



MIDDLE SCHOOL CAREER CAFE

Why Career Cafe?

Career Cafe offers an enriching opportunity for our students to explore careers. Career Cafe replaces the traditional one-day Career Day in our Middle Schools and allows students to engage with more employers and careers.

Who Participates in Career Cafe?

Career Cafe is available to all students in grades 6 - 8 at all five of our middle schools: Blendon, Genoa, Heritage, Minerva Park, and Walnut Springs. Students sign up voluntarily to spend time learning in a Career Cafe.

What Does Career Cafe Look Like?

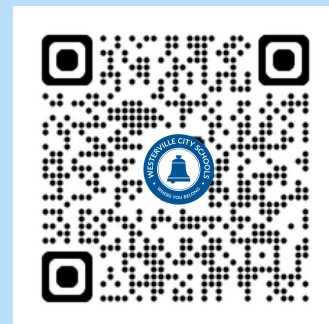
Career Cafe is fast! Presenters will spend approximately 30 minutes with different groups of students. During Career Cafe, students will spend time learning a quick background of the employer/business and then engage in an employer-designed activity. Each building has different times and days available.

What is Career Cafe?

Career Cafe is an opportunity for our students in grades 6 through 8 to meet and engage with industry-specific professionals from our region. The goal is for our students to learn more about careers in Central Ohio and explore their interests. Each month a different career field is represented based on our student career interests.

Interested in joining us?

Below are all available dates and registration for the 2026-2027 school year.



Questions?

Please reach out to Jen Harris or Matt Misener with any questions

Jen Harris, District School Counselor: harrisj@wctsoh.org

Matt Misener, Director of Career and College Readiness: misenerm@wctsoh.org



2026-2027 Dates and Times

Tuesday, September 29, 11:30 - 1:15, Genoa Middle School	Friday, January 29, 10:45-1:15, Walnut Springs Middle School
Tuesday, October 13, 1:00-2:50, Minerva Park Middle School	Wednesday, February 10, 10:45-1:15, Heritage Middle School
Wednesday, October 21, 10:45-1:15, Heritage Middle School	Tuesday, February 16, 1:00-2:50, Minerva Park Middle School
Tuesday, October 27, 11:30-1:15, Genoa Middle School	Tuesday, February 23, 11:30-1:15, Genoa Middle School
Wednesday, October 28, 1:00-2:00, Blendon Middle School	Friday, March 5, 9:00-12:00, Wilder Elementary School
Friday, October 30, 10:45-1:15, Walnut Springs Middle School	Friday, March 5, 12:00-3:00, Wilder Elementary School
Tuesday, November 10, 1:00-2:50, Minerva Park Middle School	Tuesday, March 16, 1:00-2:50, Minerva Park Middle School
Wednesday, November 11, 10:45-1:15, Heritage Middle School	Friday, March 19, 10:45-1:15, Walnut Springs Middle School
Wednesday, November 11, 9:00-10:00, Blendon Middle School	Tuesday, March 30, 11:30-1:15, Genoa Middle School
Tuesday, November 17, 11:30-1:15, Genoa Middle School	Wednesday, March 31, 10:45-1:15, Heritage Middle School
Friday, November 20, 10:45-1:15, Walnut Springs Middle School	Wednesday, March 31, 1:00-2:00, Blendon Middle School
Wednesday, December 16, 10:45-1:15, Heritage Middle School	Wednesday, April 7, 10:45-1:15, Heritage Middle School
Tuesday, December 15, 11:30-1:15, Genoa Middle School	Wednesday, April 7, 10:00-11:00, Blendon Middle School
Friday, December 18, 10:45-1:15, Walnut Springs Middle School	Tuesday, April 27, 11:30-1:15, Genoa Middle School
Tuesday, January 19, 1:00-2:50, Minerva Park Middle School	Friday, April 30, 10:45-1:15, Walnut Springs Middle School
Tuesday, January 26, 11:30-1:15, Genoa Middle School	Wednesday, May 12, 10:45-1:15, Heritage Middle School
Wednesday, January 27, 10:45-1:15, Heritage Middle School	Friday, May 14, 9:00 - 3:00, Hawthorne Elementary School
Wednesday, January 27, 1:00-2:00, Blendon Middle School	Tuesday, May 18, 11:30-1:15, Genoa Middle School

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Presenter FAQs

Suggestions for Engaging Middle School Students:

Bringing "stuff" is always a hit.

Consider passing around your equipment or allowing students to try on your uniform or other creative ideas.

Attention spans tend to be short.

Consider varying the way you engage into two or three different methods.

The best presentations start with a quick overview of the field, then an interactive activity (i.e., games, videos, hands-on, simulation, etc.)

Slides are great, but presentations that kids remember usually have something else mixed in that allows the use of more than one of their senses.

6th, 7th, and 8th graders are 11, 12, or 13 years old, so thank you for choosing your vocabulary accordingly.
Content should be PG in nature.



Presenter FAQs

Ideas for content:

Why did you choose this career?

What do you do on an average day?

What is your favorite part of your job?

What are some related careers that students might consider?

What are good jobs to have in high school that would set them up for success in this field?

What role does hard work and good character play in your career?

What skills do students need to be successful in this field? (Is there an activity you can bring that will allow students to experience or practice this skill?)

Our students often do not get the opportunity to speak to community members in this fashion very often. They may be very quiet or perhaps very inquisitive.

Save about a few minutes at the end of your presentation for questions.

FAQ:

Counselors/Teachers will be staying in the room to assist with technology or any other needs presenters may have. They will also be able to address student behaviors if they arise.

Students will be signing up to spend time with you. We are hopeful this means they are genuinely interested in your career!