

Build a Future- Focused Elementary Program



Emily Kitching, M.Ed. & Loren Watson, M.Ed.

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Introductions



Emily Kitching, M.Ed.

- Doctoral student at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA
- 7 years as an elementary school counselor
- emilyakitching@gmail.com



Loren Watson, M.Ed.

- 9 years as an elementary school counselor
- lwatson@hcps.us

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Integrate postsecondary readiness, workplace habits, and goal-setting throughout your school counseling program
- Implement schoolwide events, classroom lessons, small groups, and individual academic planning and advisement to promote elementary students' postsecondary awareness and readiness
- Expand your current practice to include innovative, engaging, and relevant opportunities for your students

Why a Future Focus?

[ASCA Career Development Position Statement](#)

- Our domains are NOT separate but are intertwined, each affecting the other
- ASCA recognizes career education begins in kindergarten, introducing careers and the world of work in lower elementary
- Goal: students should be knowledgeable about options and prepared to enroll and succeed in any postsecondary experience

Traditional Program Planning

Future-Focused Program Planning

We teach careers in the spring.

We teach two career lessons per grade.

We plan a career day every year.

Teachers don't understand the importance of career discussions - they want me to focus on friendship!

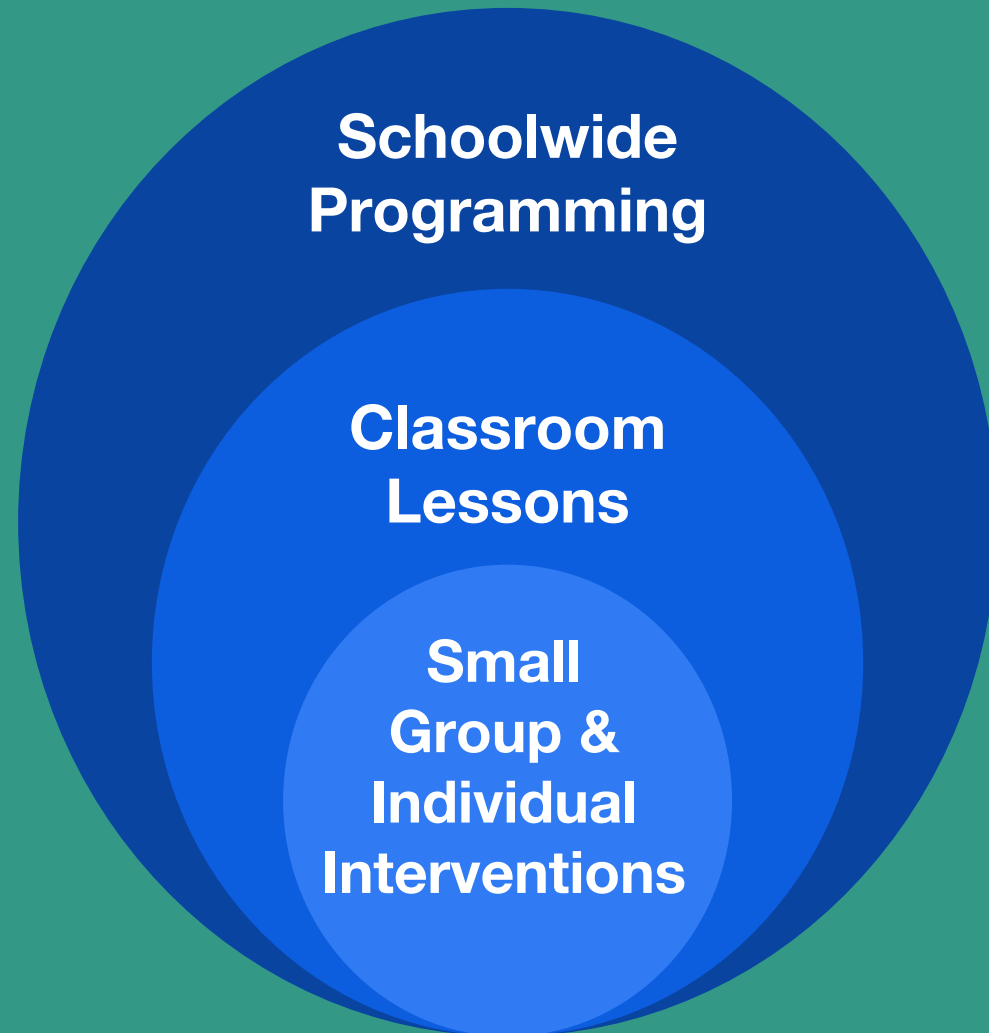
Let's embed careers and postsecondary planning throughout our program.

