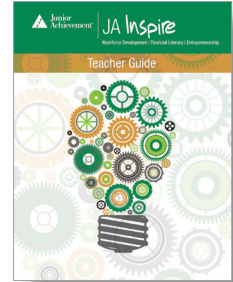




JA Inspire

Program Overview

JA Inspire is more than a career fair, it brings together the business community and local schools and is designed to help launch middle school students into their futures: high school, college, and careers beyond. The program consists of three segments: 1) in-class sessions presented by the classroom teacher; 2) the hands-on *JA Inspire* expo; and 3) an in-class debrief. During the *JA Inspire* expo, students participate in hands-on activities, often using equipment or tools used on a job. The multi-hour experience is configurable to align with local industry and career opportunities.



| Topic | Overview | Students... |
|--|---|---|
| Career Planning Starts with You | Students learn about <i>JA Inspire</i> . Through close examination of specific skills and career clusters, they learn the key factors to investigate career planning, skills, interests, work priorities, and job outlooks. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize career clusters that match their skills and interests. • Assess their soft skills and identify need for improvement. • Identify industries and jobs that offer opportunities. |
| Making the Most of JA Inspire | Students refine a plan for the event. Encourage students to spend additional time outside of class researching the participating companies, if possible. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate participating companies that offer jobs and opportunities that interest them. • Identify three companies they want to learn more about at the <i>JA Inspire</i> event. • Prepare questions to ask and practice asking them. • Create an elevator pitch. • Express expectations of the upcoming event. |
| JA Inspire The Event | Students engaged with business volunteers to learn about skills that will be in demand when they graduate. Students participate in hands-on activities, often using actual equipment or tools the businesses' employees use on the job. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand courses they need to take in high school. • Understand options for post-secondary education. • Learn about specific careers and the opportunities they present. • Understand how to chart a clear pathway to a career. • Become excited for their futures. |
| Debrief and Next Steps | Students reflect on what they have learned and identify next steps to further define their academic choices and career paths. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement objective criteria to self-evaluate. • Recognize the value of constructive feedback and the growth mind-set. • Develop a personal action plan. |