

2026 EXPLORATORY PROGRAM

What is it?

How does it operate?

What is the student benefit?

Exploratory Program

The Exploratory Program is a "hands on" investigative program for ninth grade students that:

- Encourages student discovery
- Provides individual student career assessments
- Challenges students in the application of knowledge
- Measures student aptitude in all trade programs offered
- Develops decision making skills
- Compares aptitude with likes & dislikes

The Exploratory Program is divided into three parts or phases:

Phase I (9/9-9/24; 10/6-10/20) allows all students to experience the technical program offerings at our school. Each ninth grade student spends two full days in each technical area. The emphasis during this phase of the Exploratory Program is on career types, work values, likes and dislikes, self-evaluation and decision making. Students and parents are provided with a written assessment from each technical area that measures their knowledge and understanding of career options, safety standards and procedures, theoretical concepts, and ability to apply methods and use materials to complete basic projects.

Phase II (11/4-11/20) provides students with a more in-depth study of fewer technical areas for a longer period of time. During this phase students select three technical areas and spend four days investigating these areas in much greater detail. Emphasis is placed on student aptitude, goal setting, self evaluation and decision-making. Students in this phase are assessed on their knowledge and understanding of theoretical concepts, on their ability to apply methods and use materials appropriately to complete more complex tasks, and on their ability to interact effectively in the workplace. At the end of this phase parents are invited to attend a Shop Selection Night at the school. This night allows parents to meet teachers, learn about the program expectations, and continue to provide support to their children in the decision making process.

Shop Selection Night will be on December 3, 2026 at 5pm.

Phase III (12/14-6/15) of the Exploratory Program gives students the opportunity to select one technical area that is of greatest interest to them for a more rigorous exploration. This is the longest phase of Exploratory and allows the student to experience the demands and expectations that will be required over the next three years. Students are assessed on their knowledge and understanding of theoretical concepts, their ability to apply methods and use materials appropriately, to complete complex tasks, and to interact effectively in the workplace. Additional emphasis is placed on communication skills, stress identification and management, and goal setting.