Career conversations come up all the time during our counseling lessons.

Career day doesn't have to be just one day!

Let's provide resources to others to help us create a future-focused school culture.

Integrating a Future Focus in Your School



Schoolwide Programming

Futures Fair

Consider non-traditional approaches to Career Day planning to involve all students in an innovative and engaging way

Staff Collaboration

Equip staff with resources to embed and lead meaningful post-secondary and career conversations

School Culture

Infuse future-focused programming beyond the school counseling program

Futures Fair

- A focus on career clusters
- Teach about careers through promoting the event
- Family-friendly stations



Futures Fair

BES Future Fair



Staff Collaboration

- Content for teachers to lead their own future-focused conversations:
- Morning meeting discussion topics
- Class activities and schoolwide challenges

Class Challenge

On the fourth Thursday of November, Americans celebrate Thanksgiving, a national holiday honoring the early settlers and their harvest feast known as the first Thanksgiving. **How many careers can your class list that are involved in making a Holiday like Thanksgiving possible?**

A to Z Careers Challenge

Each class will receive sentence strips with A to Z on them. Work together as a class to come up with 1 career that starts with each letter of the alphabet. Turn this in to Mrs. L.Watson by Friday 2/10. The class that comes up with the most ideas that are different from all of the others classes will receive *EIGHT LEVEL UPS! Be sure to work together and think uniquely!

Then, be on the lookout for an A to Z word wall display in the hall soon to see all of the different careers we came up with!

*EIGHT level ups: one for each year that Mrs. L.Watson has been the counselor at BES <3



School Culture

- Morning meeting speakers
- Spirit days & Career Development Month
- Stations at school events - Registration, Back to School Night, Open House



When I Grow Up I Want To Be...



SLIDESMANIA.COM



November is National Career Development Month!
Every Tuesday this month will be a Spirit Day for "Talk about Careers Tuesdays". Follow this schedule to participate!

Tuesday, 11/9/21 My Interests Day	Bring in a Show-and-Tell item that represents something you are interested in or good at doing. This item could be a toy/game, picture, award, or any small object that shows something you like to do and do well! <i>Did you know that sometimes the things you like to do as a kid helps you decide what you want to do as an adult?</i>
Tuesday, 11/16/21 High School Day	Wear Patrick Henry High School Spirit (Red, Blue and White)! We will explore new things about your PHuture PHamily today. Do you know what year it will be when you will graduate from High School??
Tuesday, 11/23/21 Career Clusters and Pathways Day	Dress for Success! Wear whatever makes you feel successful today or connects to you being successful in your future. You could dress up like you are going on a job interview or dress as a worker you think is cool!
Tuesday, 11/30/21 Post Secondary Day	Hat Day (college spirit, uniform, military, hard hat, etc.)! There are so many hats you could end up wearing in the future; from a Graduation Cap to Hats that represent your chosen path. Congratulations to you for celebrating your current successes and potential future plans during this month!

School Culture

- MTSS systems and schoolwide expectations
- Senior parades and 5th grade panel discussions



**MECHANICSVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL
SENIOR WALK**

COMING THIS FRIDAY!



Classroom Lessons

Career Exploration

Introducing students to the world of work and exploring and researching career options

