8th Grade Careers Curriculum Map Last Updated: 8/2026

Nine Weeks	Units/Chapters	Standards
1st Nine Weeks Dates to remember: College GO Week – One week in September	Unit 1: Discovering Self	PCC-1.1 – PCC-1.4
2nd Nine Weeks Dates to remember: 8th Grade PSAT testing	Unit 2: Career Research	PCC-2.1 – PCC-2.4
3rd Nine Weeks Dates to remember: Mid-January – Freshman Scheduling	Unit 3: Postsecondary Options Unit 4: Preparing for High School Unit 5: Preparing for a Successful Career	PCC-3.1 - PCC-3.4 PCC-4.1 - PCC-4.3 PCC-5.1 – PCC-5.4
4th Nine Weeks Dates to remember: ILEARN Testing	Unit 5: Preparing for a Successful Career Unit 6: Financial Literacy Unit 7: Guest Career Speakers (all year)	PCC-6.1 – PCC-6.5 PCC-7.1 – PCC-7.5

Unit/Topic: Unit 1 - Discovering Self

Essential Question(s): What are my strengths, interests, values, and personality type? Why are they important?

Lesson & Duration	Standards & Objectives	Key Terms	Activities (formative)	Assessment (summative)	Resources
Strengths and Skills (1 day)	PCC-1.1 PCC-1.2	Obvious Strengths Hidden Strengths	-Students write down things they do well. -Students write down obvious and hidden strengths	Canvas Discussion – Hidden Strengths	
Strengths and Interview Skills (1 day)	PCC-1.1 PCC-1.2	Natural Strengths Developed Strengths Grit	-Students write qualities they feel they need to be hired for a job -Students list things they struggle with now but would like to get better at	Naviance – My Strengths Explorer	
Exploring Our Interests (2 days)	PCC-1.1 PCC-1.2	Interests	-Students fill out the My Interests Worksheet -Students create a personal crest that represents themselves	Naviance – My Foundation Naviance – My Life's Work	My Interests Worksheet

Unit/Topic: Unit 1 - Discovering Self

Essential Question(s): What are my strengths, interests, values, and personality type? Why are they important?

Lesson & Duration	Standards & Objectives	Key Terms	Activities (formative)	Assessment (summative)	Resources
Hobby Careers Project (2 days)	PCC-1.1 PCC-1.2	Hobby	-Students list their favorite hobbies	Hobby Careers Project	
Knowing My Values (1 day)	PCC-1.1 PCC-1.2 PCC-6.4	Instrumental value Intrinsic value Moral value Work-related value Ethics	-Students list ways in which someone might be in a career that utilizes their interests and strengths, but compromises their values. -Students list things people might value at work	Canvas Discussion – What do I value?	
Knowing My Personality (1 day)	PCC-1.1 PCC-1.2	Extraversion Introversion Sensing Intuition Thinking Feeling Judging Perceiving	-Students complete a personality type assessment	Naviance – Personality Test Canvas Discussion – Personality Results	
Personality Type Project and Presentation (5 days)	PCC-1.1 PCC-1.2		Students should be able to work with a group and collaborate towards a successful project	Personality Type Project and Presentation	
Intro to Career Clusters (2 day)	PCC-1.1 PCC-1.2		-Students will draw a picture of one thing they might want to be when they're older -Students should group themselves with other students who have a similar career interest, them come up with a name for their group	Canvas Discussion – Intro to Career Clusters Naviance – Career Cluster Finder	www.indianacareerready.com

Unit/Topic: Unit 2 - Career Research

Essential Question(s): What careers match up with my personal strengths, skills, and interests?

Lesson & Duration	Standards & Objectives	Key Terms	Activities (formative)	Assessment (summative)	Resources
RoadTrip Nation Indiana	PCC-2.4			Naviance – Chart My Path	RoadTrip Nation Documentary worksheet

Unit/Topic: Unit 2 - Career Research

Essential Question(s): What careers match up with my personal strengths, skills, and interests?

