these revisions will enhance career exploration.
- Career Research Formative: Technology Project Students will conduct online research using www.CTE.org to identify academic pathways in secondary education for career preparation.
- Career Interview Formative: Written Report Using a prepared set of questions, students will interview an adult mentor practicing the career of interest. Students will prepare a brief summary of their interview. In this personal reflection, students will express how the interview either inspired or detracted from their career interest.

Activities

Students will. . .

- update Personalized Learning Plan (Career Development) Portfolios with current talents, interests, abilities, extracurricular activities.
- participate in class discussion focusing on the difference between required high school academic classes and electives
- research online websites, particularly www.CTE.org for academic pathways in the career cluster of interest
- as a written project assignment, prepare an interview with an adult mentor who works in their career cluster of interest
- be prepared for and attend their orientation visit to Watchung Hills Regional High School, usually scheduled early in January (Students who do not plan to attend WHRHS will be prepared for a general orientation in their school of choice.)

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

Although this unit is high individualized, more-advanced students may perform additional online research using www.O*NET.org to identify degree requirements and income levels for career interests.

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

- Language Arts Literacy: Students will reinforce writing skills by performing their career interviews.
- Cross-Disciplinary: Students will reinforce organizational skills by performing their portfolio review.
- Technology: Students will reinforce online research skills.

Resources

- Personalized Learning Plan Portfolios
- Classroom Chromebooks
- Teacher-made materials:

Research questions

Interview Worksheet