Post-Secondary Tracks

Building knowledge of educational tracks through high school and beyond

Interests, Skills, & Values

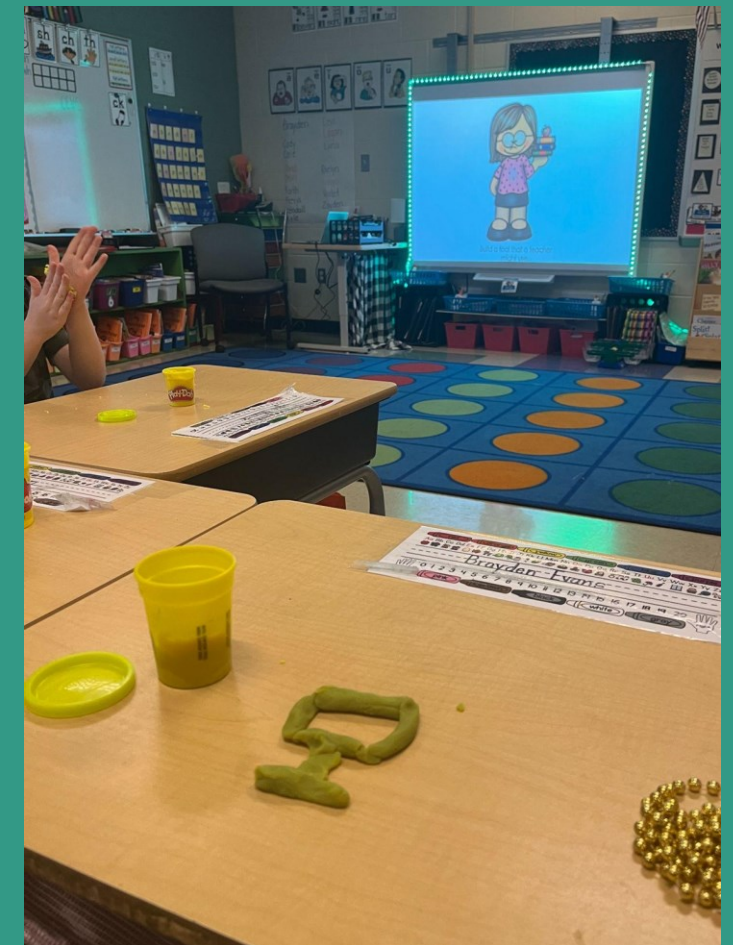
Assessing and identifying interests, skills, and values and how they influence career decision-making

Community Connections

Building awareness of how careers contribute to our world and creating connections in our current community

