



SHARE YOUR STORY
EQUITY AND ACCESS FOR HIGH QUALITY CAREER PATHWAYS

Oklahoma State Department of Education New Skills for Youth Academic Affairs and Planning

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Best Practice:

Pryor Public Schools is currently in the process of creating a comprehensive Career Pathways initiative for PK-12. The initiative includes a Career Awareness phase (PK-3), a Career Exploration phase (4-8) and a Career Development phase (9-12).

Purpose:

- We will provide learners the opportunity to explore possible careers with real life experiences.
- We will create relationships with business and industries that allow exposure to the working world and possible career options.
- Career explorations will be a part of every grade level from PK-12.
- We will work hard to assist our learners in choosing a pathway that is fulfilling to them and creates a passion for learning.

Grade Level(s)

Career Awareness Phase (PK-3)

- **Pre-K** – 2 activities focused on career awareness, one during each semester.
- **Kindergarten** – 2 activities focused on career awareness, one during each semester.
- **1st Grade** – 2 activities focused on career awareness, one during each semester.
- **2nd Grade** - 4 activities, focused on career awareness, goal setting and academic planning. One activity will be done each quarter.
- **3rd Grade** – *Third Graders Go to Work* is a voluntary program designed for third grade classrooms. *Third Graders Go to Work* includes a 6-lesson curriculum that

teachers present in the classroom – prior to an on-site visit to the partner business. This program is sponsored by the Pryor Area Chamber of Commerce and the Pryor Area Foundation.

Career Exploration Phase (4-8)

Elementary

- **4th Grade** - 4 activities, focused on career exploration, goal setting and academic planning. One activity will be done each quarter.
- **5th Grade** - 4 activities, focused on career exploration, goal setting and academic planning. One activity will be done each quarter.
- **6th Grade** - 4 activities, focused on career exploration, goal setting, academic planning, and transition skills. One activity will be done each quarter. Our 6th Grade classrooms will also participate in ***Junior Achievement BizTown***. JA BizTown combines in-class learning with a day-long visit to a simulated town. This program allows elementary school students to operate banks, manage restaurants, write checks, and vote for mayor. The program helps students connect the dots between what they learn in school and the real world.

Junior High

- **7th Grade** – minimum of 8 activities, focused on career exploration, goal setting, academic planning, learning techniques, employability skills and personal financial literacy. One activity will be done each month. All 7th grade students will be required to take a ***Career Explorations class***, a semester long online blended learning approach. In this class students research the 6 career clusters and explore the various career pathways within each cluster. Students will also learn job etiquette, interviewing and networking, career plans, and building a resume.
- **8th Grade** – minimum of 8 activities, focused on career exploration, goal setting, academic planning, learning techniques, employability skills and personal financial literacy. One activity will be done each month. All 8th grade students will tour the ***Northeast Tech Pryor*** campus in the spring, this tour will provide them with an insight to available career and academic options that are available to them as they begin to determine start developing their career pathway options. All 8th grade students will have the opportunity to go to Washington, D.C. Students must meet academic eligibility requirements, perform volunteer service, and must meet certain character requirements.

Career Development Phase (9-12)

Prior to their 9th Grade year all students will be required to choose a career pathway. We are currently in the process of developing 79 career pathway course plans. To fulfill the necessary courses for these career pathways, our students can take classes at Pryor High School (traditional), Northeast Tech, Rogers State University – Pryor, SREB curriculum, or through an online platform called FuelEducation.

- **9th Grade** – minimum of 8 activities, focused on career exploration, goal setting, post-secondary aspirations & options, academic planning, learning techniques, employability skills, personal financial literacy, and transition skills. One activity will be done each month. All 9th grade students will have the opportunity to participate in the ***Career Exposure Week*** in November. Students will participate in various onsite business tours in the MidAmerica Industrial Park, in order to get an up-close

experience of what opportunities are available to them.

- **10th Grade** – weekly activities completed during Tiger Time (25 minute flex period), focused on career exploration, goal setting, post-secondary aspirations & options, academic planning, learning techniques, employability skills, and personal financial literacy. All sophomores will participate in the *Northeast Tech Pryor – Sophomore Showcase*. This tour will provide them with a more detailed insight into four of the available programs at Northeast Tech
- **11th Grade** – weekly activities completed during Tiger Time (25 minute flex period), focused on career exploration, goal setting, post-secondary aspirations & options, academic planning, learning techniques, employability skills, and personal financial literacy. Interested students have the opportunity to participate in *Manufacturing Day*, sponsored by the MidAmerica Industrial Park and Rogers State University – Pryor Campus. Juniors are introduced to the opportunities available to them in manufacturing and go to onsite business tours.
- **12th Grade** – weekly activities completed during Tiger Time (25 minute flex period), focused on career exploration, goal setting, post-secondary aspirations & options, academic planning, learning techniques, employability skills, and personal financial literacy. Seniors can participate in the *Pryor Senior Career Internship Program*, where seniors have the option of earning elective credit for doing a 2-hour internship. Students can develop a better understanding of a career opportunity within their chosen career pathway (if available). Senior students will also have the opportunity to participate in the *MidAmerican Industrial Park Job Fair* in the spring. Students must have a resume and go through an interview process at the MAIP Expo Center. This job fair may provide students with a summer-job opportunity or career after high school.

Expected Results

We expect our learners to develop a vision of their future and a plan to accomplish that vision.

Evidence of Success

We are still in the process of determining the most appropriate method to measure the success of this program. We will be evaluating the number of students that have a career plan and have successfully earned a certificate or certification toward a career goal. We will also review feedback from local businesses, students, teachers, and community members.

Staff Needed

In order for this initiative to be successful, we must create “buy-ins”, from our administration, staff, local business and community members.

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