



Port Washington-Saukville School District

Academic and Career Planning (ACP) is a comprehensive process that assists students in navigating their educational and professional pathways effectively. It encompasses a spectrum of skills, experiences, and insights aimed at preparing them for the dynamic landscape of higher education and the workforce. The Port Washington-Saukville School District embraces ACP which empowers students to make informed decisions about their academic and career aspirations, ensuring they are equipped with the tools necessary to thrive in their future endeavors. ACP is not merely a supplemental aspect of education; rather, it is an integral component that helps students pursue meaningful and fulfilling academic and professional journeys.

CAREER READINESS MISSION/VISION

District Mission & Vision Statement: Student Focused - Future Ready

We believe in the following:

- A. Placing the needs and successes of students at the center of all decisions.
- B. Ensuring every child learns in a safe environment.
- C. Preparing every child to be learning ready, career ready, and life ready.
- D. Attracting and retaining high quality staff to support student achievement in an optimal learning environment.
- E. Focusing on governance and policy rather than day-to-day operations, with attention centered on student achievement rather than administrative issues.
- F. Creating conditions and organizational structures that support the superintendent serving as the district's instructional leader.
- G. Utilizing data to identify needs, monitor progress, and drive continuous improvement.
- H. Maintaining a strong, respectful, and collaborative relationship with staff, community, and district leadership.
- I. Communicating transparently by adhering to open meetings laws, conducting work in open session, and ensuring community and stakeholders are informed about actions and progress toward achieving district goals.
- J. Ensuring that financial decisions are transparent, accountable, and aligned with the goals of maximizing student success and exercising fiscal responsibility of public resources.

CAREER READINESS TEAM (ACP COMMITTEE)

Our ACP committee was reestablished during the 2025-2026 school year to include representatives from the middle school and high school level. Representatives on this committee include CTE staff, counselors, strategists, and administrators. This committee meets once a month to talk about current ACP practices and planning moving forward. This committee includes:

- Jen Klapper (ACP Strategist)
- Mark Bichler (High School Business Teacher)
- Rachel Biertzer (High School Principal)
- Jeff Cole (High School Counselor)
- Ryan Cowen (Middle School Tech Ed Teacher)
- Nick DeBaker (Middle School Principal)
- Nick Havlik (High School Tech Ed teacher)
- Christin Johnson (Middle School Counselor)
- Bret Warner (High School Tech Ed Teacher)
- Scott Subach (Middle School Business Teacher)
- Ryan Volke (High School Tech Ed Teacher)
- Leeann Wellenstein (High School Business Teacher)
- Jeff Mallegni (Family and Consumer Science Teacher)
- Sara Kreibich (Director of Curriculum and Instruction)

DISTRICT CAREER READINESS DATA

For the 2025-2026 school year, the high school has the following:

- Career and Technical Education Participants (have passed one Career and Technical Education (CTE) course)
 - 245 students (Perkins December Snapshot)
- Career and Technical Education Concentrators
 - 103 students (Perkins December Snapshot)
- Students Participating in Work-based Learning (WBLs)
 - 51 students
- Students Participating in Dual Enrollment
 - 158 Students Completed a Dual Enrollment Course during the 24-25 School Year.
- Students Participating in Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO)
 - 200+ (DECA)
- Students Completing Industry-recognized credentials
 - 52 students (during the 2024-2025 school year)
- Number of Employer Partners
 - Approximately 40 partners
- Number of local and regional career pathways offered
 - 3 pathways offered to students

For the 2025-2026 school year, the middle school has the following:

- Career Education Classes (5th & 6th Grade)
 - 327 Students Enrolled
- Business Classes (7th & 8th Grade)
 - 107 Students Enrolled
- Computer Science Classes (7th & 8th Grade)
 - 44 Students Enrolled
- Technology Education Classes (6th - 8th Grade)
 - 419 Students Enrolled
- Universal Exposure to Career Exploration & Career Clusters
 - Interest & Skills Inventories
 - Resume Building
 - Guest Speakers from the community
 - Career Cluster and Career Pathway research projects
 - All students create their "PORT"folio to highlight their skills, achievements, goals, and project work from their TJ classes to guide them on their college and career path.