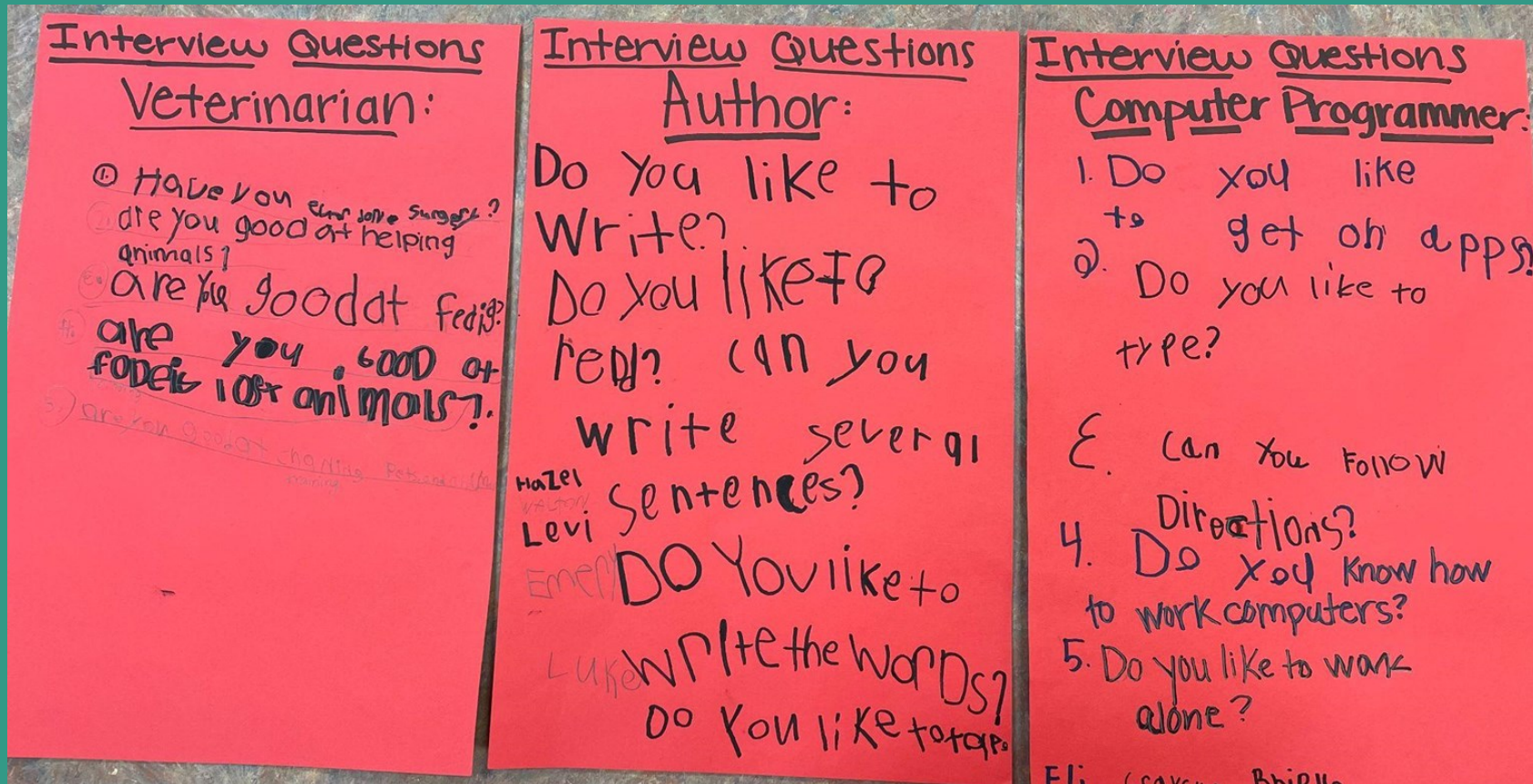
Career Exploration Lessons

- Lots of ways to teach about tools workers use
 - Play doh/integrating play
 - Clothesline Clues to Jobs People Do



