

Grade 8

Activities to

Support the

Individual

Pathways

Plan

GRADE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES FOR THE DURHAM CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

GRADE 8 IPP

FOR EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

WHO AM I? – Activity #1

Estimated time: 60 – 75 minutes

Purpose: In this activity, students will explore careers based on their interests and using the feedback provided by the Career Matchmaker assessment and reflect on their career suggestions in My Journal in their IPP.

Resources:

- Classroom Activity #3 - Using Career Matchmaker
- Classroom Activity #4 - Your Career Ideas & Career Matchmaker

WHO AM I? – Activity #2

Estimated time: 15 minutes

Purpose: In this activity students will record at least one of their hobbies or interests into their IPP.

Suggested Implementation:

- Students can complete this activity during free time in a computer lab or as homework.

WHO DO I WANT TO BECOME? – Activity #4

Estimated time: 15 - 30 minutes

Purpose: In this activity, students will review any previously entered goals and/or identify one short and one long-term goal in their IPP.

WHAT IS MY PLAN? – Activity #5

Estimated time: 30-45 minutes

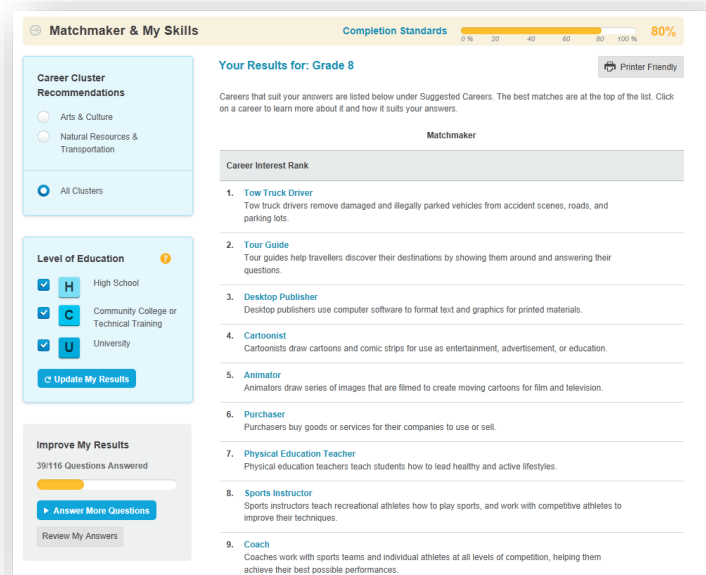
Purpose: In this activity, students will create a high school course plan for grades 9 through 12 using either the Canadian Education Plan or ccPathfinder (Course Planner).

Resources:

- My IPP Activity #5 - High School Education Plan; or Course Planner Classroom Activity

Suggested Implementation:

The high school course plan can be completed as part of the grade 9 course selection process. Students can also work with their parents at home on outlining their plans.



FOR PARENTS

- Using the Parent Portal, review the results of the Career Matchmaker Interest Inventory with your child and discuss which careers they are most interested in and which aspects of those careers they find most appealing.
- Discuss the career(s) your child has saved to his/her IPP and identify ways the child can continue to explore those careers.
- Work with your child to create his or her high school course plan and discuss the courses they are interested in, which courses they feel will be most helpful for their future aspirations and what challenges they foresee.

Grade 8 Activities to Support the Individual Pathways Plan

Activity 14: Learning Styles

FOR THE TEACHER:

Introduction

The purpose of this activity is to help students:

- Identify and analyze their preferred learning styles
- Understand the relationship between learning styles and academic success
- Understand the relationship between learning styles and career choices

Setting the Stage

Classroom discussion can begin with students describing their ideal studying or learning environments. Ask them to draw on their own study habits and preferences. The variety of answers will help students realize that people have different ways of learning and retaining information.

As a class, brainstorm reasons why it is important to understand one's learning style. Learning styles impact not only school performance, but also our success in the workplace and in the world. While learning styles don't reflect our actual abilities, they do influence the way in which we learn to perform work and social tasks, manage our time and resources, and how we interact with co-workers and family members who have different learning styles.

Some students may discover that they have more than one preferred learning style. In this case, students can choose from the traits, tips, and strategies associated with each of their preferred learning styles in order to complete the activity. Be sure to emphasize to all students that there is no right or wrong learning style.

After completing the worksheet, ask students—as a class or in small groups—to discuss their individual learning styles and compare them with other students' preferred learning styles. Students should be able to describe the three key learning style preferences (visual, auditory, and tactile), and identify learning strategies and conditions that complement each style. This will help students to consolidate their learning. Remind students that they all have the capacity to learn in different ways.

Starting the Program

Go to www.careercruising.com. Enter your personal My Plan username and password in the spaces provided, and click on **Log In**.

Worksheet 14: Learning Styles

Log in to Career Cruising and click on **Assessments**, then on the **Start Learning Styles** button.