STUDENT/STAFF SUCCESS STORIES

High School:



Our 2025-2026 DECA team sent 52 students to the District 5 DECA competition. A record high 24 students will move onto the next level - competing in Lake Geneva in February. 8 students have qualified for DECA nationals, which took place at the end of April.

[2025-2026 PWHS DECA](#)

Tech ED - Mr. Volke's class had a guest speaker



Representatives from Whiting-Turner spoke to some of our students about opportunities for women in construction. Students had to wrap a box following very specific directions and then heard about all of the opportunities available. Students who identified their career clusters as Architecture and Construction, Arts and AV, and Business were pulled for the guest speaker. (3/25/2026)



Testing Day Career Fair (3/17/26) - On our all school testing day, all students had the opportunity to visit an open format college and career fair in the gym. 9th and 10th graders also rotated through guest speakers talking to them about a variety of career pathways.



Career Cafe (2/6/26) - Approximately 30 businesses and organizations set up tables for our students to walk through during their lunch period. Many different pathways were included and the connections made were priceless!



8th Grade ACP Day (1/30/26) - 8th graders came to PWSH to learn about our CTE pathways and see what they are all about! In addition, they were able to learn more about Inspire Wisconsin and Youth Apprenticeship.



On Friday April 10, the Wi Army National Guard visited Mr. Warner's classes to talk about careers in the trades and the benefits you would earn with the National Guard. Sergeant First Class Soley brought a Humvee along for the students to explore.







PWHS Technology and Engineering

Mar 18 · 🌐



A huge thank you to [Sommer's Subaru Buick GMC](#) in Mequon for helping our continued efforts to modernize our automotive shop. These tool boxes will be outfitted over the coming year to provide our technicians individual work spaces that model real life opportunities in the field.



PWHS Technology and Engineering

Mar 6 · 🌐



Yesterday our Formula One Racing Team had the opportunity to have Rehiko Engineer Dean Martin in to talk about tuning up the school race car.





PWHS Technology and Engineering

Oct 31, 2025 · 🌐



Wednesday our Formula One students participated in a fall event at the Madison International Speedway. This student run club designed and engineered this race car with the support of our Tech Ed Students. We couldn't do it without the help and support of our sponsors. Great things happening at [Port Washington-Saukville School District](#)



PWHS Technology and Engineering

Feb 10 · 🌐



Today our Residential Wiring students go to learn about energy transmission from American Transmission Company. Students got direct knowledge local projects contribute to the energy needs around the country.





PWHS Technology and Engineering

Feb 20 · 🌐



We were fortunate yesterday to tour the build site for the Data Center project. Cool experiences where we were able to talk directly to companies about opportunities for our students. Excited for the connections for our students.