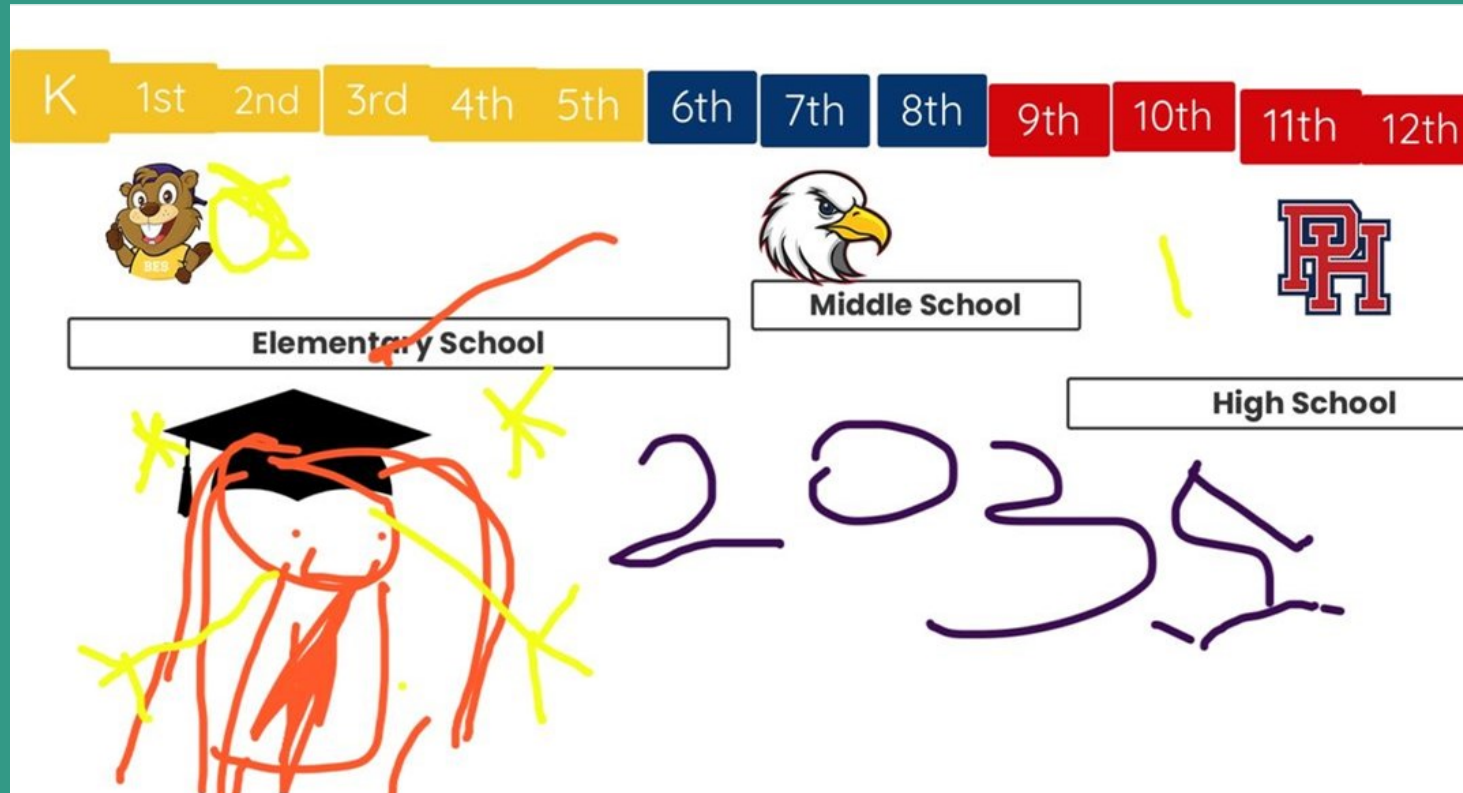
Career Exploration Lessons

- Job “Applications” with *How Santa Got His Job*



