

JA JobSpark

Inspiring our future workforce.

2024 CURRICULUM



Junior
Achievement™
of Central Indiana

AN INTRODUCTION TO JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

OUR MISSION

Junior Achievement of Central Indiana's mission is to empower young people to own their future success. JA educates and inspires young people in the areas of career exploration, employability/life skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy and philanthropy through hands-on, experiential learning opportunities for children in preschool through high school.

JA JOBSPARK OVERVIEW

JA JobSpark is a two-day, hands-on career expo that focuses on 8 industry clusters to educate young people on future careers in demand, when they graduate. This initiative combines classroom learning prior to and after attending the event. JA JobSpark is meant to “spark” an interest in students and get them excited for their future. Companies from all over Indianapolis, partner to bring their tools, equipment, machines and hands-on activities to the event for students to experience. Students will have an opportunity to talk with Industry Professionals (volunteers) about their careers. Students will learn about the skills needed for their future careers and will be able to try out the equipment that is used on those jobs daily. Students will have a better understanding of the courses they will need to take in high school, a track for post-secondary, and a clear career pathway for what they find they are interested in. JA JobSpark is one of many JA programs on career exploration that is offered to students throughout their academic experience, beginning in elementary school. Upon completion of this initiative, students will have real insights into the industries that interest them and a better understanding of the skills needed and education required for future careers. JA JobSpark introduces students to a variety of professions and industries allowing them to better understand what it takes to get a job and develop a career.

INTRODUCTION

The activities included in this curriculum are designed to help you and your students prepare for JA JobSpark. The curriculum consists of four required sessions, (three before and one after JA JobSpark) and supplemental learning resources and activities. With a wide variety of industry representation at JA JobSpark, the students' preparation is key to the day's success. The work they do in the classroom will prepare them for the experiences they will have at JA JobSpark. The final required session takes place after JA JobSpark. Each of the classroom sessions are designed to take approximately 45 minutes to complete. Additionally, there are supplemental activities to complete if you have time before or after the event. It is also important to note that each of the sessions provided in this curriculum meet the Indiana State Standards provided on page 3.

Throughout the curriculum, teachers should reinforce how English/language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and work-readiness skills are used every day at work. Emphasis should also be placed on the role of teamwork at school and on the job. Additionally, teachers should highlight the goal of lifelong learning and its importance to continued success in the workplace. The JA JobSpark program does not need to end after the last session in this curriculum. The conversation about career readiness is continuous throughout their school career.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE STUDENT WEBPAGE

All student curriculum can be accessed via this link: www.jajobspark.org/curriculum. Teachers can post the entire webpage on the student's e-learning platform then complete each session during one classroom period.

Another option is to post the links you want the students to have during a specific session on your e-learning platform. The teacher can decide which materials a student will submit. All materials are in the form of a fillable PDF. They can be taught in class, submitted in a Dropbox, emailed or printed. Teachers can use any engagement platform for classroom or small group discussions.

JA JOBSPARK GOALS

Through classroom activities and participation at the JA JobSpark event, the following topics will be discussed:

- Career Assessment and Self-Awareness
- Career Clusters and Employability Skills
- Academic and Career Planning
- Goal setting and Reflection

INDIANA STANDARDS

The JA JobSpark sessions and resources meet the Indiana Standard - CTE: Exploring College and Careers 0493.68. Exploring College and Careers provides students opportunities to explore their personal goals, interests, and aptitudes as they relate to career concepts, including the 16 national career clusters and Indiana's College and Career Pathways, and determine what they want and expect for their future. Students learn about various traditional and nontraditional careers and gain an awareness of the level of education and type of training needed for a variety of careers and occupations. Students build good study habits, expand their technology skills, develop or update their graduation plans, and complete a college and career readiness exam. Virtual and real-life opportunities are provided for students to observe and explore various careers. Along with the current academic standards for this subject, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

Employability Skills Standards are covered in the JA JobSpark curriculum. The standards are based on the National Employability Skill Standards from the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE), the Indiana Department of Workforce Development's Employability Skills Benchmarks, the Governor's Work Ethic Certificate, and the Indiana Department of Education's Social Emotional Learning Competencies. The standards are arranged within four key areas: Mindsets (M), Work Ethic (WE), Learning Strategies (LS), and Social and Emotional Skills (SE). Below are the standards that are covered in the JA JobSpark lessons. 6-8.M.1, 6-8.M.2, 6-8.M.4, 6-8.WE.5, 6-8.SE.4, 6-8.LS.1, 6-8.LS.2, 6-8.LS.4, 6-8.LS.5, 6-8.LS.6, 6-8.LS.7, 6-8.LS.9, 6-8.LS.10, 6-8.LS.11, 6-8.SE.4, 6-8.SE.3, 6-8.SE.4