



**NORTH
KANSAS CITY
SCHOOLS**

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**6th Grade
Transitional Academic Guide
2020-2021**

www.nkcschools.org



EAGLES
EASTGATE 6TH GRADE CENTER



GRIZZLIES
GATEWAY 6TH GRADE CENTER

6th Grade Vision Statement

We are a community dedicated to inspiring everyone to dream big and achieve their unique potential through exploration, innovation, and celebration.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Families,

This is an exciting time in the life of your middle school child. It's when students are asked to make decisions that will shape their future school years and beyond.

In our changing society, it is crucial that students prepare well and wisely for careers and college. This course description booklet has been created to assist you and your student in this important process. The booklet provides information about courses your child must take to meet state and local requirements. In addition, it explains opportunities for your child to explore and develop a variety of interests during their sixth, seventh, and eighth grade years.

Our school counselors will assist you and your student in making individual educational choices.

Because you know your student better than anyone, your input is essential. We want you to be confident that your student has made the best possible class choices from those offered in our exceptionally rich curriculum. Please consider these choices carefully, as few schedule changes are made after the enrollment process.

If you have questions about enrollment or the courses offered, please call your middle school office and speak with a school counselor. The principals and I are looking forward to an exciting 2020-2021 school year.

Chris McCann, Ed. D.
Dr. Becky Kroenke

Eastgate 6th Grade Center
Gateway 6th Grade Center

(816) 321-5270
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Sincerely,



Dan Clemens, Ed.D.
Superintendent

GOALS FOR GRADUATES

- Goal 1: Students will be **INDEPENDENT LEARNERS** who:
- Know how to locate and use information.
 - Utilize a variety of strategies, tools, and forms of technology in various settings to effectively meet their individual learning needs.
 - Demonstrate the essential academic skills necessary to continue to learn.
 - Know how to find meaning in the arts.
- Goal 2: Students will be **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS** who:
- Present ideas in a variety of contexts.
 - Express themselves artistically and creatively.
 - Listen to others for understanding.
- Goal 3: Students will be **ADAPTABLE PROBLEM SOLVERS & DECISION MAKERS** who:
- Think independently and creatively.
 - Set and achieve goals.
 - Analyze and evaluate solutions.
 - Take informed or calculated risks for improvement and growth.
 - Manage change.
- Goal 4: Students will be **RESPONSIBLE PERSONS** who:
- Respect themselves and others.
 - Exhibit a caring attitude toward others in the family, workplace, and society.
 - Take responsibility for their own actions.
 - Recognize the importance of a healthy lifestyle.
 - Practice ethical decision making.
- Goal 5: Students will be **CONTRIBUTING CITIZENS** who:
- Identify and evaluate societal issues and create potential solutions.
 - Value and practice the democratic process.
 - Act on environmental and global concerns recognizing the interdependence of all things.
 - Work to promote and sustain social justice and equity.
- Goal 6: Students will be **PRODUCTIVE QUALITY WORKERS** who:
- Demonstrate the necessary knowledge and skills for entry into the workplace.
 - Exhibit a positive work ethic.
 - Work cooperatively with others.
 - Use technology as a tool for greater productivity.
 - Achieve high standards of performance.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & OPPORTUNITIES

Each 6th grade center provides a range of services and programs: special education services for students with disabilities or students that need additional support, assistance for English Language Learners, and programs for students with advanced academic abilities.

English Language Learners (ELL) (Daily)

The ELL class is designed to meet the needs of identified English Language Learners and targets integrated English language development in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the core content areas. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) defines the criteria for student placement in this program. ELL students are assigned at the appropriate grade level to an ELL classroom in one or more of the four core areas, as determined by each school and the individual needs of each student. Students are assessed annually on the ACCESS assessment of English language proficiency to measure their progress toward English proficiency. Once students score proficient on the ACCESS and other state and district assessments, they are exited from the ELL Program. ELL teachers meet all state and district certification standards for teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages.

Literacy Plus (Daily)

This course has been designed to accelerate the literacy skills of students who are more than one grade level below their expected reading level. Literacy skills include reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will be screened for reading ability in fifth grade and each year thereafter for placement in this program. Placement will be made by our literacy specialist.

