October 1, 2024

Dear 8th grade parent/guardian,

Per Florida Statute 1003.4156 and Florida Senate Bill 196, your 8th grade child will receive career planning and exploration instruction in their M/J Civics and Career Planning course during the month of October.

The upcoming two-day lesson will be conducted by a school counselor and will utilize Xello. Xello is Florida’s official K-12 career planning and work-based learning platform. This system can be accessed anytime through your child’s Clever account. During the lesson, your child will explore their strengths and interests through a survey called Matchmaker, to help align their future high school courses with their postsecondary goals. The Xello platform will save their career assessment results, as the intention is to re-visit Xello several times per year to continuously explore and thus update future pathways and goals. Xello can also be used to create a resume, note and save accomplishments and even apply to colleges.

During the classroom lesson, students will view a brief narrated PowerPoint presentation, which can be accessed [here](https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/8th-grade-career-exploration/), explaining State of Florida high school diploma requirements.

Students will review their career assessment results and create a high school course progression plan, selecting courses they may want to take, based on their career interests. **This plan is flexible and will likely change as your child approaches and progresses through high school**. The goal of the plan is to help students begin to consider the various academic and career options available to them in high school and beyond.

The timing of this lesson has been closely coordinated with the St. Johns County Schools Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department. They will host High School Showcase, an event that will take place at World Gold Village Renaissance Hotel, on December 11th, from 3:30PM-7:00PM. More information on high school programs of interest, application deadline, specific requirements and much more, can be found at: <https://cte.stjohns.k12.fl.us/programs/>

For further questions about Xello, career assessment results or high school requirements, please consult your child’s middle school counselor. Further resources and information on career readiness can be found on the district website [here](https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/8th-grade-career-exploration/).

Warmly,

[Counselor contact information]