

Middle School Career Exploration

Students at Hamilton Middle School begin to explore their interests in careers in the 7th grade using Career Cruising activities. In the 7th grade a one-day job shadowing experience highlights this process. Students begin identifying their career interests and follow this discovery with a job shadowing experience. Prior to this experience, students are introduced to a career exploration website called Career Cruising. Each student is given a username and password to log onto and use the career exploring tools available on this website. On this site, students complete the Match Maker career interest inventory and are assigned careers that match their interests. Within this site, students also explore descriptions of working conditions, salaries, and educational needs for the careers that interest them. Students then search and find suitable job shadowing experiences using the information from their initial Career Cruising experience.

Students in the 8th grade revisit the Career Cruising website again taking the Match Maker interest inventory and the Skills and Abilities inventory to further explore their interests with careers. Students in the 8th grade also complete career preparation activities that assign them to a career pathway, they identify short and long term goals for themselves regarding their career interests. They also identify the level of education they are interested in pursuing and the careers available to them. This information is saved in the Career Cruising website on their personal Educational Development Plan. This information is then used to choose careers for students according to their interests and abilities and they then participate in a one-day Reality Store event. Student Educational Development Plans are updated yearly and are used as a guide towards a pathway for graduation and to launch students into further career training. Students' interests will change as they learn and grow, and using the tools of Career Cruising they are able to match their interests and abilities with career opportunities and begin their journey of career discover.