

## LEARNING EXPERIENCE BRIEF

# JA JobSpark®

### WORK & CAREER READINESS

*JA JobSpark* is a hands-on career exploration program for 8th and 9th grade students. It includes four core sessions (three pre-event, one post-event) and optional enhanced learning sessions. The program culminates in a two-day career expo where students interact with professionals from eight industry clusters.



## CURRICULUM OUTLINE

### **Session One: JA JobSpark Introduction & JA Here to Career**

#### **Objective:**

Introduce students to the *JA JobSpark* program and help them explore career interests using the *JA Here to Career*® online platform.

#### **Key Activities:**

- Complete a Career Interest Inventory (Holland Code-based)
- Explore career clusters, local employers, and education/training options
- Identify careers aligned with personal interests

### **Session Two: Career Clusters & Employability Skills**

#### **Objective:**

Help students understand industry clusters and assess their own employability skills.

#### **Key Activities:**

- Watch “Developing a Career Plan” video and discuss
- Rank preferred industry clusters
- Complete an Employability Skills Self-Assessment
- Optional: Role-play scenarios to practice workplace skills

## LEARNING EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Students complete a Career Interest Inventory to identify their personal strengths and interests, guiding them toward career clusters that align with their unique profiles.
- Students explore eight key industry clusters, gaining insight into the types of jobs available, required skills, and educational pathways.
- Through self-assessments and role-play scenarios, students evaluate and strengthen essential workplace skills such as communication, teamwork, adaptability, and professionalism.
- Students learn how to craft and ask meaningful questions to industry professionals, helping them make the most of their interactions during the Career Expo.
- Students prepare for the logistics and expectations of the Career Expo, including how to navigate the event, engage respectfully, and reflect professionalism.

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## Session Three: Preparing for the JA JobSpark Career Expo

### Objective:

Prepare students to engage meaningfully with professionals at the Career Expo.

### Key Activities:

- Review the Company Spotlight and complete a Scavenger Hunt
- Watch “Asking the Right Questions” video and develop questions
- Discuss professionalism and event expectations
- Review logistics and behavior guidelines

## Attending the JA JobSpark Career Expo

- The JA JobSpark Career Expo is an interactive showcase of careers from our region.
- Students will use the knowledge and insights gained from the pre-event sessions to explore career paths, engage with industry professionals, and envision their futures.

## Session Four: JA JobSpark Personal Reflection & Follow-Up

### Objective:

Encourage students to reflect on their experiences and set future career goals.

### Key Activities:

- Complete a Personal Reflection Summary
- Set career goals using the Career Goal Worksheet
- Discuss next steps in academic and career planning
- Distribute Certificates of Completion

## Enhanced Learning Sessions (Optional)

### Objective:

Deepen students' understanding of personal branding, networking, and career readiness.

### Key Activities:

- Personal Image: Building a positive personal brand
- Elevator Pitch: Crafting and practicing a personal introduction
- What Can I Do Today?: Daily actions to support future success
- JA Here to Career Extension: Further exploration of careers, salaries, and education paths

## LEARNING EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- After the Expo, students reflect on their experiences and set actionable academic and career goals, reinforcing the connection between school and future success.
- Optional sessions help students build their personal brand, craft an elevator pitch, and explore real-world applications of networking and career planning.