

## OHS Academic & Career Planning



*“All students learning at high levels so they can become positive and productive contributors to society and the world.”*

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### **Mission**

Empower **all students** to navigate the road to adulthood through education and career-focused training.

### **Vision**

Reimagining K–12 education to equip students with:

- Meaningful and supportive adult relationships
  - The ability to adapt to opportunities and challenges
  - Personalized pathways toward successful, fulfilling lives
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### **Opening Statement**

The Oostburg School District remains deeply committed to helping students “connect the dots” throughout their educational journey. The “dots” we want every student to connect before graduation include their passions, interests, skills, abilities, educational experiences, and future lifestyle goals.

We believe the PI-26 legislation has provided a timely and valuable framework to clearly articulate the intentional work our district does to support academic and career planning. It has strengthened alignment among students, staff, administration, parents, and community partners.

By sharing our implementation plan, we aim to provide a clear picture of where we are now and where we are headed as we continue striving toward our ultimate goal: preparing every student to graduate college and career ready.

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## **Job Market in Sheboygan County**

### **[County Workforce Profile \(2025\)](#)**

County Workforce Profiles provide a comprehensive snapshot of the labor market for every Wisconsin county. The Sheboygan County profile includes analysis of:

- Current and projected population trends
- Labor force dynamics
- Major industries and key employers
- Occupational patterns within industries
- Average wages
- Total personal income

This data helps inform student career exploration and planning.

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## **Career Exploration Resources for Students**

Students research career outlook and labor market trends using the following tools:

- [Xello](#)
- [CareerOneStop](#)
- [Job Center of Wisconsin](#)
- [Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\)](#)

- **Lakeshore Dual Credit Advisor** – Meets with students on campus monthly to support post-secondary planning

For students planning to enter the workforce directly after graduation, the following additional resources are available:

- [Someplace Better – Better Jobs](#) (Sheboygan County job openings)
- [Inspire Wisconsin](#) – Connects students with meaningful, career-based learning experiences and provides employers the opportunity to cultivate the next generation of local talent

## **Individualized ACP Support**

### **Student-Led ACP Conferences – Freshmen**

Our Academic and Career Planning (ACP) process begins immediately in 9th grade. This programming is embedded within the 9th grade Health curriculum and unfolds throughout the entire school year.

The process culminates in a one-on-one interview with the Health teacher (Mrs. Antes), the high school counselor (Mrs. Stielow), or the high school principal (Mr. Cole). During this interview, students outline their academic and career plans, reflect on what they have learned, and respond to questions about their goals and next steps.

The most important outcome of this experience is the development of a clear, personalized plan that guides each student forward in their high school journey.

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### **Monthly Mentor Homeroom – Sophomores**

Mentor Wednesdays are designed to provide sophomores with intentional time to work individually or in small groups with a dedicated adult mentor. Students follow an ACP guide developed by Student Services to support continued exploration of their interests, strengths, and future pathways.

Mentors focus on building strong one-on-one connections with students to better support, encourage, and guide them through the career and academic planning process.

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## **Junior Dutchmen Planning Conferences**

The high school counselor leads junior planning conferences with a focus on the district's goal of ensuring every student is college and career ready upon graduation from Oostburg High School.

These conferences help students and parents better understand the student's current academic standing, post-secondary options, and necessary next steps. The goal is to bring clarity and direction to what can often feel like an overwhelming amount of information regarding college, career, military, and workforce pathways.

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## **Senior Exit Conferences**

The purpose of the Senior Exit Conference is for OHS seniors to clearly articulate their specific plans following graduation and address any remaining questions before leaving high school.

Students also have the opportunity to reflect on their overall high school experience and provide personal insight about their time at OHS. This reflection helps bring meaningful closure to their high school journey while ensuring they are confident in their next steps.

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## **High School Curriculum Integration**

We believe the ACP process is not a stand-alone add-on, but rather an essential component of a student's entire high school experience. ACP remains at the forefront throughout all four years, intentionally woven into classroom instruction across subject areas.

When students are able to connect their coursework to their future goals, their engagement and success increase significantly. Our Business, Technical Education, English, and Health departments take the lead in this work, providing students with meaningful opportunities to explore, question, experience, and plan for their futures.

## **Family Engagement**

### **Junior Dutchmen Planning Conferences**

The high school counseling department remains committed to the district's goal of ensuring that every student is college and career ready upon graduation from Oostburg High School.

Junior Dutchmen Planning Conferences are designed to support both students and parents as they navigate post-secondary planning. These meetings provide clarity regarding each student's current academic standing, future goals, and the many post-secondary pathways available. Our goal is to help families feel informed, prepared, and confident in the next steps.

### **High School Principal's Monthly Messages**

Mr. Cole uses his monthly communication to share important school updates and information with families. While topics vary throughout the year, a consistent focus is encouraging meaningful conversations between students and parents about college and career readiness.

