CAREER CRUISING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS

EXPLORE ASSESSMENTS

Learning Styles Inventory

Have students complete the Learning Styles Inventory to help them identify the ways they learn best and take note of strategies they can implement to improve their study habits. Consider having students write an entry in My Journal to describe next steps they can take.

Career Matchmaker

Ask students to complete the first 39 questions in one session, save their results, and choose two or three careers to explore in more detail. Students can continue to answer questions until all 116 have been answered for the most accurate results.

EXPLORE CAREERS

Career Project

After selecting a career from their Matchmaker results list, or one they're interested in exploring, ask students to research the career in detail, creating a short written report and/or presentation for the class. To complete this task, students can use information on the career profile, including what's in the Interview section (this activity can also be done in groups). Students can then store the written portion of the assignment as part of their My Plan portfolio.

Career Clusters Project

Have students work in small groups to prepare a presentation on one or more of the clusters, discussing the cluster profile, associated pathways, and related careers. Students can store the written portion as part of their My Plan portfolio.

Search by School Subject

Students can select their favorite school subject, explore careers related to that subject, and save those of interest to the My Plan portfolio. Ask them to include a comment explaining why they've chosen each saved career.

Career Selector

Get students to expand their search by entering the specific criteria they're looking for in a career. Students can then explore close matches to determine what's most important to them and which jobs are most compatible.

PORTFOLIO TOOL

Careers that Interest Me

Have students save the careers they're interested in from searches and Career Matchmaker.

Education Plan

Eighth grade students can begin planning their high school course schedule by selecting the subjects they'd like to take. If high schools in your district also have Career Cruising, you can link to their education information and course descriptions (if uploaded).

Career Cruising

Career Preparation

- Career Clusters: Ask students to select their preferred cluster and write a journal entry to justify their selection, possibly including a few careers within the cluster they're interested in.
- Career Planning Activities: Have students get used to building their portfolios by including entries for activities like attending a camp or career fair, or talking with an adult about their career.
- Career and Life Goals: Have students enter their short and long term goals; update the short-term goals each term or school year.

Activities and Abilities

- Extracurricular Activities: Encourage students to keep a record of their activities, including related photos or performance write-ups.
- Hobbies and Interests: Get students to list their hobbies and interests to help them prepare for resume development.
- Skills and Abilities: Ask students to select three (3) attributes and explain in the comments how they've demonstrated those skills. Where relevant, students can also include language skills and computer skills.
- Awards and Certificates: Have students include entries for any awards/certificates they've received.

My Files

Ask students to store career-related projects and work samples in their portfolios.

My Journal

Have students keep track of their personal reflections on career exploration in their My Journal.

CAREER ADVISOR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CAMS) SETTINGS

- Use *Portfolio Options* to restrict access to only the sections of the My Plan portfolio students will be working with. This allows them to see something new each year as they progress through high school.
- Use *Portfolio Completion Standards* to set expectations and track student progress by grade.
- Place assignments and instructions in student portfolios using *Assignments and*
- *Activities.*
- Direct students to useful websites and resources using *School Links* and *School Files.*
- View *Portfolio Reports* to track careers of interest to help create groups for assignments/projects.
- Track student progress with *Completion Reports.*
- Communicate with students using the *Send Message* and report-based messaging tools.
- Keep individual students on track using the *Advisement Log.*
- Schedule a career day/guest speakers and ask students to use Career Cruising to research in preparation.

Career Cruising