

Vicksburg

Highlights 2024-2025



KALAMAZOO RESA

Career Connect

Career Awareness & Exploration (CAE)



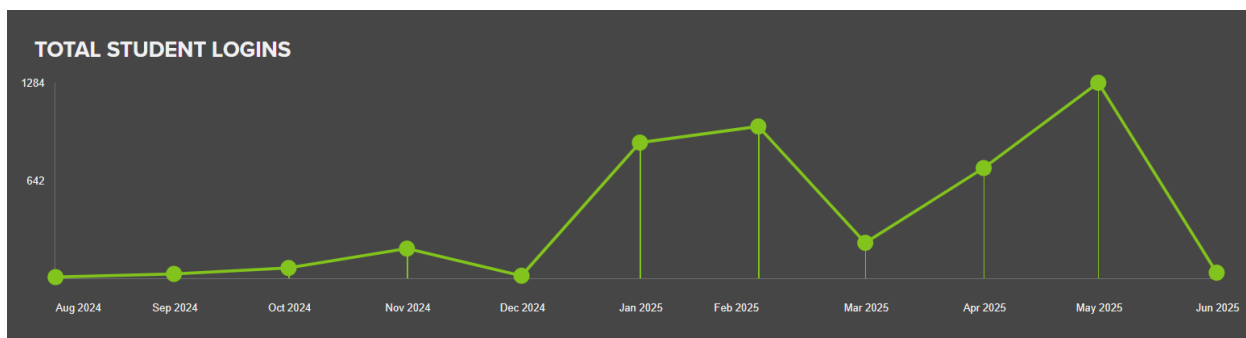
Xello & EDP Support

In 7th and 8th grade, classroom lessons were facilitated by KRESA Career Development Consultants, offering students meaningful opportunities to identify and reflect on their individual interests and strengths. Through the use of tools such as Matchmaker, Personality Styles, Learning Styles, and Mission Complete inventories, students explored a range of career pathways aligned with their personal profiles, gaining valuable insight into diverse professional fields.

In 12th grade, KRESA Career Development Consultants continued this work using the Xello platform. Students revisited data from their earlier assessments to reflect on their growth and refine their career goals. This process was integrated with a Reality Fair held during the same week, allowing students to connect their career interests with real-world financial implications, such as salary expectations and budgeting.

Additionally, students at Vicksburg Pathways engaged in tailored Xello lessons designed to help them draw similar connections between their career aspirations and financial realities, further supporting informed post-secondary planning.

Vicksburg Community Schools as a whole had **4483** total logins into Xello this year.



Career Champions

Amanda Swan from Sunset Lake Elementary served in her first year as a Career Champion, while Heather Richeson from Indian Lake Elementary completed her third year in the role. Both demonstrated dedication to advancing career development within their schools, collectively reaching 747 students through a variety of engaging projects. These included:

- **Enhancement of Career Path Boxes:** Updated and improved Career Path Boxes were aligned with the Xello Career Awareness and Exploration platform. These resources were utilized with students in BK through 2nd grade to introduce early career exploration concepts.
- **Annual Career Day at Indian Lake Elementary:** Continued the tradition of hosting a school-wide career day, providing students with exposure to a wide range of career fields through guest speakers and interactive sessions.
- **Lemonade Day – Year Two:** Successfully brought back Lemonade Day for a second year, engaging 3rd grade students at Indian Lake Elementary in an entrepreneurial learning experience focused on business planning, budgeting, and marketing.
- **Career Mobility Posters and Scavenger Hunt:** Designed and implemented new visual career mobility posters along with an interactive scavenger hunt to help students better understand career pathways and job roles in a fun and educational format.

These initiatives reflect a strong commitment to fostering career awareness and readiness from an early age, helping students build foundational knowledge for future success.

Experiences

Students throughout the district were exposed to a variety of experiences and industry partners this year.

- In October, the Discovery Lab had 448 students in grades 4th-6th and Pathways learned more about careers aligned in manufacturing.
- In October, 200 students in 8th grade attended MiCareer Quest at the Kalamazoo Expo Center
- In November, 50 students in 9th-12th grade at Pathways attended a Reality Fair
- In November, 140 students in 12th grade at VHS attended a Reality Fair
- In February, 201 students in 6th grade participated in A Very Smart(ies) Budgeting Activity
- In March, 18 students in the STRIVE program listened to a career panel

Future Opportunities

- Host a Career Day and Lemonade Day in all Elementary buildings
- Utilize Career Path boxes - BK-2nd grades
- Utilize Career Mobility posters and scavenger hunts
- Continue to support Xello lessons in all buildings
- Engage in industry tours and/or guest speakers to create career awareness
- Xello training for staff and families as needed
- Connecting students with industry partners (guest speakers, industry tours, etc.)
- Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship Education
- Additional tools and resources that promote family engagement

2024-25 Career Development Consultant(s)

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