Lesson & Duration	Standards & Objectives	Key Terms	Activities (formative)	Assessment (summative)	Resources
Documentary (2 days)					
Lifestyle Goals (Needs vs Wants) (1 day)	PCC-1.3 PCC-4.2 PCC-4.3	Lifestyle Goals Lifestyle Factors Trade-off Needs Wants	-Students list things they need in life -Students decide if various items are needs or wants	Canvas Discussion – Lifestyle Goals	
The Value of Work (1 day)	PCC-2.1	Work Economics Transferrable Skills	-Students list a benefit of working other than money	Canvas Discussion – Transferrable Skills	
Indiana In-Demand Jobs (1 day)	PCC-2.2 PCC-2.3	Flame Rating	-Students write their future plans on where they want to live -Students complete the first page of the Indiana In-Demand worksheet in a group	Canvas – Indiana In-Demand Assignment	https://indemandjobs.dwd.in.gov
Entrepreneurs (1 day)	PCC-2.1	Entrepreneur Entrepreneurial Thinking Risk Rewards Opportunity Cost	-Students write what type of business they would start if they could -Students identify risks and rewards of starting a business	Canvas Discussion - Entrepreneurs	
THOR Lessons (2 days)	PCC-2.1	Recreational Vehicle	-Students complete an RV Lego Challenge -Students tour RVs		
Entrepreneur Project and Presentation (5-6 days)	PCC-2.1 PCC-2.4		Students should be able to work with a group and collaborate towards a successful project	Entrepreneur Project and Presentation	
Career Research Project (3-5 days)	PCC-2.1 PCC-2.2 PCC-2.3 PCC-2.4		Students need to be able to work individually on a project to meet a deadline.	Career Research Project	

Unit/Topic: Unit 3 – Postsecondary Options

Essential Question(s): What options are available to me after high school?

Lesson & Duration	Standards & Objectives	Key Terms	Activities (formative)	Assessment (summative)	Resources
Making Decisions (1 day)	PCC-4.1 PCC-4.2 PCC-4.3	Decision Making Process	-Students identify the biggest decisions they've had to make this school year -Students identify 7-10 major decisions they'll need to make in the next 10 years	Canvas – Making Decisions	
Goals (1 day)	PCC-1.3	SMART Goals	-Students write what goals/resolutions they've set for themselves this year	Be, Do, Have worksheet	Be, Do, Have handout
4 year and 2 year Colleges (1 day)	PCC-3.1 PCC-3.2 PCC-3.3 PCC-3.4	Bachelor's Degree Associate's Degree	-Students write what type of degree can be earned from a 4-year college -Students participate in 4-year college discussion	Canvas – 4 year college research	
Certificates (1 day)	PCC-3.1	Certificate	-Students name an Indiana college that offers an Associate's Degree -Students complete the Ivy Tech Robotic's Challenge		Ivy Tech Robotic's Challenge handout
Apprenticeships (1 day)	PCC-3.1	Apprenticeship	-Students research the internet to see what an apprenticeship is for	Canvas – Apprenticeship Worksheet	www.builttosucceed.org/meet-our-students
Military Options (1 day)	PCC-3.1	Military Branch	-Students try to name all of the branches of the US military	Canvas – Military Careers Worksheet	Various Military informational videos
College Research Project (3 days)	PCC-3.1 PCC-3.2 PCC-3.3 PCC-3.4		-Students should be able to work individually to complete a project, staying on task to meet a deadline.	College Research Project	

Unit/Topic: Unit 4 – Preparing for High School

Essential Question(s): What can I do to be successful in high school?

