

Galesburg-Augusta

Highlights 2024-2025



KALAMAZOO RESA

Career Connect

Career Awareness & Exploration (CAE)



Xello & EDP Support

A total of **383 students** from Galesburg-Augusta Middle and High School utilized the Xello platform this year.

In December, the Career Connect team participated in a high school staff training to share new tips and strategies for engaging with students using Xello.

Workforce Wednesday Framework

Galesburg-Augusta Middle and High Schools have continued their partnership with Youth Solutions, further expanding career-focused learning through the district's structured approach. Using the Workforce Wednesday Framework, the high school's Career Leadership Council—**Bethany Stanton, Kayleen O'Donnell, Logan Fisher, Amanda Brincks, and Chris Enders**—worked to develop and refine weekly lessons and experiences for students in grades 9–12. A special shoutout to Bethany for presenting at a statewide Youth Solutions event this year. Looking ahead, the Career Connect team is excited to partner with the middle school team in completing their full scope and sequence in the upcoming school year.

Career Champions

Bethany Stanton completed her second year as a Career Champion, joining a group of 74 peers from 18 teams across Kalamazoo County. Through this fellowship program, the high school strengthened its commitment to the Workforce Wednesday Framework by expanding direct service experiences to all **270 high school students**.

Experiences

- In October, **70 8th grade students** had the opportunity to attend MiCareerQuestSW and engage with **85** local employers. These industry partners represented six pathways: information technology, health sciences, agricultural sciences, manufacturing/engineering, professional trades, and touch-a-truck.
- **The 10th grade students** participated in the *Get Real Reality Fair*, a hands-on budgeting simulation designed to help students understand real-world financial responsibilities. This interactive experience highlights how life choices and unexpected events can impact financial wellness.
- **All 10th graders** were invited to participate in one of three Industry Tours to expand their awareness of high demand career areas and connect with local employers. Options included: Health and Human Services at Western Michigan University, Manufacturing at Stryker, and Information Technology at Kalamazoo RESA.
- As part of the WFW framework, the Career Connect team collaborated with Bethany Stanton and Kayleen O'Donnell to organize a career fair for **170 students in 9th, 11th, and 12th grades**. The event featured partnerships with **20 local businesses and organizations**. Xello was used strategically to identify student interests by career cluster, helping tailor the experience to student interests.
- The Career Connect Discovery Lab visited Galesburg-Augusta Middle School to engage **73 6th grade students** in a hands-on, interactive career lesson that highlighted careers in manufacturing.
- In the spring, **11th and 12th grade students** in Kate Smith's class had the opportunity to learn more about post secondary options for students through a lesson led by Career Connect staff, an apprenticeship presentation, and an industry tour to the skilled trades department at KVCC.

Notable Partners

Through direct service experiences, over **110 local employers** engaged with students at Galesburg-Augusta middle and high school.

Future Opportunities

The Career Connect team looks forward to supporting Galesburg-Augusta in further developing a systematic approach to career readiness during the 2025–2026 school year.

2024-25 Career Development Consultant(s)

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