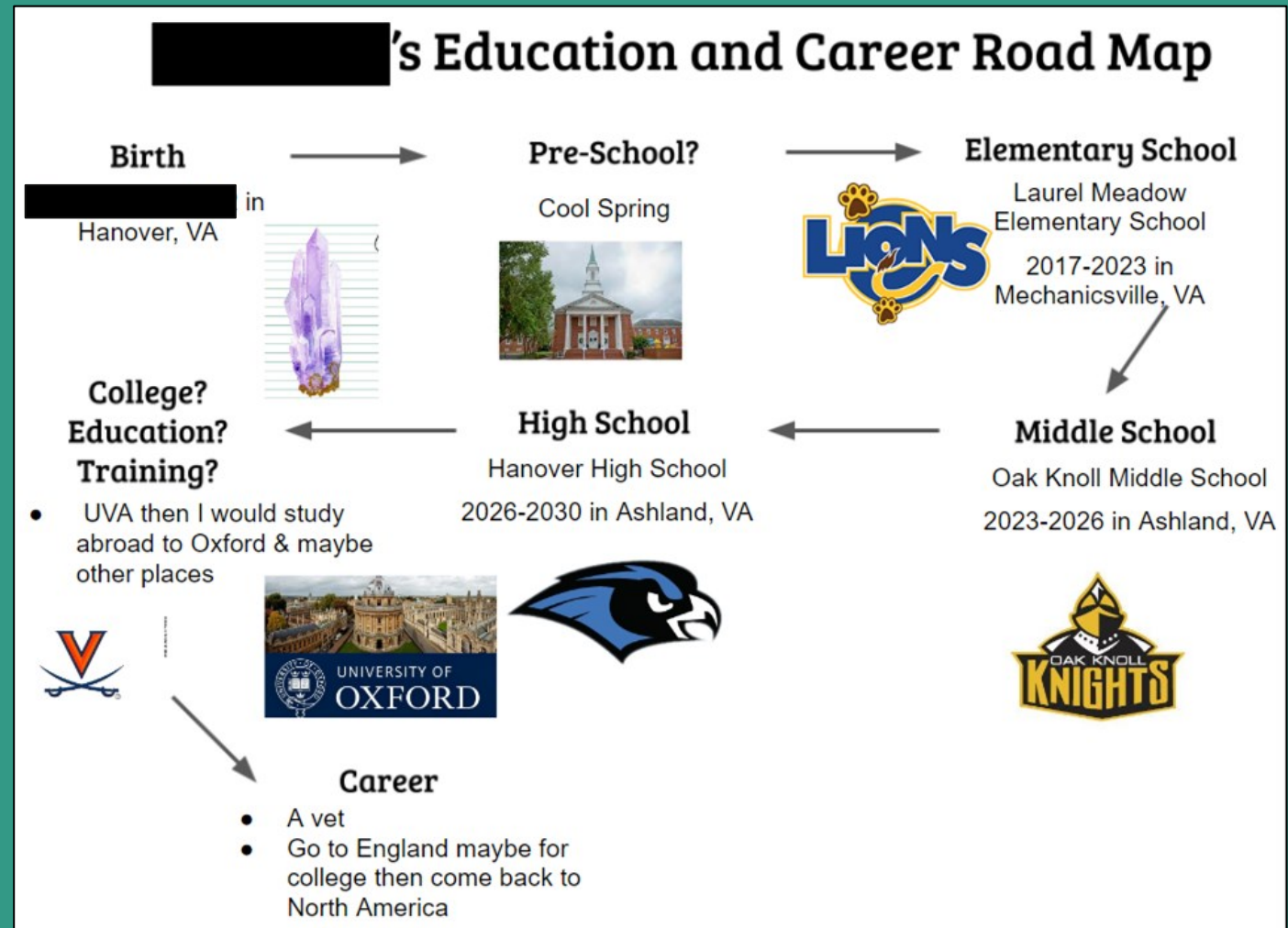
Post-Secondary Tracks

- Teach graduation year from the start!



