

World's Best Workforce Report to Families – May 2013

Last year the MN Legislature passed a new educational law called the World's Best Work Force. (WBWF) This new legislation is requiring all public schools in the state to develop and put in place a "plan" starting in the fall of 2013 to ensure that all students are prepared and ready to be successful in whatever path they choose to take after graduation from high school. The plan will be part of a school's annual report and must be shared at a public meeting also.

Voyageurs has for the past couple of years had in place a program to help students develop the knowledge necessary to access jobs and post-secondary training after high school. Our grade level seminars for the past couple of years have started in the fall of each year with the following specific emphasis:

Grade 9 – Career Exploration – students in grade 9 have spent about 6 hours per month learning about different businesses; learning about themselves and starting the process of understanding how what they do in the school setting impacts the paths available to them after graduation. The 9th graders also have spent some time exploring the process of obtaining a job.

Grade 10 – Technology Education – students in grade 10 have spent about 6 hours per month learning how to better integrate technology into their lives. They have created websites; Wiki's; ;Blogs and explored how technology can enhance their education and potential careers in the technology field.

Grade 11 – Post-Secondary Exploration – students in grade 11 have spent about 6 hours per month learning about post-secondary programming, including colleges, apprenticeships, trade schools, work force training, etc. Students have learned about college applications; entrance assessments (Accuplacer; ACT, etc.); learning about financial aid and completing research on a specific career area of interest, etc.

Grade 12 – Senior Projects – Every senior at Voyageurs is required to create; research and present a senior project prior to graduation. Students have learned how to complete a comprehensive research project; write a major research paper; prepare artifacts of learning and will prior to graduation present their projects to a group of interested individuals (staff; other students; family members).

In addition to the Grade level seminars', students at Voyageurs have had the opportunity to explore a variety of career paths through visits to local manufacturing facilities; visits with college representatives both here and on the college campuses. We have also had multiple Presentations about careers from local business partners and other individuals from the

community and have gone out to a variety of businesses to learn and see first-hand about their operations and career paths they offer.

In December of 2013, we were notified that Voyageurs has been chosen to be a “Ramp up to Readiness” site for 2014-2015. Ramp up to Readiness is a comprehensive Post-secondary Readiness program developed by the University of Minnesota. The goals of Ramp Up to Readiness is to put in place a systematic program of activities that expose students starting in Middle School to the knowledge and skills they should have prior to high school graduation in order to be a successful college level freshman if that is the career path they should so choose to follow. It’s not saying every student will go to college, but it is saying that every student will have the skills necessary to successfully negotiate enrollment and completion of their first year in a post-secondary program, whether it be an apprenticeship program, a trade school, a technical college program, a community college program or a 4 year university program.

We will be implementing this program in the fall in all grade levels as part of our grade level seminars.