Read the instructions on the Introduction page and start the assessment. Remember, there are no right or wrong answers; simply select the answer that you feel best applies to you.

What kind of learner are you? _____

1. Read the Learning Styles profile. Answer the following questions:

Which parts of the profile best describe the way that you learn and retain new information?

Are there parts of the profile that do not accurately describe the way that you learn and retain new information? Which ones?

2. Think about how your learning style relates to your work at school. The Learning Styles profile offers lots of suggestions to help you learn in your preferred style.

Which suggested strategies do you already use? How successful do you think they are in helping you learn and remember information?

Which suggested strategies can you begin using now to help you learn and remember information?

Grade 8 Activities to Support the Individual Pathways Plan – Page 3 of 14

3. Now try to think of some more tips that you could use in the following situations:

You have a test in two weeks that is worth 30% of your final grade. What strategies could you use to help you study for the exam?

You're having trouble absorbing information in class. What suggestions could you make at the next student-teacher conference that would help you and your teacher develop a learning plan to suit your learning style?

You have to write a 5-page essay, and you're feeling a little overwhelmed. What tips can help you prepare to tackle the project and write the paper?

4. Think about how understanding your learning style relates to career possibilities. How can knowing how you learn help you make important career decisions and succeed in the workforce?

Grade 8 Activities to Support the Individual Pathways Plan – Page 4 of 14

Click on **Careers** in the menu bar near the top of the screen, and search for a career that interests you.

Career: _____

5. Read the Job Description section.

Write down two or three tasks that people in this occupation perform.

Describe how you could learn to perform each task in a way that complements your learning style. (e.g. adjusting technical equipment: auditory learners could listen to someone explain how to adjust the equipment; visual learners could read the manual; tactile learners could test out the equipment)

6. Read the Working Conditions section.

Write down two working conditions that are common for people in this occupation.

Describe how you could adapt the working conditions you listed above so that they support your learning style (e.g. working in an office: auditory learners could reduce noise distractions by closing their office door; visual learners could reduce visual distractions by clearing away clutter in their office or cubicle; tactile learners could take frequent breaks or walks).

Grade 8 Activities to Support the Individual Pathways Plan – Page 5 of 14

SUMMARY – YOUR VIEWS

7. Now that you’ve learned a little more about your learning style, answer the following questions:

What do you think are some of the challenges associated with your learning style?

What do you think are some of the advantages of your learning style?

Grade 8 Activities to Support the Individual Pathways Plan – Page 6 of 14

Activity 3: Using Career Matchmaker

FOR THE TEACHER:

Introduction

The purpose of this activity is to show students how to use Career Matchmaker, a career interest inventory. In particular, students will learn how Career Matchmaker provides individualized feedback on their career choices.

Setting the Stage

Classroom discussion can focus on how career assessments should be seen as tools for finding suitable careers, rather than as “tests” that supply the final word on students’ futures. Students should be encouraged to answer the second round of Career Matchmaker questions for the best results. Students should also be encouraged to answer the questions based on what they enjoy doing rather than what they are good at.

Starting the Program

Go to **www.careercruising.com**. Enter your personal My Plan username and password in the spaces provided, and click on **Log In**.

Grade 8 Activities to Support the Individual Pathways Plan – Page 7 of 14

Worksheet 3: Using Career Matchmaker

Log in to Career Cruising and click on Assessments, and then click on the Start Matchmaker button. Read the instructions on the Introduction page, label your Matchmaker session, and then click Start Now.

Answer the questions. (Do your best! The more thought you put into these answers, the better your results will be.) After you answer the first 39 questions, you will come to the Career Suggestions page that lists the careers that are suitable for you based on your responses to the questions.

We strongly suggest that you answer the second round of questions as well. Click on the Answer More Questions button in the Improve My Results section on the left side of the Career Suggestions page. Answer as many additional questions as you can, and then click the blue View Career Suggestions button to see your updated list of career suggestions.

Click on one of the suggested careers. (Those near the top are your best matches!)

Career: _____

1. Read the Suitable For You? information that appears for the career you have chosen. Answer the following questions:

What are the Central Aspects of this career?

What are the Central and Secondary Aspects to which you answered Like or Like Very Much?

Did you answer Dislike or Dislike Very Much to any of the aspects? Which ones?

Grade 8 Activities to Support the Individual Pathways Plan – Page 8 of 14

Click on the **Back To Matchmaker** button to return to your list of suggested careers. Select another career.

Career: _____

2. Read the “Suitable For You?” information that appears for this career.

Write down the Central and Secondary Aspects to which you answered Like or Like Very Much.

3. Click on Job Description and Working Conditions.

In the Job Description and Working Conditions sections, try to find a job task or working condition that relates to two of the aspects you wrote down above.

