

Bangor School District

Academic and Career Planning Guide

Bangor Pride:

A Small School Building Big Futures



Why Academic and Career Planning?

Academic and Career Planning (ACP) provides a school-wide initiative to help all students consider future employment opportunities and the resources needed for all student to achieve their goals.

ACP is intended to equip students and their families with the tools necessary to make more informed choices about postsecondary education and training as it leads to careers.

It is part of our overall vision for every student to graduate high school, and be college and career ready. That means students must be competent both socially and emotionally. We want our students to be strong critical thinkers, collaborate and solve real-world problems, and persevere when things aren't quite going their way. When put together, it's about making them productive adults with satisfying careers.

ACP Team

Steve Kurschner

6-12 School Counselor

6th Grade Personalized Learning

8th Grade Career Exploration

Cheri Horstman

Youth Apprenticeship

Personal Finance

Shanice McTeer

11th Grade Career Communications

Christina P-Gianunzio

Special Education

Julie Thereur

Mathematics and Financial Literacy

Matt Regan

Middle School Science Exploration

Molly Hundt

Family and Consumer Education

Heath Career Exploration

“Every Child A Graduate, College and Career Ready”

Tony Evers

State Superintendent of Public Instruction



What Is Academic and Career Planning?

Academic and Career Planning (ACP) is an ongoing process to actively engage students to develop an understanding of his or her self, create a vision for their future, develop individual goals, and to prepare a personal plan for achieving their vision and dreams.

ACP results in producing documents and reflects student's coursework, assessment results, records of college and career readiness skills, and student post-secondary plans aligned to their individual career goals and financial reality.

Implementation of ACP starts when a student is in elementary school, and continues in a more structured format when a child enters 6th grade. Communication, critical thinking, goal setting, and resiliency skills are emphasized in the first step of the Academic and Career Planning process. Exploration of careers in the 16 Career Clusters and each of their pathways when students enter their final year of middle school aligning their high school course schedule with their individual goals. High school students are introduced to financial literacy, resume building, and mock interviews, along with apprenticeships and college credits.



Bangor juniors and seniors participating in the annual Walk of Life event. Each year, more than 90 students participate in a budget simulation objective involving more than 30 local businesses and volunteers, which compress a month's worth of expenses into one morning activity.



“Success comes from taking the initiative and following up...Persisting. What simple action could you take today to produce momentum toward success in your life?”

Tony Robbins

Bangor Academic and Career Plan By School Year



Communication is the foundation
of all relationships.

6th Grade: Personalized Learning

Personalized Learning is a 6th grade course that all students take at Bangor Middle School. In this course, students develop a deeper understanding of what it means to be respectful, responsible, productive, and safe, which are the pillars of the expectations of students and Bangor School District. In this class, students practice social and communication skills with their classmates and staff. Critical thinking and social activities are a weekly practice for students to develop the confidence in their skills to effectively communicate with their peers. Students also take a deeper look into their own actions in behaviors. Students learn to develop short-term and long-term academic and life goals, while also identifying personal motivations and sources of support. Student and Parent orientation is available for all 6th graders a week before school starts as well.

8th Grade: La Crosse Area Career Fair

8th grade students take an annual trip to the La Crosse Area Career Fair sponsored by the La Crosse Commerce and Western Technical College. Each student has multiple sessions with local workers and employers in each of the 16 Career Clusters. During their trip to the Career Fair, students will also tour the Western Technical College Campus visiting their Automotive, Diesel-Heavy Machinery, Health-Science, Graphic Design, Computer Science, and HVAC Centers.

Career Exploration

In this course, 8th grade students explore each pathway in all of the 16 Career Clusters. Career Cruising resources are utilized throughout the year, as students compile information to present to their peers about the careers, core tasks, educational opportunities, salary ranges, and working conditions of the over 79 different career pathways. Students will also complete assessments that will help them explore their own skills, abilities profiler, and learning styles. After self-reflecting on the themes for student's post high school goals, they will create a 4-year tentative plan for their high school academic path for success. Students will align the freshman course schedules and academic plan to provide opportunities for success in the career and academic domains.

11th Grade: Career Communications

Career Communications explores the process of finding and succeeding in a career. This study begins with an overview of the 21st century world of work and an exploration of self, including self-interest inventories to determine appropriate career choices.

The focus of the beginning quarter of the class is writing a research paper (in MLA format) based upon possible career choices. Students then develop a portfolio of job search tools: job applications, a variety of business letters, and a resume. After studying the appropriate ways to prepare for an interview, students participate in a practice interview in lieu of a final exam.

Students are also required to job shadow a career for successful completion of this course. Students enrolled in this course should expect to work independently, as well as in pairs, small groups, and participate in in-class discussions. The final exam for the course is replaced with a mock interview panel from local businesses.

Wisconsin Education Fair and Career Expo

The La Crosse Chamber of Commerce and Western Technical College sponsor the Wisconsin Education Fair and Career Expo. Students are able to select career presentations representing all 16 Career Clusters with local business and employers discussing their career path and their personal journey to how they acquired their job. Students hear from multiple presenters and then are able to participate in the Wisconsin Education Fair, where they have readily available scan codes. Universities and colleges are able to complete contact cards in seconds, and students are able to acquire information about the educational opportunities that can help students meet their goals. After the WEF and Career Expo, students are given a tour of Western Technical College that expands from their previous tour 3 years prior in a more approachable and personalized visit.