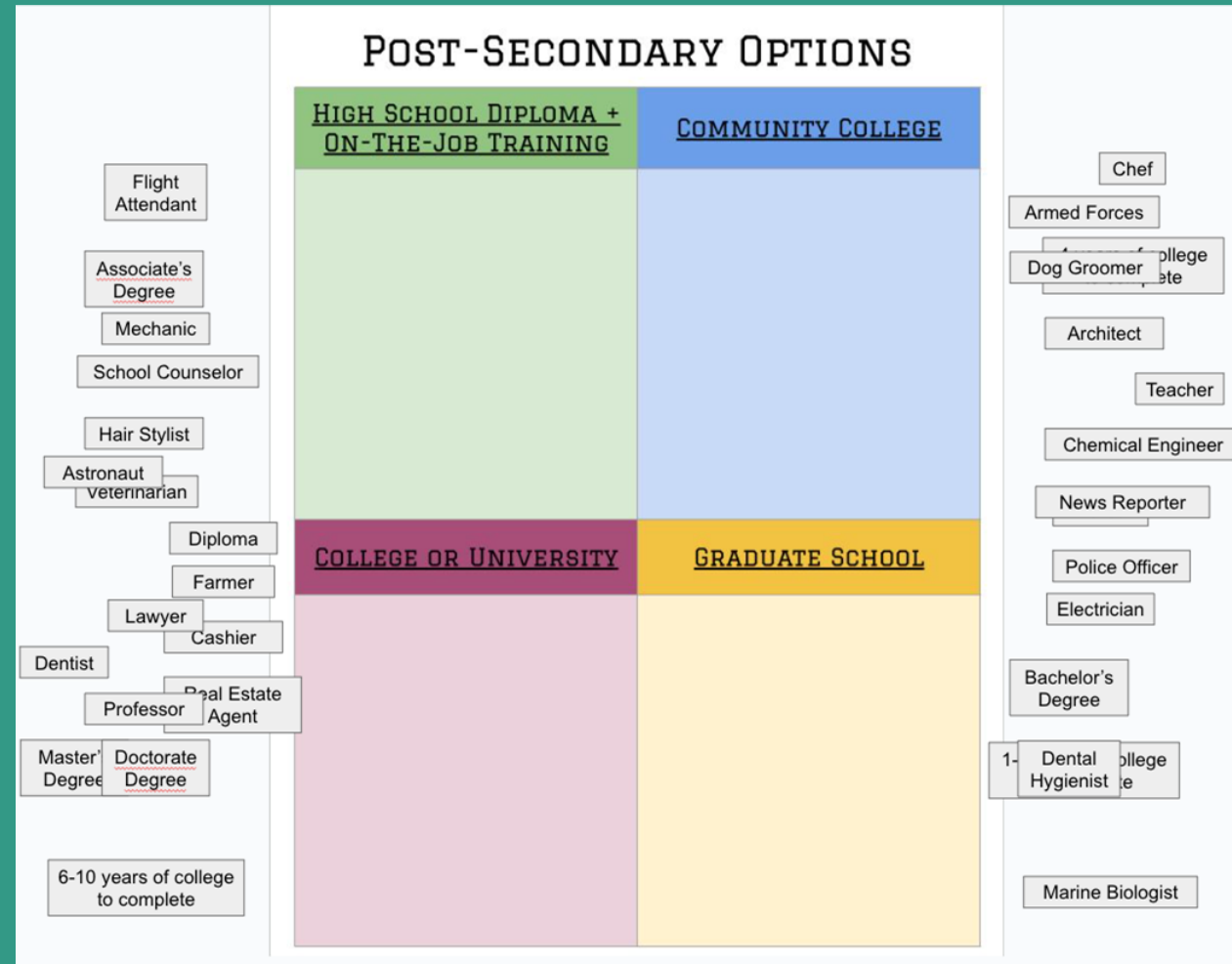
Post-Secondary Tracks

- Create roadmaps of education and career milestones
- Easy to do digitally or on paper!