Example:

Career: Website Designer
Aspect: Having your own ideas about designs and styles
Examples: Designing computer websites
 Deciding on colours, patterns, layout, and graphics

For Your Career:

Aspect: _____

Examples: _____

Aspect: _____

Examples: _____

Grade 8 Activities to Support the Individual Pathways Plan – Page 9 of 14

Click on one of the two interviews.

Person’s name: _____

4. Click on A Day In The Life and Breakdown Of Activities.

See if you can find other examples of aspects you have chosen in this person’s workday activities.

Aspect: _____

Examples: _____

Aspect: _____

Examples: _____

Activity 4: Your Career Ideas and Career Matchmaker

FOR THE TEACHER:

Introduction

The purpose of this activity is to help students understand their interests and how they relate to career choices. It also encourages them to look beyond their preconceptions about careers and investigate alternatives they may not have considered before. Finally, students will become more familiar with Career Cruising’s interest assessment tool, Career Matchmaker, and learn how it can provide individualized feedback on their career ideas.

Setting the Stage

Classroom discussion can focus on two issues: the relationship between people’s interests and their career choices; and how much (or little) we really know about various careers. Ask students which occupations they are thinking about pursuing. Then ask them how much they know about those occupations. How do they know they will really like those careers? There are hundreds of occupations to pursue, yet many students only think of a handful when imagining their future career paths.

Starting the Program

Go to www.careercruising.com. Enter your personal My Plan username and password in the spaces provided, and click on **Log In**.

Grade 8 Activities to Support the Individual Pathways Plan – Page 11 of 14

Worksheet 4: Your Career Ideas and Career Matchmaker

STEP 1: YOUR CAREER CHOICE

Log in to Career Cruising and click on **Careers**.

In the box beside **Keyword Search**, enter the name of a career you would like to pursue or have seriously considered for yourself (*e.g. lawyer, carpenter, fashion designer*), and click **Search**.

Once you have found a career, write the name below.

Career: _____

- 1. Before learning more about your career choice, write down three things you think you would like about this career** (*e.g. on-the-job activities, work environment, or other interesting aspects*).

Note: At this stage of the activity, you do not have to do any research; just write down your thoughts on this career. In the third stage, you will learn more about this career and how it matches up with your interests.

STEP 2: IDENTIFYING YOUR INTERESTS

Click the **Assessments** link in the menu bar at the top of the page, and then click on the **Start Matchmaker** button. (If you've already completed Matchmaker, you can load your Best Match or other results and skip ahead to Step 3.)

Read the instructions on the Introduction page, label your Matchmaker session, and then click **Start Now**.

After you answer the first 39 questions, you will come to the Career Suggestions page which lists the careers that are suitable for you based on your responses to the questions.

We strongly suggest that you answer the second round of questions as well. Click on the **Answer More Questions** button in the **Improve My Results** section on the left side of the Career Suggestions page. Answer as many additional questions as you can, and then click the blue **View Career Suggestions** button.

Grade 8 Activities to Support the Individual Pathways Plan – Page 12 of 14

STEP 3: MATCHING UP YOUR INTERESTS WITH CAREERS

1. Does your career choice appear in the list of career suggestions?

Yes ____ No ____

If your answer is **Yes**, click on it.

If your answer is **No**, click on the **Find Other Careers** button in the **Other Careers** section on the left side of the page. Search for the career that interests you and click on the career name.

2. Once you have clicked on the career, a chart entitled “Suitable For You?” will appear. From this chart, write down any Central and Secondary Aspects to which you answered Like or Like Very Much.

3. Write down any Central and Secondary Aspects to which you answered Dislike, Dislike Very Much, or Does Not Matter.

Grade 8 Activities to Support the Individual Pathways Plan – Page 13 of 14

SUMMARY – YOUR VIEWS

Now that you have learned about your interests and how they match up with a career that you have considered, answer the following questions:

4. In Question 1, you wrote down three things that you thought you would like about this career. Which of these are similar to the Central or Secondary Aspects of the career? What surprises you about some of the aspects of this career?

5. How did your original career choice match up with your interests? Do you still think it is a good career choice for you? Why or why not?

6. Do you think interests are important for career choices? Why or why not?

Grade 8 Activities to Support the Individual Pathways Plan – Page 14 of 14

OPTIONAL – CHECKING OUT ONE OF YOUR CAREER SUGGESTIONS

Click on the **Back To Matchmaker** button to return to your list of suggested careers. Click on one of your top five career suggestions. *(Choose one that you think might interest you, but not the one you already looked at.)*

Career: _____

7. Write down the Central and Secondary Aspects to which you answered Like or Like Very Much.

8. Write down any Central and Secondary Aspects to which you answered Dislike, Dislike Very Much, or Does Not Matter.

SUMMARY – YOUR VIEWS

9. Are you interested in this career? Have you ever considered it before? What could you do to learn more about it?