PWHS Technology and Engineering

1m · 🌐

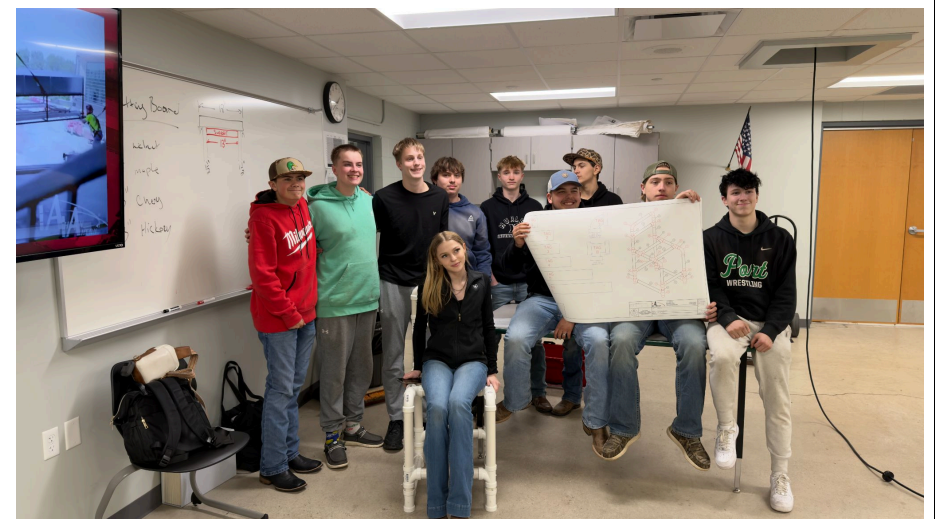


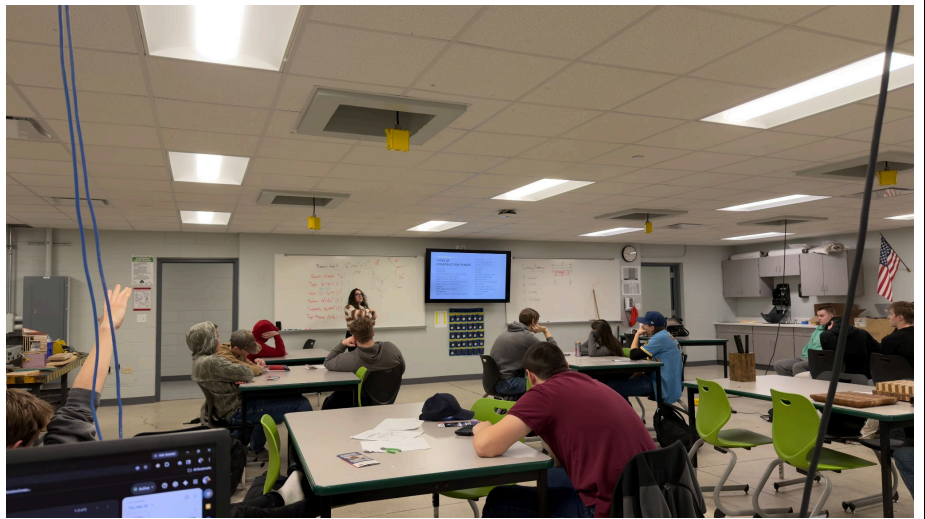
These young men had a great showing at our first ever WCTC automotive competition. This experience let them test their skills with a variety of area schools. We learned a lot and are coming back home ready to increase our skills.



(Posted 4/16/2026)

On Thursday, March 26 mechanical contractor from Fond du Lac, J.F. Ahern, along with Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership - Big Step, and the Plumbing, Mechanical, Sheet Metal Contractors Association came in to host a workshop for our students. They talked about the Vantage Data Center and the work they have there and had a team building project at the end of the workshop where students had to build a chair out of PVC pipe using a set of technical drawings.







PWHS Technology and Engineering



6m · 🌐

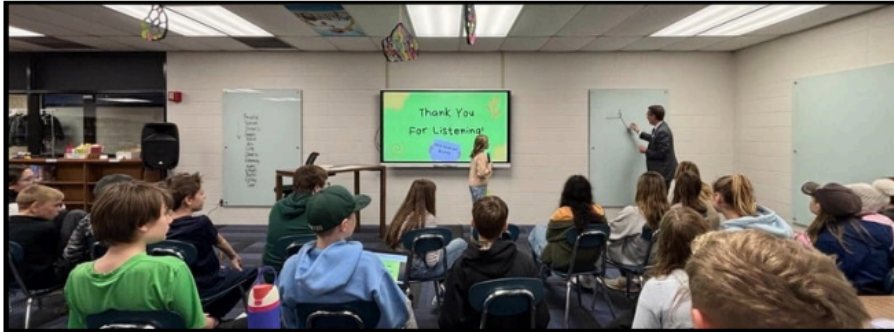
On Friday, our Residential Wiring students got to experience a hands on field trip at Schneider Electric in West Bend. This opportunity allowed the students to see what a day in the life of an electrician looks like.



(Posted Monday 4/20/26)

As Vantage works to build the Port Washington Data Center, they are also working with our Tech Ed teachers to see where Vantage's support can make a difference.

Middle School:



[6th Grade students at Thomas Jefferson Middle School met with Mayor Neitzke to discuss the ecological health of Lake Michigan.](#)



[MilliporeSigma Curiosity Cube](#) visits TJMS to give students some insight into how AI can be used.

