

College & Career Exploration Syllabus

School Year: 2025-2026

Course Overview

Welcome to 8th Grade College & Career Exploration! This course is designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions about your future academic and career paths. Aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), this class will guide you through a journey of self-discovery, career investigation, and planning for high school and beyond. You will develop essential skills in research, decision-making, communication, and financial literacy to build a solid foundation for a successful future.

Course Goals

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- **Self-Assessment:** Identify your personal interests, skills, and values through various assessments.
- **Career Exploration:** Research various career clusters and specific occupations, including educational requirements and job outlook.
- **High School & Postsecondary Planning:** Understand high school endorsements and explore postsecondary options like college, technical school, and the military.
- **Financial Literacy:** Gain a basic understanding of budgeting, saving, and the cost of education.
- **Professional Skills:** Develop essential employability skills such as communication, collaboration, and critical thinking.

Units of Study

- **Unit 1: Discovering Me** 🌟
 - **Focus:** Self-awareness, personal interests, talents, skills, values, and beliefs.
- **Unit 2: Exploring the World of Work** 📁
 - **Focus:** Introduction to the 16 career clusters and investigation of specific occupations.
- **Unit 3: High School and Beyond** 🎓
 - **Focus:** Understanding high school endorsements, graduation requirements, and creating a personal four-year plan.
- **Unit 4: The Path to Higher Education**
 - **Focus:** Investigating different types of colleges, technical schools, and military training options.
- **Unit 5: Financial Foundations** 💰
 - **Focus:** Understanding the costs of education and exploring financial aid and scholarships.

- **Unit 6: Professionalism and Employability**
 - **Focus:** Developing resume-writing skills, practicing for interviews, and learning workplace communication.

Grading Policy

Your grade in this course is a reflection of your effort, participation, and mastery of the TEKS.

- **Daily Assignments & Participation:** 75%
- **Tests & Major Assessments:** 25%

Late Work Policy: It is crucial to submit all assignments on time. Late work will be accepted for a reduced grade up to one week after the due date, unless prior arrangements have been made.

Classroom Expectations

To ensure a productive and respectful learning environment for everyone, you are expected to:

- **Be Prepared:** Come to class every day with necessary materials and a positive attitude.
- **Be Respectful:** Listen to your classmates and teacher and value diverse perspectives.
- **Be Engaged:** Actively participate in class discussions and activities.
- **Be Responsible:** Take ownership of your learning and strive for your personal best.

Please sign and return this portion to your teacher.

I have read and understand the syllabus for the 8th Grade College & Career Exploration course, including the course goals, grading policy, and classroom expectations.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____