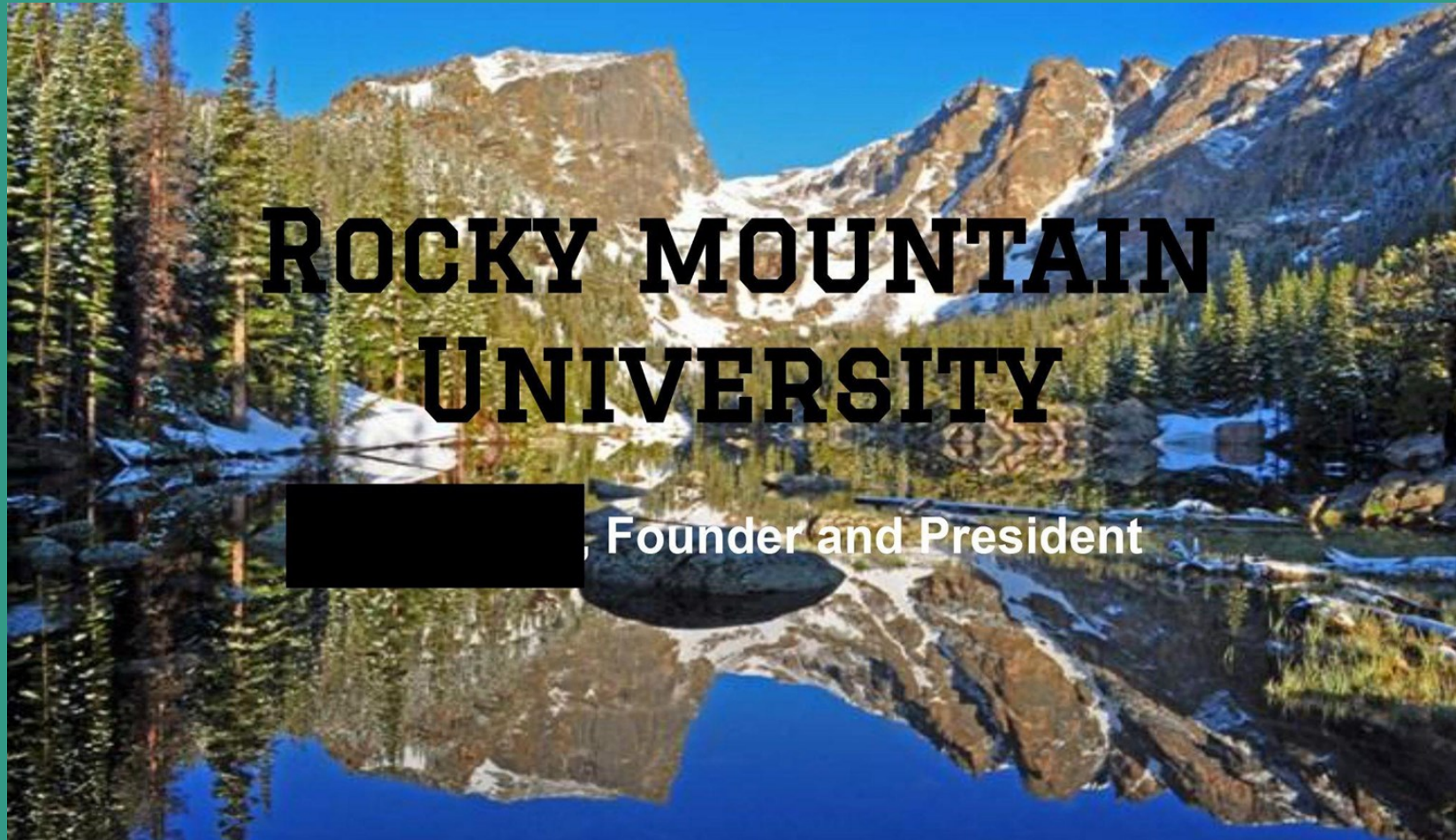


Post-Secondary Tracks

- Increase knowledge of post-secondary options



Post-Secondary Tracks: Fantasy College Project



Post-Secondary Tracks: Fantasy College Project

MOO MOO UNIVERSITY:)



AUTUMN MILLER

Interests, Skills, & Values



Community Connections

- Hype up senior walks/parades with a photo booth
- Build connections via senior pen pals



Hello Brandon, my name is _____ and yes I did go to Beaverdam. Thank you on congratulating me! I'm pretty sure when I was your age I did the same type of writing to a graduate and had so many questions lol. Everything in your letter is exactly what I LOVE to do on a daily basis. Once you get into the 6th grade try and get onto the wrestling team! It's a good outlet and will get you ALL the ladies!

But all jokes aside, enjoy being young while you still are. I'm not that much older than you; yet I regret not living out the good old days with my pals. Back in the BES days. Work hard, harder than everyone around you. Be the one role model your friends take up after because in the end it's all about what you've collectively learned and are able to produce. When I was your age I had a letter sent to me and the student had told me this one thing

("Don't go chasing butterflies, build a butterfly garden; so that they will all come to you one day.")

And I'd like to respond to your question in regards of Mrs. Melton, is that Jacob Melton's mom? I'm sure she'd remember me but it's been awhile. I'm sure Mrs. White would remember me for sure lol ("I was a trouble maker when I was younger lol".) I'm going to take my senior walk soon through your school. I hope to see you there! You sound like a great kid; with a creative aura. I hope you get rich one day!

One final thing Brandon, make as many friends as you can! And remember it's okay to make mistakes, we as humans need those experiences in life to learn/ better ourselves.

Community Connections: Career Gratitude Letters

I am grateful for your career because...

You help animals stay healthy and you take care of them when they don't feel good. I love animals and I like knowing that there are people who can take care of them when they need help.

Here is a list of ways that your career helps me or my family:

- It helps me knowing you can take care of the animals you see
- It helps me when I see a sick animal and I already know you are there for it
- It helps me knowing you will take any animal you see that is sick

One word to describe your contribution to our community is:

helpful

In my future, I think I would like to...

Be a veterinarian, too!

Here are some questions I have about your career. Please write us back!

- Have you always wanted to be a veterinarian?
- How long have you've been a veterinarian
- Is it fun? Are there hard parts?

Thank you for your nice letter! All of us here were touched to hear what you think about veterinarians. We're all happy to be able to help animals feel better when they need it. One of the best parts of my job is to know that I'm not only helping animals, but I'm also helping the families who love them!

Small Group & Individual Interventions

Small Group Integration

Integrating work habits, the importance of education and attendance, and goal setting into a variety of small groups

Middle School Transition

Connecting elective selection in middle school to long-term goals and matching courses to skills and interests

Student Connections

Infusing career conversations in individual counseling; investing in relationship building and student connection

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Teaching about careers, colleges, and postsecondary options doesn't have to be limited to standalone units or lessons
- Future-focused programming can take place in all delivery methods - large group, classrooms, small groups, and individually
- Future-focused activities should be innovative and engaging for students, as well as dynamic to reflect the evolving postsecondary landscape



Please reach out!

Emily Kitching
emilyakitching@gmail.com

Loren Watson
lwatson@hcps.us