Photo Credit: Ozaukee Press



LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Labor market information (LMI) helps our school districts develop cutting-edge Career and Technical Education programs by uncovering the skills students will need in the future. In addition, LMI can help students understand which jobs are most likely to be available and well-compensated.

To access Labor Market Information for Ozaukee County click [here](#).

The top five areas of employment in Ozaukee County include:

- Education & Health Services
- Manufacturing
- Trade, Transportation, Utilities
- Leisure & Hospitality
- Professional & Business Services

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE PREPARATION

The ACP program at Port Washington-Saukville School District ensures every student is prepared for life after high school no matter what path they plan to take. This includes:

- Career and technical education provided in the school district
- Courses that provide advance placement and/or advanced standing at Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), such as Accounting
- Early College Credit Program and Start College Now through UW institutions, such as UW-Oshkosh CAPP Advanced Accounting, UW-Oshkosh CAPP Introduction to Education, UW-Oshkosh CAPP Introduction to Public Speaking, UW-Oshkosh CAPP Personal Health and Wellness, UW-Green Bay CCIHS Fundamentals of Engineering Technology, and adding UW-Oshkosh CAPP Officiating Team Sports for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Youth apprenticeship or other job training and work experience through Youth Apprenticeship (YA) and Work-Based Learning (WBL) experiences
- Instruction in skills related to employment that include industry credentials in carpentry, welding, and business
- Industry specific certification opportunities for students across Career and Technical Education (CTE) disciplines
- Annual College & Career Fair that invites local businesses to engage with our students for potential employment and/or apprenticeship as well as 4-year and technical college representatives to talk to students about those options.
- Guest speakers from a variety of career pathways. Teachers are each expected to bring in at least one guest speaker.
- Career Cafe where students were able to explore more than 30 representatives from a variety of pathways during their lunch times. Next year this will become a monthly event based on career clusters.

The Academic and Career Planning Course Guide for Port Washington High School can be found by clicking this [link](#).

CAREER PATHWAYS

Career Pathways at Port Washington High School include:

- [Architecture and Construction](#)
- [Business Administration](#)
- [Manufacturing](#)
- For 2026-2027, we will add the Hospitality, Culinary, and Tourism Pathway

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF

PWSSD is committed to supporting our staff to become engaged in the career readiness process.

We provided the following professional opportunities and development to staff at the high school level:

- Homeroom schedule implemented during the 2023-2024 school year to ensure dedicated time to deliver ACP lessons
 - A homeroom committee including teachers, counselors, and administrators continues to build lessons together and share with staff on professional development days and staff meetings
 - Goal for 26-27 will be to add a student to the committee.
- Teachers have had opportunities to learn about local businesses.
 - Vantage spoke with our teachers during the October 2025 Professional Development Day
 - Teachers were able to visit the Career Cafe and College and Career Fair at PWHS
- Partnership with Inspire Wisconsin to connect teachers with area businesses for potential guest speakers, student job shadows, etc.
 - Inspire spoke with our staff during professional development in Winter 2026 and additional information about Inspire has been provided to staff regularly.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

PWSSD engages families and caregivers in academic and career planning by:

- Regularly informing families and caregivers about career readiness activities:
 - Open House and orientation events
 - District website and social media
 - Family/Parent/Teacher conferences
 - Conferencing with school counselor, parent, and student
 - ACP parent communications
 - Building specific newsletters

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES

PWSSD is proud to collaborate with over 40 business and community partners. We want to continue to grow these relationships by:

- Partnerships with CESA 6 Youth Apprenticeship to place students in local apprenticeships
- Partnerships with local technical schools and universities (MATC, MPTC, UW-Green Bay, and UW Oshkosh) to allow for dual credit opportunities within our career pathways
- Career Cafe (held February 6, 2026) - had about 30 businesses and organizations represented - students were able to visit tables during lunch.
- Annual Career Fair (hosted March 17, 2026) that includes multiple area businesses, employers, and educational institution representatives.
- Developing partnerships with companies working on the Lighthouse Project (Port Washington Data Center).

