Unit 2: Career Exploration: Vocational Education

Content Area: **Guidance**
Course(s): **21st Century Skills**
Time Period: **Marking Period 2**
Length: **1 Week**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

Students will continue to build their Personalized Learning Plan Portfolios by adding current interests, talents and abilities acquired since last year. They will review their career interests from last year's work to see if those interests interface with a vocational education. Students with career aspirations in the performing arts, public safety and security, culinary arts, service industries, computer industry, landscaping, and transportation industries may choose to visit the county school to see if they might be interested in a vocational high school for career preparation. As a consequence of this unit, students will be able to distinguish between traditional and nontraditional career choices.

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.
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.6	Demonstrate understanding of the necessary preparation and legal requirements to enter the workforce.

Essential Questions

- How can I use my personal interests and talents to find the career that is right for me?
- What is the difference between "job" and "career"?
- Which type of high school will offer the best preparation for my future career?
- What types of academic courses are necessary for my career?
- What is the difference between traditional and nontraditional careers?

Application of Knowledge and Skills...

Students will know...

- how to distinguish a “job” from a “career”
- the difference between a traditional and a nontraditional career
- the difference between course offerings at Somerset County Vocational Technical High and at Watchung Hills Regional High School

Students will be able to...

- distinguish a job from a career by reviewing their Personalized Learning Plans to see if the work they have done fits the criteria for "career"
- distinguish a vocational high school from a traditional high school and evaluate which one best fits their personal career needs
- identify traditional from nontraditional careers and apply this understanding to their personal career interests

Assessments

- Career Exploration Inventory Diagnostic: Other oral assessments Students will define career vocabulary from last year's career study: job, career, occupation, college degrees, interest inventory, career clusters. They will define the career exploration process.
- Vocational Options Summative: Self Assessment Students who elect to take a field trip to the county vocational high school will write a brief paper on the experience. They will identify their career of interest and how the vocational school will address preparation for their choice. They will differentiate between a traditional career and a nontraditional career. They will discuss their personal interests and talents that fostered their choice of a vocational education.
- Non-Vocational Options Summative: Self Assessment Students who elect to not visit the county vocatinal high school will write a brief paper on their career interest. They will identify their career interest and will describe the educational path they are planning to follow in order to be prepared for that choice. They will discuss their personal interests and talents that foster their choice of a non-vocational education.

Activities

Classroom discussion will focus on the offerings of Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School.

- Discuss the gifted and talented programs: Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, School of Law and Public Safety, Performing Arts Workshop
- Discuss the various occupational workshops: culinary arts; landscaping; service, transportation, and building industries; and how vocational careers offer nontraditional career choices

- Discuss how the occupational programs may lead to high-paying careers, especially in business

Students with interests in these courses of study will be permitted to take a day trip to visit the high school. Upon completion of the trip, students will write a short essay regarding the experience and how it has helped them with their career goals. This assessment will be added to their portfolios.

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

Students will review and add information regarding vocational education to their career portfolios.

The nature of this class is highly individualized. Students will consider whether this type of education suits their personal career aspirations.

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

Language Arts Literacy: Students, who take a class trip to Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School, will write a short essay regarding their experience. They will reinforce their writing and editing skills.

Resources

- Personalized Student Learning Plans
- Brochures from Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School