

Portage

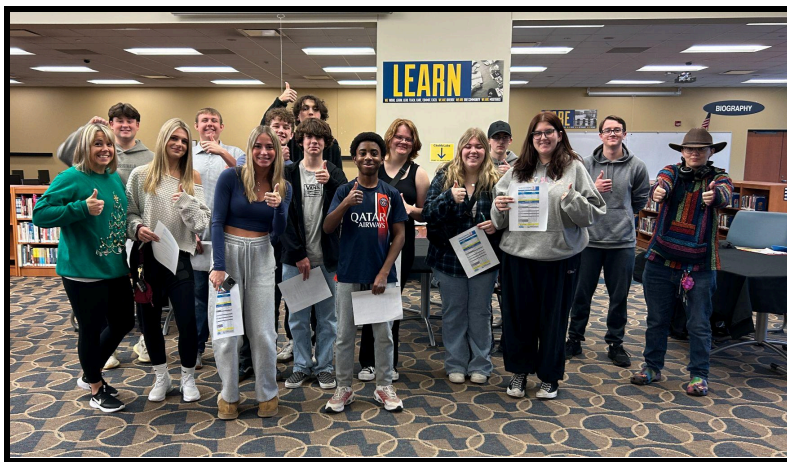
Highlights 2024-2025



KALAMAZOO RESA

Career Connect

Career Awareness & Exploration (CAE)



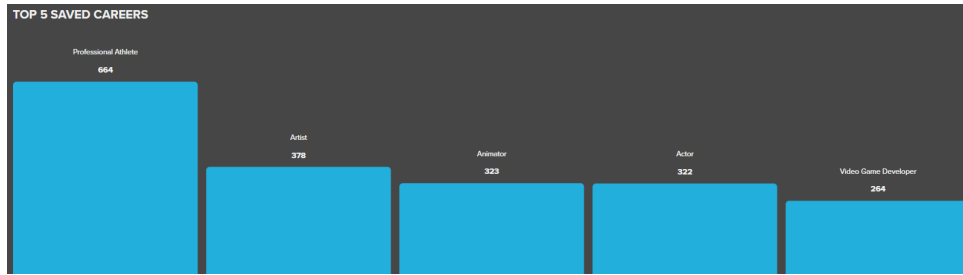
Xello & EDP Support

Portage Public School students logged into Xello a total of **17,756 times** this year with a majority of the logins within middle and high school. On average, students logged in **5.82 times**. Students logged in the most often in the month of April.

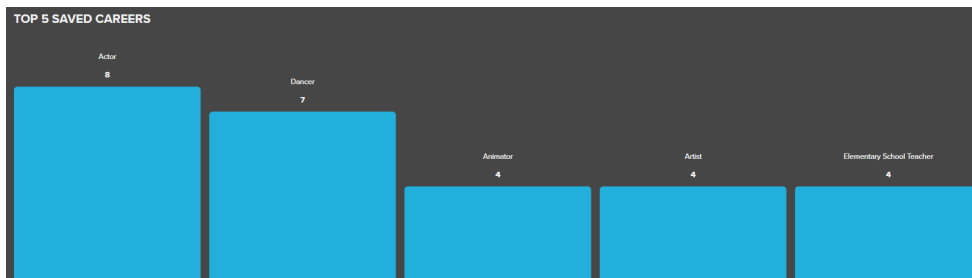
A total of **638 students** in grades 6 - 12 have created at least 1 post-high school plan in Xello. Plans in Xello identify a pathway and action steps for their future including: 2-year college, 4-year college, Apprenticeship, Straight to Work, Gap Year, etc.

5274 families have received an invitation to activate their Family Xello account. This has typically been led by the Portage Middle Schools during 8th grade testing week while 6th & 7th graders have a virtual day of learning. 1991 families have accepted the invitation to link and most have accessed their account at least once.

- **Top Suggested Careers MS/HS** (Based on the most recent results of students taking the Matchmaker Assessment Suite.) **Note:** *If students are not encouraged to reset and retake the assessments in high school; the matches include their middle school results. Matches reflect interests from experiences students have had such as sports programs, creative arts programs or helping at home.*
 - *Professional Athlete, Artist, Animator, Actor, Video Game Designer*



- **Saved Careers K -5** (From elementary schools using Xello with students)
 - *Actor, Dancer, Animator, Artist, Elementary School Teacher*



Career Champions

Portage educators launched the 2024-2025 school year with a commitment to Career Development & Education by serving in **KRESA's Career Champions Fellowship**.

Central High School Team: This amazing team was led by Sara Brown and included Julie Griesbach, John Griesbach and Melissa Haubert. Their goal was to introduce CHS students to careers based on the educational level they hoped to obtain. This team organized three Career Fairs based on students' Xello preferences and interest in various career paths. Over the three-month period, **451 students** logged in to Xello with this team's support. The three events hosted **38 employer presenters** and had over 140 students participate.

Community High School Team: This exceptional team was led by Courtney Smith and supported by Jacob Sanford (KPS) and Lynette White (MiWorks). Their goal was to create a framework that gives youth hope through a personalized experience and connects them immediately to community resources. This work also gives teachers a resource to engage and connect the youth they support to a larger community. Courtney's team supported **43 students** engaging with Xello and connecting to MiWorks.

Northern High School Team: This phenomenal team included Amy DiMaggio, Megan Hall, Amy Meyer and Lisa Miller. Their goal was to connect student's characteristics and skills to potential careers and learn about future possibilities. **608 NHS students** had an opportunity

to learn through a variety of classroom and school events, as well as learn and demonstrate employability skills through hands-on activities developed by this team.

Experiences

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

- 850 students in 6th grade visited the Discovery Lab and learned about careers aligned in manufacturing
- 700 students in 8th grade attended MiCareer Quest at the Kalamazoo Expo Center
- Industry Tours:
 - 32 students attended a tour at WMU for the Health Immersion Day
 - 6 students attended a tour at Edwards Garment
 - 18 students attended a tour at Stryker Manufacturing
 - 4 students attended a tour at KRESA IT department
 - 23 students attended a Street Rods Nationals Tour
- 137 students at the HS level attended a Financial Literacy Reality Fair

Future Opportunities

The Career Awareness and Exploration team looks forward to continuing our partnership with Portage for the 2025–2026 school year.

Potential opportunities for collaboration include:

- Xello training for K-12 staff and families (Xello Summit & Xello Power Hours)
- Connecting K-12 students with industry partners through guest speakers, industry tours, and more
- Career Fair support
- K-12 Financial literacy and entrepreneurship education
- Tools and resources that support family involvement in career learning
- Participation in the Career Champions Fellowship Program

2024-25 Career Development Consultant(s)

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