Lesson & Duration	Standards & Objectives	Key Terms	Activities (formative)	Assessment (summative)	Resources
High School Scheduling (1 day)	PCC-5.1 PCC-5.2	Diploma Pathways	-Students should listen to HS guidance counselors and		

Unit/Topic: Unit 4 – Preparing for High School					
Essential Question(s): What can I do to be successful in high school?					
Lesson & Duration	**Standards & Objectives**	**Key Terms**	**Activities (formative)**	**Assessment (summative)**	**Resources**
	PCC-5.3 PCC-5.4		follow instructions to complete HS scheduling		
NWHS Student Panel (1 day)	PCC-5.1		-Students should listen as different NWHS students discuss the transition from middle school to high school		
GPA (1 day)	PCC-5.1	Grade Point Average Transcript	-Students define what GPA stands for -Students review the sample NWHS student transcript -Students learn how to calculate GPA	GPA calculating worksheet	Sample NWHS student transcript handout GPA calculation handout
Learning Styles (1 day)	PCC-1.4	Learning Style Visual Auditory Tactile Kinesthetic	-Students identify ways in which they are most productive	Naviance – Learning and Productivity	
College Applications (1 day)	PCC-5.1	Selective Colleges Open-Admission Colleges	-Students brainstorm 5 things they think they'll need to provide on a college application -Students complete the Universal Application Scavenger Hunt with a group	Canvas Discussion	College application handout Teacher recommendation handout Universal Application Scavenger Hunt handout
College Admissions (1 day)	PCC-5.2		-Students identify what are the most important things colleges will look for -Students brainstorm things that might prevent a selective college from admitting an applicant -Students participate in College Admissions Game	Canvas Discussion – High School Extras	College Admissions Game
Types of Financial Aid (1 day)	PCC-3.4	FAFSA Grants Scholarships Work-Study	Students work with others to complete the Financial Aid Chutes and Ladders game		Financial Aid Chutes and Ladders Game Handout

Unit/Topic: Unit 4 – Preparing for High School					
Essential Question(s): What can I do to be successful in high school?					
Lesson & Duration	**Standards & Objectives**	**Key Terms**	**Activities (formative)**	**Assessment (summative)**	**Resources**
		Loans			

Unit/Topic: Unit 5 – Preparing for a Successful Career					
Essential Question(s): What are some things I can do to be successful in my future career?					
Lesson & Duration	**Standards & Objectives**	**Key Terms**	**Activities (formative)**	**Assessment (summative)**	**Resources**
Creating a Resume (2 days)	PCC-7.1 PCC-7.2 PCC-7.3 PCC-7.4	Resume	-Students identify what accomplishments they want to have in high school that they can put on their resume	Create a Resume	Resume Template
Writing a Cover Letter (1 day)	PCC-7.1 PCC-7.2 PCC-7.3 PCC-7.4	Cover Letter	-Students research the company they applied for in their resume to find their hiring manager and company address	Create a Cover Letter	Cover Letter Template
Applying for a Job (1 day)	PCC-7.1 PCC-7.2 PCC-7.3 PCC-7.4	Job Application	-Students work with a partner to fill out a sample job application		Two different sample job applications
How to Interview (2 days)	PCC-7.1 PCC-7.2 PCC-7.3 PCC-7.4 PCC-7.5	Interview	-Students identify what their greatest strengths/weaknesses are.	Canvas – Practice Interview Questions Canvas – Mock Interview Preparation Guide	Indeed.com interview tips video
Mock Interviews (3 days)	PCC-6.1 PCC-6.2 PCC-6.3 PCC-6.5 PCC-7.1 PCC-7.2 PCC-7.3 PCC-7.4 PCC-7.5		-After researching a company, students will participate in Mock Interviews for an internship of their choosing at that company	Mock Interview	
What if you get the job? (1 day)	PCC-6.5 PCC-7.5	Base Pay Commission Bonus	-Students identify the most important parts of a job offer for them.	Canvas – Chapter 13 Case Study	

Unit/Topic: Unit 5 – Preparing for a Successful Career					
Essential Question(s): What are some things I can do to be successful in my future career?					
Lesson & Duration	**Standards & Objectives**	**Key Terms**	**Activities (formative)**	**Assessment (summative)**	**Resources**
		Tips			
Starting a New Job (1 day)	PCC-7.5		-Students identify ways they can make a good first impression at a job	Canvas – Chapter 14 Case Study	

