

# AN INTRODUCTION TO JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

## OUR MISSION

Junior Achievement of Central Indiana's mission is to empower young people to own their future success. JA educates and inspires young people in the areas of career exploration, employability/life skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy and philanthropy through hands-on, experiential learning opportunities for children in preschool through high school.

## JA JOBSPARK OVERVIEW

JA JobSpark is a two-day virtual career expo impacting over 10,000 Indianapolis eighth graders. The JA JobSpark initiative includes in-class or remote curriculum and activities prior to and after attending the virtual event. JA JobSpark is meant to “spark” an interest in students and get them excited for their future. Students will learn about skills needed for jobs that will be in demand when they graduate and will learn about the equipment that is used on those jobs daily. Students will have a better understanding of the courses they will need to take in high school, a track for post-secondary, and a clear career pathway for what they find they are interested in. JA JobSpark is a part of Junior Achievement's career exploration curriculum that has been delivered to many of the students throughout their academic experience, beginning in elementary school. Upon completion of the curriculum, students will have real insights into the industries that interest them, the skills needed, and the education required. Through virtual interaction, students will have the opportunity to interact with professionals from eight industry clusters and learn about future in demand careers. JA JobSpark introduces students to a variety of professions and industries allowing them to better understand what it takes to get a job and develop a career.

## INTRODUCTION

The activities included in this curriculum are designed to help you and your students prepare for JA JobSpark. The curriculum consists of four required sessions, (three before and one after JA JobSpark) and supplemental learning resources and activities. With a wide variety of industry representation at JA JobSpark, the students' preparation is key to the day's success. The work they do in the classroom will prepare them for the experiences they will have at JA JobSpark. The final required session takes place after JA JobSpark. Each of the classroom sessions are designed to take approximately 45 minutes to complete. Additionally, there are supplemental activities to complete if you have time before or after the event. It is also important to note that each session references the corresponding Indiana Standards.

Throughout the curriculum, teachers should reinforce how English/language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and work-readiness skills are used every day at work. Emphasis should also be placed on the role of teamwork at school and on the job. Additionally, teachers should highlight the goal of lifelong learning and its importance to continued success in the workplace. The JA JobSpark program does not need to end after the last session in this curriculum. The conversation about career readiness is continuous throughout their school career.

## HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE STUDENT WEBPAGE

All student curriculum can be accessed via this link: [JA JobSpark Curriculum](#). Teachers can post the entire webpage on the student's e-learning platform then complete each session during one classroom period.



Another option is to post, on an e-learning platform, the links you want the students to have during a specific session. The teacher can decide which materials a student will submit. All materials are in the form of a fillable PDF. They can be submitted in a dropbox, emailed, or printed. Teachers can use any engagement platform for classroom or small group discussions; Zoom, Flipgrid, discussion boards, etc.

## JA JOBSPARK GOALS

Through classroom activities and participation in the interactive virtual JA JobSpark career expo, the following topics will be discussed:

- Career Assessment and Self-Awareness
- Career Clusters and Employability Skills
- Academic and Career Planning
- Goal setting and Reflection

## INDIANA STANDARDS

The JA JobSpark sessions and resources meet the Indiana Standard - CTE: Exploring College and Careers 0493.68. Exploring College and Careers provides students opportunities to explore their personal goals, interests, and aptitudes as they relate to career concepts, including the 16 national career clusters and Indiana's College and Career Pathways, and determine what they want and expect for their future. Students learn about various traditional and nontraditional careers and gain an awareness of the level of education and type of training needed for a variety of careers and occupations. Students build good study habits, expand their technology skills, develop or update their graduation plans, and complete a college and career readiness exam. Virtual and real-life opportunities are provided for students to observe and explore various careers. Along with the current academic standards for this subject, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

Employability Skills Standards are covered in the JA JobSpark curriculum. The standards are based on the National Employability Skill Standards from the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE), the Indiana Department of Workforce Development's Employability Skills Benchmarks, the Governor's Work Ethic Certificate, and the Indiana Department of Education's Social Emotional Learning Competencies. The standards are arranged within four key areas: Mindsets (M), Work Ethic (WE), Learning Strategies (LS), and Social and Emotional Skills (SE). Below are the standards that are covered in the JA JobSpark lessons.

6-8.M.1, 6-8.M.2, 6-8.M.4, 6-8.WE.5, 6-8.SE.4, 6-8.LS.1, 6-8.LS.2, 6-8.LS.4, 6-8.LS.5, 6-8.LS.6, 6-8.LS.7, 6-8.LS.9, 6-8.LS.10, 6-8.LS11, 6-8.SE.4, 6-8.SE.3, 6-8.SE.4