Students in Academically Gifted Education (SAGE) (One Day per week)

The cognitive and affective needs of gifted students are addressed in the SAGE Program. Identified gifted students attend class at the Northland Innovation Center one day per week. Students select two Units of Study topics from several options. They work at an accelerated pace and master content at a higher degree of complexity than their age-level peers.

SIXTH GRADE: NEW BEGINNINGS

Welcome to Your New School!

We are glad you are here! Our goal is to ease the transition between elementary school and middle school while providing experiences that address the social, emotional, and learning needs of our new students. These experiences are grouped into two major categories: core and encore. The information that follows should be helpful as you make preparation for the 2020-2021 school year. We have also included information about core and encore classes that will be available to sixth grade students. We encourage you to review this information with your student as you plan ahead. Your participation in the enrollment process is vital for a successful middle school experience.

Enrollment and Registration Information

Enrollment forms will be sent home with each student. The enrollment form must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian and returned to school. Individual student schedules listing class times, teachers, and room numbers will be printed during the summer and will be available during registration in August.

Sixth Grade Transition Program

We offer a transition program for incoming sixth graders. Students will learn all about their unique building through a variety of activities including scavenger hunts, games, and group activities. They will learn how to use organizational tools to navigate their class schedules. Students practice study skills and meet key people at their Middle School. This is a great way to make friends before the school year begins and to become comfortable with a new school building.

The Benefits of the Middle School Team Concept

Each sixth grader will be randomly assigned to a team of two teachers. These teams are interdisciplinary and integrate the four core subject areas: English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The two-person teams will interact with other two-person teams to build a sense of community and lasting relationships.

The educational benefits of teaming are as follows:

- Each teacher on the team will share the same group of students.
- Teachers share a common conference and plan period. This structure allows teachers to meet together with parents, to plan team activities, and to discuss objectives and instructional strategies.
- Classrooms will be in close proximity.

Each team will:

- Strive to create meaningful connections between subjects so that learning is enriched.
- Encourage a sense of community and belonging among the students.
- Ease the transition from elementary to middle school.

Sixth Grade Core Program Opportunities

The four required core subjects taught within each team are English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science. Honors Math Curriculum is available for those sixth-grade students who meet the requirements (see page 8).

English Language Arts – Reader’s Workshop and Writer’s Workshop

The sixth grade English Language Arts curriculum focuses on students’ ability to read and communicate skillfully in a variety of personal, school, and real-life settings. Students apply the skills and strategies of the reading process to:

- read and understand texts
- analyze and interpret a variety of literary and informational texts
- analyze various elements of literature and explain how they relate to each other and the real world
- apply research skills to gather and use information for research and study purposes
- apply prewriting strategies to develop ideas and plans for writing and apply the skills and strategies of the writing process
- write for a variety of purposes, and create a variety of accurate and effective communications to share with others
- use grammatical and mechanical conventions in a variety of written compositions
- evaluate writing for clarity, organization, and purpose
- revise/rewrite to improve communication

In addition, students will also be exposed to the cultural diversity of written and oral language.

Math

This course will provide students with a solid foundation in basic math skills aligned to the Missouri Core Academic Standards. Students will use:

Ratios and Proportional Relationships

- Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems

The Number System

- Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions
- Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples
- Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers

Expressions and Equations

- Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions
- Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities
- Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables

Geometry

- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume

Statistics and Probability

- Develop understanding of statistical variability
- Summarize and describe distributions

6th Grade Honors Math Requirements**Need 4 of 5:**

- MAP – Proficient or Advanced
- Attendance – 94% or better
- Grade – B or better
- Spring Benchmark – Proficient or Advanced
- Teacher Recommendation

Honors Math

This course will provide students with a solid foundation in basic math skills aligned to the Missouri Core Academic Standards. Students will:

- Compare, order, and generate equivalent forms of rational numbers
- Perform operations on rational numbers
- Use factors, multiples, rational numbers, and proportions to solve problems
- Represent, describe, compare, and analyze patterns
- Model and solve problems using graphs, tables, expressions, and equations
- Use variables to represent unknown quantities in equations
- Simplify expressions
- Classify 2- and 3-dimensional shapes using geometric vocabulary
- Reposition shapes using transformations and dilations
- Determine all lines of symmetry
- Solve problems involving elapsed time
- Classify and measure angles
- Determine the perimeter and area of polygons and circles
- Create and interpret graphs
- Find measures of center and spread
- Compute probability