Unit/Topic: Unit 6 - Personal Finance					
Essential Question(s): What are the best ways to manage my finances?					
Lesson & Duration	**Standards & Objectives**	**Key Terms**	**Activities (formative)**	**Assessment (summative)**	**Resources**
Personal Finance and You (1 day)	PCC-6.2 PCC-6.4	Personal Finance	-Students watch a Ramsey personal finance video and write a thought, fact, or concept from the video they found interesting -Students consider how different types of debt affect the American population	Canvas – Personal Finance	
A History of Credit and Debt (1 day)	PCC-6.2 PCC-6.4	Credit Debt	-Students write their thoughts on how credit cards work -Students watch a Ramsey video on the history of credit and debt in America, then write a takeaway from the video -Students consider statistics on the growth of consumer debt and student loan debt in America since 1950	Canvas – A History of Credit and Debt	
Budgeting Basics (1 day)	PCC-1.3 PCC-6.2 PCC-6.4	Budget	-Students write what they believe is the purpose of a budget -Students watch a Ramsey video on budgeting and write one takeaway -Students complete "What do you value?" activity	Canvas – The Benefits of Budgeting	

Unit/Topic: Unit 6 - Personal Finance

Essential Question(s): What are the best ways to manage my finances?

Lesson & Duration	Standards & Objectives	Key Terms	Activities (formative)	Assessment (summative)	Resources
Components of a Budget (1 day)	PCC-1.3 PCC-6.2 PCC-6.4	Income Giving Saving Spending	-Students brainstorm what organizations they would give money to -Students watch a Ramsey video and identify the 4 main components of a budget -Students consider the different types of expenses	Worksheet: Four Expense Types	
Building a Zero-Based Budget (2 days)	PCC-1.3 PCC-6.2 PCC-6.4	Net Income Gross Income	-Students consider the 5 foundations of personal finance -Students watch a Ramsey video and discuss what a zero-based budget is -Students see examples of a zero-based budget -Students complete a family budget activity in a group	Canvas - Building a Zero-Based Budget	
Tracking Your Expenses (1 day)	PCC-1.3 PCC-6.2 PCC-6.4		-Students consider ways to track their expenses for their budget -Students watch a Ramsey video and write a concept they found useful from the video -Students look at 3 different budgeting scenarios and determine which one was most successful	Canvas – Tracking Your Expenses	
Saving for Emergencies and Large Purchases	PCC-1.3 PCC-6.2 PCC-6.4	Emergency Fund	-Students consider the benefits of saving -Students watch a Ramsey video and write down one takeaway from the video -Students review strategies for saving money for large purchases	Canvas - Savings	

Unit/Topic: Unit 6 - Personal Finance					
Essential Question(s): What are the best ways to manage my finances?					
Lesson & Duration	**Standards & Objectives**	**Key Terms**	**Activities (formative)**	**Assessment (summative)**	**Resources**
			-Students watch a Ramsey video and write a takeaway		
Building Wealth	PCC-1.3 PCC-6.2 PCC-6.4	Wealth Compound Growth	-Students consider different things they want to be able to do when they retire -Students consider how two different people investing results in different results		
House Hunter Project and Presentation (3-5 days)	PCC-4.2 PCC-6.2 PCC-6.4		Students should be able to work with a group and collaborate towards a successful project	House Hunter Project and Presentation	

Unit/Topic: Unit 7 - Guest Career Speakers					
Essential Question(s): How can I learn from others about how to make decisions about my future career?					
Lesson & Duration	**Standards & Objectives**	**Key Terms**	**Activities (formative)**	**Assessment (summative)**	**Resources**
Various Guest Career Speakers (5-10 days throughout the year)	PCC-7.1 PCC-7.2 PCC-7.3 PCC-7.4 PCC-7.5				