

## Did You Know?

### Indiana Career Explorer

Indiana Career Explorer is a great way for students to learn about themselves by taking interest, career, and confidence assessments. Students can sign up and create a free account by going to <https://indiana.kuder.com>. The results of these surveys show potential options for a career based on student answers and confidence in certain areas. Students can research these careers and find detailed information on the website. It also shows colleges/universities that offer programs in areas of interest. Students can explore specific colleges and look at tuition, academic programs, location, size, campus life, etc.

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars

If you are in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the 21<sup>st</sup> century scholarship is something to look into. You can receive FREE tuition if you qualify for this scholarship.

To apply for the 21st Century Scholars Program you must:

- Be a resident of Indiana, both when applying and when receiving the scholarship
- Be one of the following:
  - U.S. citizen or U.S. national (includes natives of American Samoa or Swain's Island)
  - U.S. permanent resident who has an I-151, I-551, or I-551C (Alien Registration Receipt Card)
  - A non-citizen with one of the following designations:
    - Refugee
    - Asylum Granted
    - Indefinite Parole and/or Humanitarian Parole
    - Cuban-Haitian Entrant, Status Pending
- Be enrolled in the 7th or 8th grade at an Indiana public or private school accredited by the Indiana Department of Education. Children in foster care may apply after the 8th grade. Homeschooled students are not eligible for the 21st Century Scholars Program.
- Be a member of a family that meets the income eligibility guidelines. A student in foster care does not need to meet this requirement.

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Maximum Annual Income</u>
2	\$30,044
3	\$37,777
4	\$45,510
5	\$53,243
6	\$60,976
7 +	For each additional person, add \$7,733

Go to <http://scholars.in.gov/parents/enroll/> to sign up! 8<sup>th</sup> grade students MUST sign up by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

### College-Go-Week

During College-Go-Week, students participated in a spirit week to celebrate and learn about colleges and careers. Students participated in a fun game of matching staff with their respective College/University. In previous guidance lessons, elementary students created their own college/university. They came up with the name, size, area of study, location, and drew a picture of their school and shared it with the class.

Students received booklets to take home with information and activities about college and careers. Every morning during announcements, different facts about colleges were discussed. Below is the information discussed from the announcements and throughout the week:

## WHY GO TO COLLEGE?

- College is more than just a degree. Aside from the life experiences you'll have living on your own, managing your finances and setting your own schedule, you'll also be establishing the groundwork for a successful career. Statistics show a college degree helps you get better jobs and make more money. College will help you learn things that you may not know yet and may find challenging.
- Did you know that 60% of jobs will require education beyond high school by 2018?
- Did you know that there is a \$22,000 average salary difference that college grads earn each year than workers with only high school diplomas?

## WHAT TYPE OF COLLEGE SHOULD I GO TO?

- There are different types of colleges that fit the goals of each person. For example, a community college offers different degree programs than a four-year institution. A public college typically costs less than a private college. Think about what your goals are, and weigh your options to find a college that best fits your needs. Everyone has the potential to go to college. There are seven characteristics of a school that you should consider: size, location, academic programs, campus life, cost, diversity, and graduation rate.
- What are colleges looking for in the college application? Students who show diligence, commitment and passion; demonstrate an interest in the world around them; personal growth; strong academic performance, quest for learning, good references; leadership; involvement in community services or athletics/extracurricular and areas that make them stand out from the crowd.
- Academic and athletic scholarships are available based on grades or athletic ability. Financial aid or loans are options as well.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN COLLEGE?

- Simple things, like developing good study habits now and learning to manage your time are great ways to be ready for all that college brings. High school is when your planning should really pick-up, but don't wait until your senior year to learn what you'll need to be prepared. Remember, the sooner you can start planning for college, the better. You can start thinking about college even now.

## HOW TO SUCCEED IN COLLEGE

- You can be successful in college--it just takes some work. The expectations in college are different than in high school. You'll be a lot more independent, which means you'll also have a lot more responsibility. You'll have to motivate yourself to study and do well in classes. It's important to have a plan. To graduate on time, you'll need to choose a major, complete at least 30 credit hours each year – or 15 credits per semester – and maintain good grades. Don't forget to take advantage of campus resources to help you succeed. You can do anything you put your mind to.

### **Types of Colleges/Universities**

Liberal Arts College- offers a wide variety of courses in the social sciences, humanities, and sciences. It is a 4-year program; most are private and focus on undergrad students.

Community College- 2-year degree programs that offer technical programs that prepare for immediate entry into the job market. It is a good option for those wanting to save money and prepare for a transfer to a 4-year university.

Public College/University- type of college/university is supported by state money. May be less expensive to attend if you live in that state where the college is located.

Private College/University- relies on the tuition, fees and contributions of private donors and may be more expensive than public colleges. However, financial aid is available

Technical/Vocational Colleges- emphasize preparation for specific careers; like business, computer tech, and health science

Junior Colleges- two-year colleges that are private institutions; some are residential and may offer technical and occupational training

Two-Year vs Four-Year Colleges- a 2-year college will give you an associate degree, which is comparable to the first two years of study at a 4-year college or university. A 4-year college provides a 4-year educational program in the arts and sciences, called a bachelor's degree

Master's Degree- 1-3 year postgraduate program that is taken after undergraduate study. It provides higher qualification for employment.

Doctorate Degree-require additional years of study after the completion of a master's degree

### **Field Trips**

In October, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls attended the 4<sup>th</sup> annual NEW Opportunities Workshop (Nontraditional Employment for Women) at the A.K. Smith Career Center. They explored careers in police enforcement, dentistry, EMT, firefighter/emergency, automotive departments, NIPSCO, nursing, OBGYN, attorney, financial advising, community development and planning, event/venue planner, investigations and intelligence department, sales and marketing, welding, and superintendent.

In November, the ENTIRE middle school went to a career fair at Westville Middle/High School. Students were able to walk around and ask students from A.K. Smith about what they are learning in school. Each A.K. Smith student displayed a poster board about what they were studying and offered interactive activities for students to gain a better understanding of various careers. Our students learned about nursing, cosmetology, welding, early childhood development, criminal justice, engineering, culinary arts, hair stylist, modern machine technology, health science, and automotive technology. It was a great learning experience for all.