Science

6th grade students in Missouri experience four strands of science: Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, and Engineering Design. These strands are covered in varying depth with strong efforts made to connect them to one another as students move through the middle level grades. Students in 6th grade in North Kansas City Schools use scientific inquiry and engineering design to study a variety of science concepts:

- Ecosystems and Environments
- Human Impact on Earth's Systems
- Matter and Energy

Social Studies: The Founding of America

Sixth grade students explore the foundations of America using inquiry. They examine the importance of exploration and colonization leading to the American Revolution. Students will deeply study the U.S. Constitution and how issues, ideas, and questions from today are connected to the rich historical understanding of early America. Examination of these topics include government, geography, culture, history, and economics.

Sixth Grade Encore-Wheel Program Opportunities

Through our encore-wheel program, students will have exposure to a wide variety of activities and experiences.

Encore-Wheel

During **Encore-Wheel**, students take four classes for six weeks and choose a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) course that will run for 12 weeks. The four classes in which all students participate during a six-week period are: Art Design, Textile Design, Modern Language, and Public Speaking and Theatre. Students will choose between two PLTW classes: App Creators or Computer Science for Innovators and Makers. The following course descriptions should provide you additional clarification and an overview of expectations for each Encore-Wheel class.

Art Foundations (Daily for 6 weeks)

Students will expand their knowledge of the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. They will explore a variety of art media such as ceramics, drawing, painting, and printmaking. Art History and the study of other cultures will be integrated into lessons to help students develop an appreciation of the role the visual arts play in their everyday life.

Textile Art (Daily for 6 weeks)

This class is designed to give students a well-rounded sample of printmaking and sewing. The printmaking unit introduces students to the art of printmaking by integrating shape, space, and design in the creation of printed fabric. The sewing unit introduces students to basic sewing tools, fabric terms, sewing techniques, and machine skills. Students will design and print fabric and then use sewing to create an article or bag from their own printed fabric.

Modern Language (Daily for 6 weeks)

Sixth grade Modern Language is an introduction to the language offerings at our middle and high schools. The course teaches meaningful skills in acquiring new languages, gives insight into various cultures, and allows students to explore how languages impact their futures. Students will gain exposure to the various languages spoken around the world. They will also utilize Spanish and French vocabulary at a basic level in order to conduct simple conversations, as well as learn about the cultures where they originated. Following a guided inquiry into Spanish and French, students will utilize learned skills to explore a language of their choosing.

Public Speaking and Theatre (Daily for 6 weeks)

This class provides an introduction into the world of public speaking and theatre. Students are exposed to vocabulary, situational uses for speaking, the importance of communication skills, as well as different types of communication. Students gain confidence in performing for an audience through theatre activities and short speeches. They also are introduced to formatting and organizing their presentations through outlining. Both verbal and non-verbal skills will be introduced to enhance stage presence. As others are performing, students are practicing listening and observation skills. This course integrates English Language Arts curriculum satisfying state and national standards.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) – Choose 1

App Creators (Daily for 12 weeks)

Sixth grade PLTW App Creators introduces students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking through the creation of mobile apps. Students are challenged to be creative and innovative as they collaboratively design and develop mobile solutions to engaging, authentic problems. Students experience the positive impact of the application of computer science to society as well as other disciplines, particularly biomedical science. Student teams identify a personal or community problem of interest to them that can be solved with a mobile app solution. The problem can address issues such as health and wellness, the environment, school culture, emergency preparedness, education, community service—the options are endless!

Computer Science for Innovators and Makers (Daily for 12 weeks)

Sixth grade PLTW Computer Science for Innovators and Makers teaches students that programming goes beyond the virtual world into the physical world. Students are challenged to creatively use sensors and actuators to develop systems that interact with their environment. Designing algorithms and using computational thinking practices, they code and upload programs to microcontrollers that perform a variety of authentic tasks. The unit broadens students' understanding of computer science concepts through meaningful applications. Teams select and solve a personally relevant problem related to wearable technology, interactive art, or mechanical devices.

Encore II

During **Encore II**, students will have Physical Education II on alternating days. Physical Education will alternate with General Music, Band, or Orchestra.

The following course descriptions should provide you additional clarification and an overview of expectations for each Encore II class.