ACP CURRICULUM, SUPPORT, AND SERVICES/FORMAL ACP PROCESS

Grade Level Appropriate Career Readiness Activities and Career-based Learning Experiences

- K-5: Career Readiness Activities: High Interest Days, Junior Achievement
- 6-8: Career Readiness Activities: Career Day, speakers, Millipore Sigma, other opportunities
- 9-12: Career Readiness Activities [PWHS ACP Activities](#)

Universal Curriculum

- [Navigate ACP Lessons \(Grade Specific\)](#)
- [Xello - College & Career Readiness Software](#)
- [Wayfinder](#) Lessons for SEL and College and Career Readiness

Individual Student/Counselor Meetings:

- Positive Educational Plan (PEP) - Freshman
- [Junior Student-Led Conferences](#)
- Robust Individualized Senior Post-Secondary Support

Small Groups and Resource Periods

- Junior Class Future Planning Meetings
- Senior Post-Secondary Resources: Scholarships, Essay Writing, Application Support
- Enrichment Resources (all grades): College Reps, Military Reps, InspireWI

Student/Parent Evening Meetings:

- Future Planning Night (all grades)
- [Senior Parent Night](#)

Partnerships/Events:

- InspireWI Partnership <https://inspirewi.org/>
- Youth Apprenticeship through CESA 6 - <https://www.cesa6.org/students-and-families/career-planning>
- Wisconsin Education Fair (WEF) Field Trip

Ongoing Counselor Involvement:

- ACP Consortium CESA 1
- Wisconsin Certified Regional Career Pathways ([Bus. Admin](#), [Manufacturing](#), [Architecture](#))
- ACP Vertical Planning Counselors Grades 5-12
- ACP District Committee 5-12

INDIVIDUALIZED ACP SUPPORT

PWSSD utilizes the following for our students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and/or students at-risk of graduating:

- Our district has a process to identify and provide modifications, accommodations, or enhanced support for career readiness activities to maximize participation, e.g., students participate in career readiness programming, partnering with outside agencies (DVR, Workforce Development, Independence First to provide skills based on individual need)
- Our district implements specific strategies to communicate with students, families, and caregivers:
 - Outside agency groups are invited to conversations and meetings
 - Options are provided to families around community resources and supports for employment
 - School staff facilitate collaborative conversations with families and community resources and supports

ACCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS

A pupil's Academic and Career Plan (ACP) is taken into account when discussing a student's Post-Secondary Transition Plan (PTP) through the IEP process. As needed, accommodations are made to ACP lessons to ensure all students have access to the materials they need when planning for academic/career pathways and how this impacts post-secondary life.

ACP SOFTWARE TOOL/CAREER READINESS TECHNOLOGY

Schools in the Port Washington-Saukville School District primarily utilize Xello software.

CURRENT PROGRESS AND FUTURE GOALS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The following implementations were made to this year's plan:

- Continuation of the ACP committee to discuss scope and sequence within ACP work, as well as collaborative next steps to make a succinct 5-12 ACP program (that will continue to the PK-4 level).
- Hiring an ACP Strategist to organize and coordinate ACP work.
- 8th graders visited the high school to discuss courses and continued learning opportunities regarding ACP and career pathways.
- We had a Career Cafe - Bringing in local businesses during lunch to talk to our students.
- On ACT/PreACT testing day we held a College and Career Fair which had both an open format for all grade levels and a speaker rotation for 9th and 10th graders.
- Career fair at the middle school (TJMS)

Future goals include:

- Continued partnerships with our technical schools and universities for dual enrollment opportunities within our career pathways.
- Continued work with our district committee to ensure a scope and sequence at each level that allows for a continuation of the ACP process from one grade level to the next.
 - Scope and Sequence [Infographic](#)
 - Expand work into the PK-4 Grade levels
- Continue career fairs and 8th grade ACP day.
- Expand the Career Cafe Concept to a monthly career cafe focusing on specific career clusters (2 per month) and having guest speakers throughout the month related to those career clusters.
- Continued community engagement projects with local businesses and organizations for middle schoolers to explore career opportunities
- Completed "Portrait of a Graduate" to align this work.

MOST RECENT DATE OF BOARD APPROVAL

School board approval on May 19, 2026