



APRIL-MAY 2025

F U T U R E F O C U S E D KCS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



The Goal of KCS Workforce Development

Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, KCS Workforce Development and Career Navigation strives to equip students at every level with the tools for future success. Our program fosters career awareness in elementary students, career exploration in middle school, and hands-on career experiences in high school. Our ultimate goal is to prepare every student for life beyond graduation and empower them with the skills and knowledge for economic mobility.



BUILDING THE FUTURE: 3RD GRADERS EXPLORE ENGINEERING WITH UDRI AND FAIRMONT HS

KCS partnered with University of Dayton Research Institute (UDRI) to introduce third graders from Beavertown and Oakview to engineering. Students explored renewable energy by designing and testing windmills with help from UDRI engineers and Fairmont High School engineering students. After creating prototypes with recycled materials, their designs were turned into CAD models and 3D printed by the high school engineering students.



FIREBIRDS IN THE FIELD

Overview of the Year

This week, we wrapped up our final Firebirds in the Field visit with Messer Construction, completing this year's career immersion series. Throughout the year, staff explored career pathways in IT, Aviation, Health Sciences (at Solvita and Compunet), and Construction Trades. We're excited to continue and grow these experiences for KCS staff next year. Check out what participants had to say below!



"These immersion experiences are extremely interesting and completely worth attending. I would say it was one of the best professional development opportunities I have experienced because it had the 'bigger picture' for students and life beyond the classroom."

"It was a good experience. I enjoy learning about local employers and opportunities for our students while in or after high school. I would consider going again if time allows, or encourage others to go."

"I've already shared this experience with several of my students. I talked positively about the places we visited and shared my enthusiasm about job possibilities."



**KCS Career Exploration
YouScience Family Night**

**OCT. 22
6-8 PM**

**FAIRMONT
HIGH
SCHOOL**

GOALS FOR THE EVENING

Discover how Kettering City Schools is preparing students for the future! Learn how our curriculum and innovative tools—like YouScience—are helping students uncover their strengths, explore career pathways, and build a vision for their future success.

Hands-on activities your child will love! Students will participate in fun, interactive experiences that introduce them to a wide variety of careers—from technology and healthcare to engineering and the arts.

Connect with our community's top employers! Meet representatives from more than 30 local businesses who are excited to share real-world career insights, answer questions, and inspire your student's future.

SAVE THE DATE!
**Career Exploration Night for all 6-12
grade students and families! Oct. 22
from 6-8 at Fairmont High School**

CAREER EXPLORATION FROM PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADUATION

A huge thank you to **Bern Schwieterman** for his incredible dedication to our elementary STEAM program and for helping make this year's STEAM Night such a memorable event. Hundreds of our youngest learners had the opportunity to explore STEAM concepts and discover new career paths through fun, hands-on experiences.

- We also want to recognize **Tom Henderson**, our Work-Based Learning Coordinator, for organizing our largest high school job fair to date. With over 50 employers in attendance, students were able to engage directly with local businesses, ask questions, and learn about a wide variety of future career opportunities.

Both events are powerful examples of how KCS is helping students connect classroom learning to real-world possibilities!



Inspiring Futures Through Experience: Career Connections This Year

This year was filled with exciting opportunities that helped students make meaningful connections between their classroom learning and future careers. We had a record-breaking **423 students** participate in engaging field trips across a variety of industries, offering real-world insights into potential career paths.

Our middle school students also benefited from **six "Lunch and Learn" events**, each highlighting a different career pathway and giving them the chance to learn directly from professionals in the field.

In addition, our district-wide monthly career pathway focus was a tremendous success—bringing career awareness to **all students, PK-12**, through engaging weekly activities that highlighted in-demand and often lesser-known professions.

We're proud of the impact these programs have made and look forward to expanding these opportunities even further next school year!



HIGHLIGHTS ACROSS THE DISTRICT

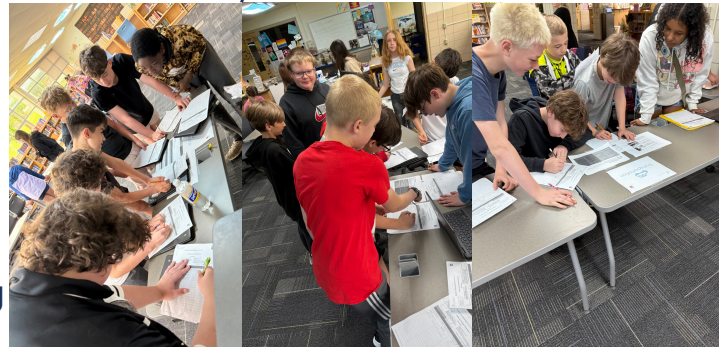
Check out some of the amazing ways that teachers and administrators are integrating career awareness, exposure, and exploration into their lessons!

After learning about skin grafting at Solvita during our Health Science Firebirds in the Field experience, JE Prass teacher **Sissy Courtney** brought the excitement back to her classroom! Her students got hands-on with a creative activity that let them try out skin grafting for themselves—turning science into a fun and unforgettable learning adventure



First graders at JE Prass explored the world of careers in a fun and creative way by sending their very own hand-colored Firebird off to work with their families! When the Firebirds returned with pictures and stories, students had a blast learning about the different careers their family members have—and imagining what they might want to do someday too.

KMS 6th grade social studies teacher Ali Reed is bringing financial literacy to life! In April and May, students will apply Ohio's Financial Literacy and Economic Standards through a hands-on "Game of Life" project. Using career clusters from their Sinclair field trip, students will explore salaries, taxes, loans, housing, and more to build a realistic budget and navigate life events. They'll wrap it all up by presenting their first three years of 'adult' life!



Southdale kindergarten teacher Jessie Muhleman is helping her students explore nature and careers through a partnership with Five Rivers MetroParks. During a recent visit, naturalists led a puppet show about local wildlife, inspiring students to research animals and habitats in Hills & Dales MetroPark. With three field trips planned each year, students are building connections to the environment and learning how they can help protect it—while also discovering what it means to be a naturalist.

Fairmont High School science teacher Erin Molden prepared her Biotechnology students for future careers by hosting mock interviews. This hands-on experience helps students build confidence and skills for securing work-based learning opportunities with employers.



Do you have an upcoming lesson next fall that incorporates career awareness? Please reach out to Nicole Will so that we can highlight your activity!