Band (Alternating days for 36 weeks)

The beginning Band program is open to all interested students in sixth grade. Students may select from wind, brass, or percussion instruments. The director will review student selections and approve the instrument that is in the best musical interest of the student. After instruments are in place, classwork will begin with brass, percussion, and woodwind students meeting in homogenous groupings. During class sessions, students will learn basic skills needed to play the instrument they have chosen and rehearsal skills that will allow them to perform in groups. All sections of the sixth-grade band classes will be combined to perform standard band literature as a full ensemble. The sixth-grade band will present two concerts.

General Music (Alternating days for 36 weeks)

The sixth grade Music program is a continuation of the elementary music curriculum and includes instruction in rhythm, melody, and harmony. In addition, choral singing, music reading, and listening skills will be studied. Music technology and a variety of musical instruments will also be incorporated into the class.

Orchestra (Alternating days for 36 weeks)

The sixth grade Orchestra class builds upon the fundamental skills and concepts that were introduced in fifth grade Orchestra. The focus of this course is continued work in skills including effective bow technique, mastering left-hand finger patterns, introduction of scales, tone production, and public performance. Students will explore and perform music from different cultures. Students develop skills in bowing and fingering and demonstrate a controlled tonal quality. They learn to perform an assigned part in ensemble playing. In addition, students learn to observe musical terms and apply them to a variety of music literature, developing an awareness of musical styles. Sixth grade Orchestra students are eligible for the district Honors Philharmonic Orchestra, a select extracurricular ensemble.

Physical Education (Alternating days for 36 weeks)

The overview of the middle school Physical Education program is an academic subject designed to incorporate the psychomotor, cognitive, and affective learning domains which will enhance the knowledge, fitness levels, motor skill, personal/social skill, and attitude of each student. The goal of Physical Education is to provide students with opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary that develop and maintain the core values of having a lifetime of healthy habits, wellness, and to sustain an active lifestyle. Students will participate in a variety of fitness activities and learn to appreciate the value of an active life to improve their personal level of fitness. In Physical Education students will also develop the skills and knowledge necessary to participate successfully in lifetime activities, team, and individual sports. All courses will emphasize the importance of safety, cooperation, and sportsmanship.

Sixth Grade Scheduling Structure

Option A		
Core Classes	Encore-Wheel	Encore II (Meets every other day, all year)
Reader's Workshop	Art Design (9 weeks)	Physical Education
Writer's Workshop	Textile Design (9 weeks)	General Music OR Band OR Orchestra
Math	Modern Language (9 weeks)	
Social Studies	Public Speaking and Theatre (9 weeks)	
Science	PLTW-App Creators (9 weeks)	
Option B		
Core Classes	Encore-Wheel	Encore II (Meets every other day, all year)
Reader's Workshop	Art Design (9 weeks)	Physical Education
Writer's Workshop	Textile Design (9 weeks)	General Music OR Band OR Orchestra
Math	Modern Language (9 weeks)	
Social Studies	Public Speaking and Theatre (9 weeks)	
Science	PLTW-Computer Science for Innovators and Makers (9 weeks)	

OTHER INFORMATION

High School Distinguished Achievement Program

North Kansas City Schools set high expectations for students to accept the honors of rigorous course work. We expect students to excel on performance assessments, to earn college credits as juniors and seniors in high school, to take advanced placement courses and exams earning advanced standing in colleges and universities, and to develop a portfolio, experience an internship, or develop a senior exhibition. Our students explore career pathways, discover their interests and strengths, and take Honors coursework in preparation for a world of choices that lies beyond a high school education.

A+ Schools Eligibility Requirements – Planning for High School

North Kansas City Schools participates in the state A+ Schools program and each of our high schools are designated A+ Schools. Graduates are eligible for state reimbursement for the cost of tuition, books, and fees to any Missouri public community college, vocational, or technical school.

To be eligible, each student must sign a written agreement with the school during the last three years prior to high school graduation and:

- Attend a designated A+ School for three consecutive years prior to high school graduation.
- Graduate from high school with a grade point average of 2.5 points or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Maintain a minimum average of a 95% attendance record for the three-year period.
- Perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring for younger students.
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoidance of the unlawful use of drugs.
- Complete and submit the FAFSA for federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment.

