

# Sycamore Middle School



## Postsecondary and Career Expectations

At the middle school and early high school level, the Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Framework is designed to provide students with guided exploration of postsecondary planning and options in a manner that is consistent with adolescent development. Meaningful participation in postsecondary preparation programs requires that students perceive college and/or career as possible and probable. Too often, programs are designed to serve only students who already have a college-going or career-oriented identity. The developmental work in the middle school framework is intended to prepare students to more fully engage with the PaCE Framework throughout the critical high school years.



| By the end of 6th grade                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | By the end of 7th grade                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | By the end of 8th grade                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <p><b>A Student Should Be Exposed to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information about and examples of a wide range of careers</li><li>Language that emphasizes individual skills, strengths, and assets</li><li>Practices that introduce 21st-century and entrepreneurship skills</li><li>Practices that introduce the development of a growth mindset</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p><b>A Student Should Be Exposed to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Practices that foster the development of a growth mindset</li><li>Experiences that enhance 21st-century and entrepreneurship skills</li><li>Information about how CTE/STeAM skills connect to a wide range of careers</li><li>Careers within each of the various career clusters</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>A Student Should Be Exposed to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Execution of 21st-century and entrepreneurship skills</li><li>Financial literacy (budgeting, saving, bank accounts, credit/debit, and investing)</li><li>Surveys that identify career clusters that correlate to their interests and values</li><li>A variety of postsecondary options (college, university, trades, and military)</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p><b>A Student Should Be Supported to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Participate in a 5th grade to 6th grade transition day</li><li>Attend Sycamore Middle School's 6th Grade Orientation</li><li>Take an interest and value survey</li><li>Explore links to interest and value surveys and various career clusters</li><li>Explore individual skills, strengths, and interests</li><li>Analyze personal achievement data and engage in self-reflection</li><li>Identify individuals within the building who can serve as their support system</li><li>Understand the concept of a growth mindset</li></ul> | <p><b>A Student Should Be Supported to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reflect on their personal values and make connections between their values, behaviors, and well-being</li><li>Investigate visual, auditory, and tactile learning styles and consider how understanding their own learning style can help them in school and on the job</li><li>Explore career interests</li><li>Consider the importance of making responsible decisions</li><li>Implement growth mindset practices into their own lives</li><li>Effectively ask for academic or social help</li></ul> | <p><b>A Student Should Be Supported to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Participate in a 9th grade transition day</li><li>Participate in an 8th grade career fair</li><li>Investigate the relationship between community service, extracurricular activities, and postsecondary career goals</li><li>Identify skills and responsibilities of professions within their career cluster of interest</li><li>Complete a career cluster survey</li><li>Explore career selection, including factors to consider (interest, skills/expertise, desired lifestyle, workplace culture, and salary) and how they connect to job satisfaction</li><li>Consider the concept of personal agency and confidence-building</li><li>Articulate their own academic/social strengths and weaknesses, along with motivations for future goals</li></ul> |
|  <b>Aspiration</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  <b>Planning</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  <b>Self-Advocacy</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |