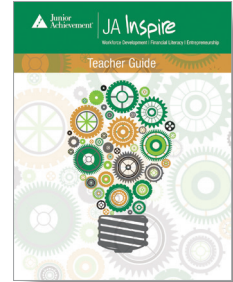




JA Inspire

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.