



Conrady Junior High School

North Palos School District 117



Postsecondary and Career Expectations

At the middle school and early high school level, the Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Framework is designed to provide students with guided exploration of postsecondary planning and options in a manner that is consistent with adolescent development. Meaningful participation in post-secondary preparation programs requires that students perceive college and/or career as possible and probable. Too often, programs are designed to serve only students who already have a college-going or career-oriented identity. The developmental work in the middle school framework is intended to prepare students to more fully engage with the PaCE Framework throughout the critical high school years.



By the end of 6th grade...

Students should be supported to:

- Explore individual skills, strengths, and interests
- Analyze personal achievement data and engage in self-reflection
- Set personal goals
- Participate in a 5th to 6th grade transition day
- Attend 6th grade orientation
- Explore approaches to distinguishing between financial wants vs. needs
- Identify individuals who can serve as their support system

Students should be exposed to:

- Practices that foster the development of a growth mindset



By the end of 7th grade...

Students should be supported to:

- Reflect on their personal values and make connections between their values, behaviors, and well-being
- Explore similarities and differences between jobs within a common career cluster or industry
- Learn about factors that contribute to financial gains and losses
- Create plans to achieve personal goals
- Monitor progress towards achieving personal goals
- Understand the concept of a growth mindset

Students should be exposed to:

- Information about a wide range of careers that connect to their interests



By the end of 8th grade...

Students should be supported to:

- Compare factors to consider when selecting a career (interest, skills/expertise, desired lifestyle, workplace culture, and salary) and how they connect to job satisfaction
- Complete the Career Cluster Interest Survey in Junior Achievement
- Explore career interests
- Participate in a career fair
- Learn about high school course offerings
- Explore the concept of personal agency and confidence building that will lead to personal success
- Demonstrate a growth mindset

Students should be exposed to:

- A variety of postsecondary options (college, trades, military, and workforce)
- Financial literacy (budgeting, saving, bank accounts, credit/debit, and investing)
- Concepts of entrepreneurship and business planning