Wisconsin Education Fairs

While attending the Wisconsin Education Fairs in La Crosse, WI, Bangor Juniors have easy access to information about postsecondary options. WEF has booths with university and college representatives in all UW state universities, Wisconsin's independent colleges, and Wisconsin technical colleges. Multiple Minnesota and Iowa Universities and Technical Colleges are available for students during this annual event. Many community colleges, trade schools, and the national service organizations, such as the armed forces are also represented.



12th Grade: Walk of Life

The Walk of Life is a financial literacy simulation based on one month of adult life completed in approximately two hours. During the activity, Students are provided a financial simulation based on their career choices and their potential salary approximately five to eight years post-high school. Students begin the activity by receiving their paycheck and life status card; indicating their marital status, family size, pets, student loans and other possible loans. The remainder of the activity is completed by visiting booths representing typical household expenses like housing, banking, child care, insurance, auto dealer, groceries, investments and entertainment. Successful completion of the Walk of Life occurs when students have visited all the booths and have between \$0 and \$200 remaining.



Bangor Superintendent, Dave Leahn, participating in the annual Walk of Life, which is a student role-playing activity where students interact with local business and volunteers, as they simulate career, family, and financial expenditures.

Financial Literacy: Personal Finance

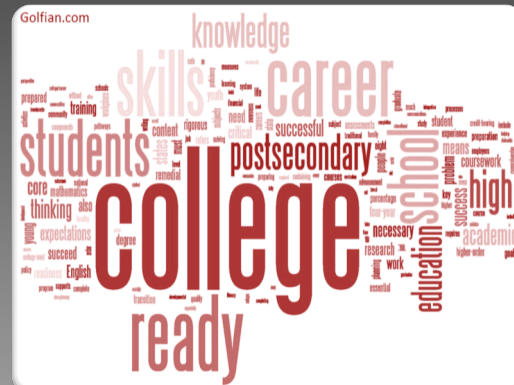
Personal Finance fulfills the Bangor Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement and can be taken by juniors or seniors. This course is designed to help students recognize the importance in taking responsibility for their personal economic well being. Students will be given the tools to become financially literate in a variety of areas including: Identifying Financial Goals, Checking & Banking, Budgeting, Spending, Saving, Investing, Insurance, Using Credit Wisely, and building strong financial security now and in the future.

Consumer Mathematics

Consumer Mathematics is a yearlong course that is an alternative to Personal Finance. This course is intended to review and reinforce computational skills by presenting various problems in the consumer area. Students will improve their financial literacy as they learn about real life money matters, including: budgeting, net earnings, checkbooks, credit cards, loans, taxes, insurance, and automobile costs.

Early College Credit Program (ECCP)

Bangor high school students who meet certain requirements have an opportunity to take post-secondary courses at a UW System institution or a private non-profit institution of higher education for high school credit, post-secondary credit, or both. Admission of students to post-secondary institutions shall be contingent on meeting the institution's entrance requirements. The high school principal determines whether the post-secondary course is comparable to a course offered at the District, whether it satisfies graduation requirements and what, if any, high school credits are to be awarded to the student. Depending on the credit determination, the cost will be shared by the District, the institution, the state and, in some cases, the pupil's family. Students may also have opportunities to take courses at technical colleges under a separate arrangement.



Each year Bangor students enroll in multiple courses at the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse and Western Technical College Campuses. Students who have met the admissions criteria are able to earn college credits while attending Bangor that will apply as general education credits at any UW Systems Universities and colleges, as well out of state Institutions.

Youth Apprenticeships

Youth Apprenticeships integrate school-based and work-based learning to instruct students in employability and occupational skills defined by Wisconsin industries. Local programs provide training based on statewide youth apprenticeship curriculum guidelines, endorsed by business and industry. Qualified teachers instruct students and skilled worksite mentors. Students are simultaneously enrolled in academic classes to meet high school graduation requirements, in a youth apprenticeship related instruction class, and are employed by a participating employer under the supervision of a skilled mentor. 450 hours of work-based learning is required in Youth Apprenticeship programs.

ACT Test Preparation

All Bangor high school students have free access to ACT Method Test Prep which is a supplemental program to Career Cruising, the website application students use in Career Exploration and Career Cruising. One asset of this self-paced program is that students and teachers can build their plans around their schedule and convenience using most electronic devices. There is a total of 25 hours of preparation materials for both ACT and SAT assessments that can be spread out over a short period of time or even up to a year. Activities include study guides, lessons, on-demand quizzes, and multiple full-length exams that provide immediate written, audio, and video feedback to each of the questions.

Academic & Career Plan: Family Engagement

The Bangor School District will inform parents each year about the ACP process, provide parents with multiple opportunities to participate in their student's planning and update parents about their student's progress throughout the year.

- Informational sessions on ACP will be held in conjunction with 6th and 9th grade orientations and parent/teacher conferences.
- Parents will have access to view their student's career plans and activities through the online Career Cruising portal.
- Documents and notices relating to career planning will be made available to parents through a variety of means: Report card/progress report mailings, Friday folders, emails, District website, Facebook/Twitter.
- Parents will have input with regard to their student's academic class scheduling.
- Parent/student informational meetings will be scheduled regarding post-secondary financial aid and FAFSA completion.
- Post-secondary scholarship opportunities and application information is available on the District website under the High School > For High School Parents > Scholarship Information tabs.