

Forest Park Jr/Sr High School: College & Career Readiness

Career Resource Highlight

INDemand Jobs is an online portal that focuses on high-demand, high-wage jobs for today and tomorrow. The INDemand focus will help students ensure a long and rewarding career path. INDemand Jobs, formerly known as Hoosier Hot 50 Jobs, is based on a methodology that ranks all Indiana jobs based on future growth and wages. Students can search a specific career or browse by career cluster to see the job demand, education required, average Indiana salary, and videos pertaining to that career. Students can even view current available employment for that career field across the state. As job demand continues to change, it's important for students to have awareness on what types of jobs will be in high demand when they're ready for full time employment after high school or college.



Rangers: Get Ready for Future Friday!

On Friday, February 25th, all seniors will get a glimpse into their future while participating in Future Friday 2022. Seniors will report to the Ferdinand YMCA on Friday morning where they will begin their day hearing from local community member volunteers. Students will then spend the day exploring ten break-out sessions from different community members from various career backgrounds. The day will be fairly hands on and students will be forced to take a closer look on different areas of their post-secondary life. These different break-out sessions will focus on a variety of different aspects of their life after high school including: childcare (can you change a diaper?), homeownership and utilities (just how much does it cost to live on your own?), banking and investments (how do you support yourself financially?), personal branding (how can you market yourself as a new employee?), self defense (do you know basic safety skills and strategies?), mental health as an adult (how do create a work/life balance?), and many more aspects of their upcoming future.

Seniors have been spending the last month preparing in their Economics class by learning about the expenses that come hand in hand with adulthood. Many seniors have been surprised by just how much it costs to be an adult! While we are confident as a staff here at Forest Park that our students are well prepared for their future, Future Friday will be an entire day dedicated to narrowing in on some areas of their lives that they may not have gotten specific guidance on.

Many seniors are in the process of finalizing their plans for after high school. Whether their road leads to a four year college, a two year college, vocational training, the military, or directly into the workforce, we're hopeful that this event will feature aspects of life that pertain to all students. By shining a light on these important areas of adulthood, students will feel more confident as they get ready to finish their time as a high school student. It has also been a joy to see the local community members willing to donate their time and resources to make this a memorable day for our seniors.

Junior High Students Take a Closer Look at How their Interests Align with their Career Goals

This semester, junior high students have started taking career interest inventories through a platform called *Naviance*. The first assessment is called the *Career Cluster Finder*. Students answer a series of questions pertaining to whether or not certain ideals apply to their personality and personal interests. Students are then matched with their top four Career Clusters.

Career Clusters contain occupations in the same field of work that require similar skills. This gives students a broad idea of areas to consider instead of a specific job. For students who believe they already have an idea of a career field of interest, the next interest inventory called *Career Interest Profiler*, matches students with specific careers based on their interests. Once students completed the assessments, students were able to explore their results by seeing the daily tasks of each job, national and local average wages, education required, and more. Since *Naviance* has hundreds of current career paths, students are really able to explore the many options available to them as work through the results of the assessments. Students should use this information to guide them as they schedule their high school courses and consider the many programs available to them at the Patoka Valley Career & Technical Cooperative.



College & Career Student Spotlight Senior Student: Nicholas Lichtey

Meet Senior Student Nicholas Lichtey!

Post Secondary Plans: Nicholas plans to attend the University of West Florida in Pensacola where he will major in Criminal Justice. After completing his bachelors degree, Nicholas may decide to enter the United States Military.

Future Outlook: In 10 years, Nicholas would like to be working as a Federal Agent of some kind, possibly for the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the Navy Criminal Investigative Service. He sees himself traveling across the country for his work, or going world wide.

High School Influence: Nicholas has known that he wanted to pursue this career path since the 4th grade. He comes from a military and law enforcement family background. His father has been his biggest career influence. Nicholas has enjoyed hearing many stories about his father's career as a Federal Air Marshall. He also has really benefited from taking Criminal Justice classes the past 2 years and feels these classes have helped prepare him for his future career. Nicholas also states that his former English teacher, Mrs. Daunhauer, has made an impact on his high school experience, especially with making a subject that wasn't really his favorite become a highlight in his day.

On the Job Experience: Nicholas was a summer employee at Holiday World & Splashin' Safari, where he worked security. He worked the front of the park, checking people's bags as they entered through the screeners. He also moved around the park throughout the day using the radio system to report any concerning activity.

Advice for Younger Students: Nicholas acknowledges that knowing his exact career path since the 4th grade is very rare. He encourages younger students to not stress out if they don't know their plans for after high school yet. He has gained a lot of interest in criminal justice from talking to his dad about his career path and encourages younger students to take the time to ask others about their jobs.

National School Counseling Week 2022

The American School Counseling Association recognizes National School Counseling Week from February 7-11, 2022. This week is an effort to focus attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within our nation's school system. The 2022 theme is School Counseling: Better Together. That theme is certainly true for our counseling program here at Forest Park Jr./Sr. High School. As school counselors, we appreciate the support of our many stakeholders, including our teachers and staff, who are always advocating for student's success. We also appreciate the parental support shown through our community. Our student's are able to really shine when all aspects of their support systems can come together to guide them. As a counseling staff, thank you all for your continued support and allowing us to be a part of your student's growth.