Students receiving the Missouri A+ Schools Scholarships are required to score at the proficient or advanced level on the Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II End of Course Examination (EOC) taken in high school or during middle school to fully qualify for the A+ Scholarship.

Diploma Options

North Kansas City Schools currently offer four diploma options for graduates:

- **Career/College Readiness Diploma (26 Credits)**
Graduates are recognized as having met entrance requirements for most Missouri universities.
- **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma (26 Credits)**
Graduates receive honors and are recognized for completing a rigorous program designed to meet all entrance requirements for the University of Missouri system as well as most universities nationwide.
- **International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP) (26 Credits)**
Graduates receive honors and are recognized for completing rigorous international curricula designed to meet the entrance requirements of the world's best universities.
- **International Baccalaureate Career-Related Program Certificate (IBCP) (26 Credits)**
Graduates receive honors and are recognized for completing rigorous international curricula combined with a career pathway to enter the workforce and/or to meet the entrance requirements of higher learning institutions.



Extraordinary Educational
Experiences

Diploma Credits Required

Paths to Graduation					
DIPLOMA OPTIONS:	<i>Career/College Readiness</i>	<i>Gold Medallion</i>	<i>AP Capstone</i>	<i>IBDP</i>	<i>IBCP</i>
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	4	4	4	4	4
MATHEMATICS	4	4	4	4	4
SCIENCE	3	3	3	4	4
SOCIAL STUDIES	3	4	3	3-4	3-4
FINE ARTS	1	1	1	1	1
PRACTICAL ARTS	1	1	1	1	1
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1	1	1	1	1
HEALTH	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
PERSONAL FINANCE +	0.5+	0.5+	0.5+	0.5+	0.5+
ELECTIVES	8	4	6	1.5-4	.5-4
MODERN LANGUAGE		2		4	2
AP SEMINAR		1	1		1++
AP RESEARCH			1		
THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE				1.5	
PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS					1.5-2
CAREER RELATED STUDY					3-4
TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED	26	26	26	26	26

All students will be required to complete a service component

+ **Personal Finance** will be an on-line course, with blended support

++ **AP Seminar and AP Research** – Optional for students pursuing IBCP

Preparing for Life After High School

Career Preparation – It is never too early to begin planning for your future!

Although it is sometimes difficult for teenagers to focus on their futures, it is extremely important that they do so. The requirements of the workforce have changed dramatically in just a few years. Workers at all levels have had to adapt to an entirely new set of rules. The explosion of technological improvements coupled with a rapidly expanding base of knowledge makes it necessary for every worker to develop a willingness to be a lifelong learner. Future success depends, to a large degree, on developing a progressive attitude.

Beginning at the freshman level, a pre-planned program of education, based upon interest, will help each student prepare for a Career Pathway. Career Pathways are groups of occupations/careers that are combined together because the people in them share many similar interests and strengths. It is important for the student to note that there are a variety of occupations in each pathway that require different levels of education and training.

Selecting a Career Pathway will provide the sequence necessary for students to focus on a career goal as they proceed through the curriculum. A Career Pathway also will prepare students for the changing world of the future. Whether that future is a four-year university or training at a technical college or in the work force, Career Pathways provide a systematic plan for all students to progress through a sequence of courses toward accomplishing identified academic, career goals, and interests.

The following are the Career Pathways:

- Arts & Communication
- Business, Management & Technology
- Health Services
- Human Services
- Industrial & Engineering Technology
- Natural Resources & Agriculture

Contact your school's counseling center for additional assistance with educational and career planning.

North Kansas City Schools offers many opportunities to help students make informed decisions as they prepare for life after graduation.

Students complete Missouri Connections with the support of teachers and counselors. Missouri Connections helps students select

Career Paths and Clusters that match their interests and skills. Programs of Study provide guidance for high school course selection and opportunities to prepare for careers.

Personal Plans of Study are created by each student to personalize the educational experience to meet his or her needs.



Missouri Connections

Missouri Connections is an online resource (<http://www.missouriconnections.org/>) that takes career planning to a higher level. Sponsored by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Economic Development, Missouri Connections is available to students, parents, guidance counselors, educators, and job seekers at no charge.

