Career Connections

# Aviator Flight plan

The Aviator Flight Plan Team is committed to creating Sycamore Community School's website striving to provide students with information about opportunities around the district. From volunteer options, to work experience, there is an opportunity for everyone at the Career Connections website.

## Content

The Career Connections website will initially contain the following content for students to access and find more information about:

### Speakers

Experts from various careers visit classrooms to share their work experiences and provide explanations about the path to employment in their field. Students can use the Career Connections site to find more information about upcoming visits.

### “Inspire” Trips

Students take whole grade trips to explore the world outside of school in an area of curriculum focus. Experts provide explanations about the path to employment in their field. Using the Career Connections site, students can find out about these trips which can include visiting the art museum, attending a symphony concert, and more.

### Building-Specific Opportunities

Trips or activities specific to a particular elementary building, based on a partnership with local business/group that helps, develops career/college readiness. The Career Connections site will contain extra information about these opportunities for students.

### Curriculum Embedded Awareness/Exploration

Teachers make learning relevant to the “real” world of work via planned classroom lessons or extensions. Students can find out more about these opportunities with the Career Connections site.

### Service Learning

Students participate in building-wide service learning as they work toward helping others. Students can learn about how they can volunteer with their school and what options they have at the Career Connections site.

## Visual

The Career Connections site is a strong representation of the school district. Therefore, it is imperative that the website looks modern and simple to use. We would like to show that the school district is a great place, so keeping the website fresh, modern, and simple is necessary.

## Management

Once the website is developed, there will need to be someone who can manage the site and keep it up to date. What would be preferred is to have a submission page for companies and others to inform the site manager to add to the website. The manager would most likely be a reliable student chosen before the summer of the year in which the student will be working, who would be responsible for keeping up with opportunity submissions and other information that needs to be added to the Career Connections website periodically. However, should a more efficient solution come up, the management may be subject to change.

## Development

The development of the website will be completed through a small team which has been assembled by the project managers (currently, as of the 2014-2015 school year, the managers are Ben Cohen and Griffin Ramsey). The team created through the Advanced Topics in Computer Science class, is committed to keeping work extremely close to how a workplace is run, as one of the key aspects of the class is to experience computer science in a way similar to a workplace. As time goes by, the needs of the district may change and the website may need more features. To ensure that this may happen, the team should continue to work together in future years to modify coding for efficiency, add new features that may be needed, and make sure that the website’s domain is paid for. Should the project managers graduate or leave due to any circumstance, experienced members can talk to the computer science teachers about taking on the open position. Due to the expected high demand of interest from students taking various technology classes wanting to help out the team, and the limited amount of work available, the project managers may need to hold interviews for prospective new members. This creates a great opportunity for students to get real world experience through an interview, as well as fills the need to sort out the prospective members. When working with multiple people on an online project, file sharing becomes an issue as people need to be able to work on the same file at the same time. Google Drive does not quite fill this need, so we have found an open source program called GitHub which fixes this issue. The project managers should manage this to ensure that files do not become corrupted. Additionally, due to the amount of information needed to create a website and use the programs required, some training may be needed for team members. On the GitHub site for this project (<https://github.com/AviatorFlightPlan/AviatorFlightPlan/>), there is an extensive instructions document created to inform members about the information.

## Time Table

For the 2014-2015 school year, we plan to set up the “skeleton” of the website, providing basic functionality in which future team members may build upon. As there are only a few months left in the school year, the amount of content we will be able to push out is limited. However, we feel that we can create a quality foundation in the time that we have available.

## Interactive features

Brought to our attention by the Playful Learning Conference which will be held at Ohio University in May, many organizations are attempting to incorporate interactive activities in student learning. We feel that we would like to take part in this movement and add in features to the Career Connections website which will motivate people to want to keep using the site. While nothing is set in stone, we have a few ideas we would like to try out. The main idea we have, inspired by the research website, Degreed.com, we could incorporate a “leveling” system where as a person clicks through, views, and signs up for opportunities, they earn “experience” which will add up to eventually “level up” the person. We would like to showcase this product at the Playful Learning Conference as well.

## contact info

### Project Managers

Ben Cohen: [bcohen116@gmail.com](mailto:bcohen116@gmail.com), [151146@sycamoreschools.org](mailto:151146@sycamoreschools.org)

Griffin Ramsey: [152077@sycamoreschools.org](mailto:152077@sycamoreschools.org)

### Teachers

Mr. Hoffert: [hoffertm@sycamoreschools.org](mailto:hoffertm@sycamoreschools.org)