### **Course Registration Process**

All course registration forms require a parent signature prior to submission. While this may seem like a small step, we believe it plays a critical role in fostering communication between students, parents, and school staff.

The registration process is intentionally designed to help students "connect the dots" between their academic choices and future goals. In addition to selecting courses, students complete reflection questions that prompt them to consider how their selections align with their college and career plans.

Registration forms are available for each grade level:

- 9th Grade
  - 10th Grade
  - 11th Grade
  - 12th Grade
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## **High School Counseling Communication**

We strive to provide students, staff, families, and community members with timely and relevant information. Communication is shared through multiple platforms, including:

- Infinite Campus
  - Classroom Visits
  - Workshops
  - Canvas
  - Newsletter
  - Email
  - School Website
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## **Community Partnerships**

Oostburg School District takes great pride in its strong connection to the community and local businesses.

For more information, please see: [Community Connections](#)

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## **Business Partnerships**

Kevin Bruggink, District Administrator, serves on the following committees:

Sheboygan Chamber Business Education Partnership (BEP) Committee

This committee meets monthly at the Sheboygan Chamber offices and includes strong partnerships with organizations such as Johnsonville Sausage, Aurora Health Care, Old Wisconsin Sausage, Bemis Manufacturing, Curt G. Joa, and Sargento Foods.

Oostburg Chamber Economic Development Committee

This committee includes representatives from the Village of Oostburg, surrounding townships, Oostburg Public Schools, and Chamber members. The group collaborates to explore economic development opportunities and strategies to attract businesses and consumers to the area.

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## **Educational Partnerships**

### Lakeshore College

Lakeshore College provides Oostburg High School with an on-site representative at least once per month. We collaborate on admissions support, College Discovery Days, classroom presentations, dual credit opportunities, and financial aid guidance.

### Lakeland University

Oostburg High School hosts a Financial Aid Information Night led by a Lakeland University representative. This event includes a comprehensive overview of the FAFSA process and provides families with the opportunity to ask questions.

### University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh

Through our partnership with UW–Oshkosh, students have access to transcribed/dual credit coursework:

- Spanish IV

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## **Youth Apprenticeship**

### Sheboygan Area Youth Apprenticeship (CESA 6)

- Oostburg CESA Liaison: Kaise Elmer

Our students have been highly active participants in the Youth Apprenticeship program. These experiences provide meaningful career exploration and hands-on learning. Several students have successfully transitioned from youth apprenticeships into adult apprenticeship programs.

Students have partnered with the following organizations:

Sheboygan Progressive, Sheboygan Yacht Club, American Orthodontics, Golden Living, Mark Navis, IQ Print Media, Pine Haven, Old Wisconsin Sausage, Wisconsin Plastic Products, Inc., Viking Masek, Long Distance Genetics, Kohler Co., Atrium Post Acute Care, Kohler Credit Union, Anita's Garden, Mountain Promotions, Johnsonville Sausage, Cedar Grove Gardens, Blackwolf Run, Sargento Foods, Curt G. Joa, Lakeshore College (LTC), and Sheboygan Automotive.

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## **Cooperative Education Experiences**

We continue to expand work-based learning opportunities for students. While Youth Apprenticeship is an excellent option, it may not always align with a student's career interests or placement availability.

In these cases, we work diligently to connect students with local businesses for alternative cooperative education experiences. Placements have included opportunities in:

- Electrical work
- Painting
- Hospitality
- Business
- Construction
- Concrete
- Therapeutic settings

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## **INSPIRE Wisconsin**

INSPIRE Sheboygan County connects K–12 school districts with local businesses to foster collaboration and expand career preparation opportunities. The platform provides students and adults with free access to career exploration tools and connects them with professionals in their fields of interest.

The goal of INSPIRE is to bridge the gap between career aspirations and real-world opportunities by providing authentic insight into the world of work.

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## **Access for All**

Mrs. Stielow visits classrooms throughout the school year to provide grade-level appropriate informational sessions. Topics include:

- Youth Apprenticeship program information
- Overview of 9-12 School Counseling Services
- Senior Informational Sessions

- Career interest inventories
  - Learning style assessments
  - Work-based learning opportunities
  - Scholarship information
  - Post-secondary planning
  - Course scheduling
  - Student-led conference preparation
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## **Xello**

Oostburg High School utilizes Xello, an online career exploration and academic planning platform. Xello supports students in exploring college and career options while developing their Academic and Career Plans (ACP).

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## **Career-Based Learning Experiences (CBLE)**

We strongly believe in the power of experience. Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of career-based learning opportunities, including:

- Youth Apprenticeships
- Cooperative Education (Co-ops)
- Lunch and Learns
- Guest Speakers
- Job Shadows
- Early Release Career Exploration Trips

*No person may be denied admission to any public school in the district or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, co-curricular, student services, recreational or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, handicap or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability in the educational programs or activities operated by the School District of Oostburg.*