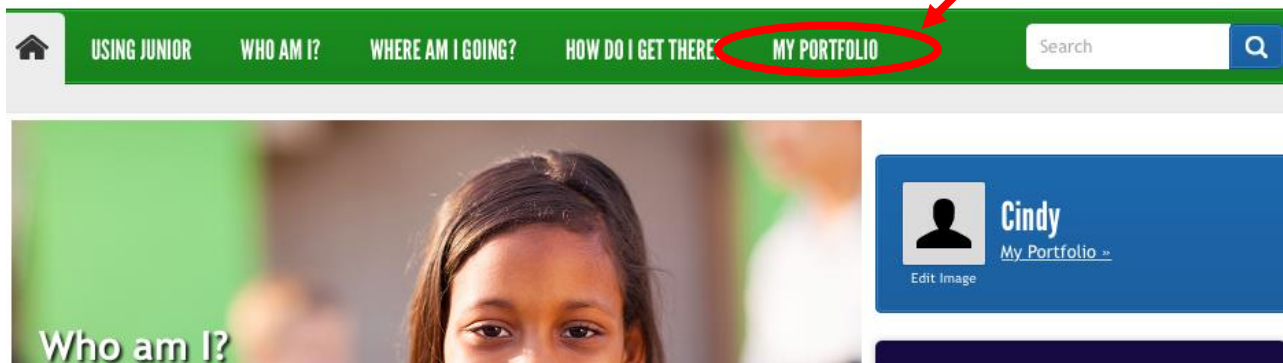
Students in North Kansas City Schools use Missouri Connections with the support of teachers and counselors. The results help students make decisions about Career Clusters that are a good match for the student's interests and skills as well as make educational decisions to prepare for specific occupations.

Parents are encouraged to talk to their student, request his or her username and password, view their student's assessment results, and talk about career options. Your student's username should be Nkclunch code number and their password should be their lunch code number. The following pages will help you navigate through the Missouri Connection website and help plan your student's future educational experiences.

Go to the following URL: <https://mocis.intocareers.org/materials/portal/home.html>
Enter your student's User Name and Password (your counselor can help you with this).



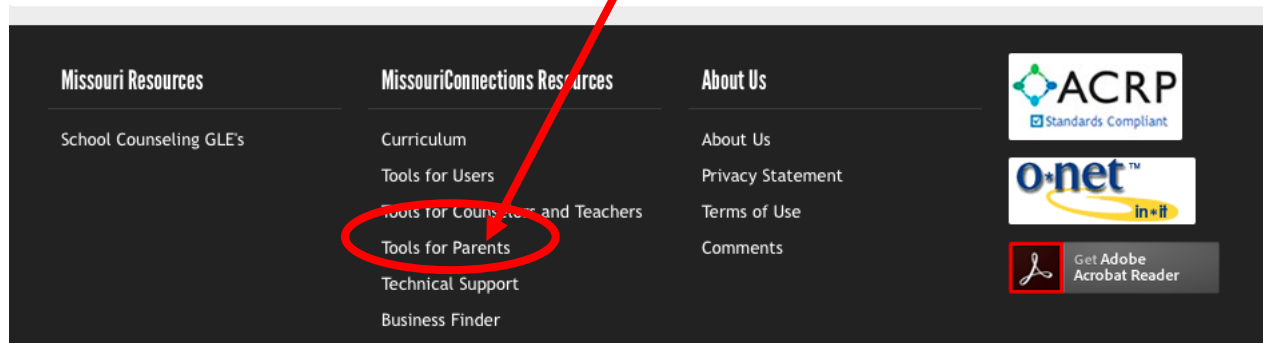
Hover over "My Portfolio" to see the work your student has done within the program. If there is nothing in there yet, that means your student will be completing assessments as they move through their middle school years.



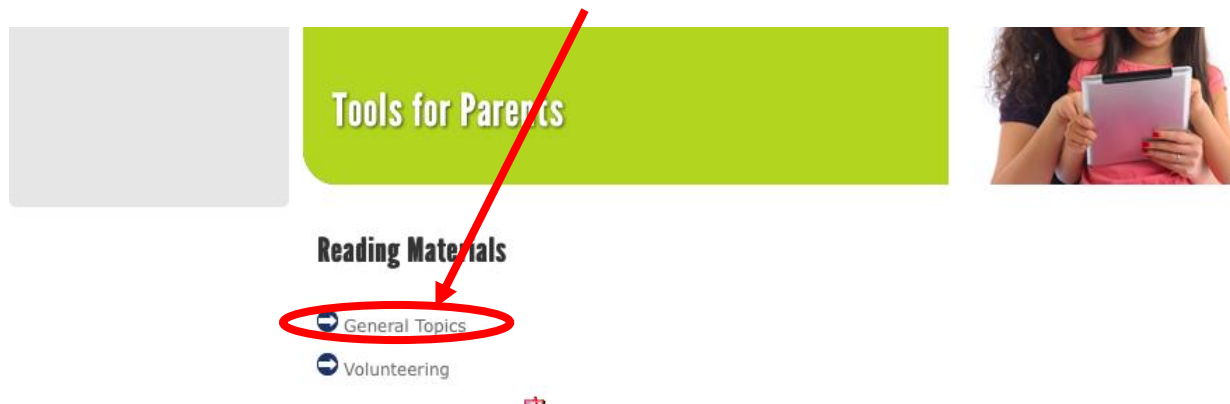
You can also look at "Using Junior" to learn about the many ways CIS Junior can help your child begin to plan their future.



There is a section at the bottom of the page called “Tools for Parents.” Here you will find reading materials about how you can make a difference in your child’s career development, how to build for your child’s future, as well as tips on how you can help your child be successful.



Simply click on the arrow titled “General Topics” to find all of this information.



Your student will have an opportunity to take a “Career Cluster Inventory.” Below is an example of what the results page looks like. The horizontal bars represent their interest levels for the 16 Career Clusters. You can click on the title to learn more about the Cluster itself and the occupations that fall under the Cluster.

<u>Career Clusters</u>		<u>Score</u>
<u>Human Services</u>		10
<u>Business Management and Administration</u>		8
<u>Arts, Audio/Visual Technology, and Communications</u>		6
<u>Education and Training</u>		6
<u>Government and Public Administration</u>		6
<u>Hospitality and Tourism</u>		6
<u>Health Science</u>		5
<u>Marketing</u>		4

Career Paths and Clusters

Career Paths

Missouri has identified six Career Paths to help students become aware of and explore careers in a logical and meaningful way.

Career Clusters

Missouri uses 16 Career Clusters as a way of organizing occupations and careers to assist educators in tailoring rigorous coursework and related activities for all students. The Career Clusters include all occupations, even those not usually found in career and technical education. Career Clusters may be used beginning in middle school and can continue as a framework for educational planning through postsecondary education.



Career Cluster Titles

- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Architecture & Construction
- Arts, Audio-Visual Technology & Communications
- Business Management & Administration
- Education & Training
- Finance
- Government & Public Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Math
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

Personal Plan of Study

A Personal Plan of Study is related to a Program of Study, but it is customized to reflect the individual student's needs. School organizations and community activities can give students practical experience to hone skills learned in the classroom and develop personal qualities such as leadership and teamwork. Families, counselors, and teachers work together with the student to develop the Personal Plan of Study. Career development opportunities such as job shadowing, mentoring, and internships help students gain real-world experience and help the students explore career possibilities while still in school.

Career Pathways

Occupations within a Career Cluster are further grouped according to shared characteristics such as skills sets or common roles. This grouping is called a Career Pathway. Each cluster contains two to seven Career Pathways. Career Pathways assist educators in the development of a coordinated sequence of courses that identifies both secondary and postsecondary education elements.

Student Benefits with Career Clusters

- Career Clusters directly link learning today with opportunities to make a living tomorrow.
- See the relevance of education applied to real-world situations.
- Helps all students plan for the future, whatever their interests, abilities, or desires for further education.
- Work-based learning and project-based learning provide hands-on experience in the classroom and in the workplace.
- Learning occurs in a variety of settings using a variety of teaching methods that match different learning styles.
- Encourages opportunities to begin a postsecondary certification or degree program through courses taken for college credit.

Family Benefits with Career Clusters

- More opportunities to learn about their student's career assessments and goals.
- Helps families assist students with course and activity selection to support goals.
- Provides a strong foundation in academic, employability, and technical skills.
- Students who focus on a goal and see the connection between coursework and a career are more likely to stay in school.
- Save on tuition when students pursue high school courses with the option to earn college credit.