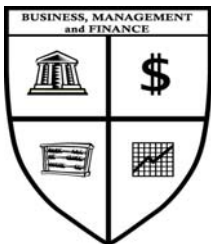


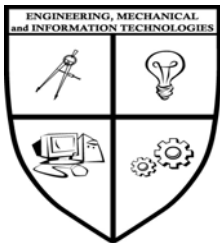


Smaller Learning Communities

The Smaller Learning Communities grant is a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to restructure our large high school into smaller units– or– smaller learning communities. The goals of the project are to enhance academic achievement, increase academic rigor, and create a better school climate. These goals are also in line with the overall goals of the Anne Arundel County Public School system. Through this grant Arundel has implemented many school programs. Some of them include- Daily Advisory, Extra Help, Summer Bridges, 9th Grade Academy, KOM, and **Career Clusters**.



There are five key elements of Smaller Learning Communities– Autonomy, Identity, Personalization, Instructional Focus, and Accountability. This year the school focal point will center on Instructional Focus. For the past two years all teachers have been working on professional collaboration through common course syllabi, team meetings, and high expectations. This year the goal is to take it a step further by incorporating **career clusters** into traditional classroom assignments. The goal is to change instruction not the curriculum. To give students the same core subject material but just have a chance to relate the course material to their career cluster. An example may be students in the Arts, Communications, and Humanities cluster might take on the real-life problem of how theatre tickets are discounted in the math assignments while students in the Health, Environmental and Life Sciences cluster might have an example about discounts for large group health insurers. This concept comes out of research that demonstrates students learn better and retain more information when they learn things in context.



Frequently Asked Questions About Career Clusters

Q. So, what are these things called “clusters?”

A. Career Clusters are broad groups of careers that share common education and skill requirements. The people who work in certain clusters also share many of the same personal attributes. Clusters are driven by what students need to know and do in order to graduate fully prepared for further education and careers in the 21st century global economy. The US Department of Education has identified 16 broad areas of job or occupational titles, MD State Department of Education has identified 10 broad areas, and the AA County Public School System has identified five (5) broad areas to help high schools work smarter in today’s competitive economy.

Q. If I choose a cluster now and change my mind later, can I switch?

A. Yes. You can switch clusters at any time with a note from your parents and a conference with your counselor.

Q. How will career clusters help me?

A. With the four-period day, public school students have a lot more room in their schedules for electives. This program will help students select electives that they are interested in.

Q. I just want to go to college when I graduate. How will career clusters help me?

A. Clusters will place students in classes that will prepare them for college, too. There are lots of electives that prepare students for a career that requires a college degree. The Career Clusters system provides those pathways.

Q. Is just Arundel High School involved in this?

A. No. There are five AA County high schools involved in this US Department of Education/Maryland State Department of Education project: Arundel, Meade, Old Mill, Glen Burnie, and North County. Career Clusters have been embraced nationally at both secondary and postsecondary levels. Maryland is a recognized leader in successfully adapting the national framework to the state’s economy and school reform. Local school systems and schools are using the Career Cluster system to organize teaching and learning to meet the specific needs and resources of their community.

Q. Does this mean I can skip all those courses I hate, like English, and just take these career electives?

A. No. You still must follow Anne Arundel County's plan for your graduation. There are, however, a lot of electives in that plan. You can take career electives and still follow the Anne Arundel County guidelines for graduation.

Careers Associated With Each Cluster

Arts, Communications, & Humanities

Journalist, Artist, Disc Jockey, Composer, Dancer, Actor, Poet, Writer, Musician, Designer (interior, floral), Cartoonist, Drafter, Animator, Editor, Jeweler, Lithograph worker, Model, Singer, Camera operator, Photographer, Comedian, Audio/visual manager, Fashion designer, Legal documents proofreader, TV reporter, TV weatherperson, Composer and typesetter, Songwriter, Photo retoucher, Technical writer, Window dresser and displayer, Sound technician, Script editor, Scientific photographer, Police artist, Radio/TV announcer, Merchandise display designer, Sound engineer, College professor, Voice-over actor, teacher, Theater set designer, Theater operator, Public speaker, Desktop publisher, and more. . .

Business, Management, & Finance

Advertising executive, Accountant, Business owner, Stock broker, Insurance underwriter, Banker, Marketing manager, Salesperson, Real estate broker, Office manager, Tax preparer, Securities analyst, Information Technologist, Receptionist, Secretary, Word processor, Post office worker, Mortgage broker, Quality assurance director, Travel agent, Hotel manager, Hotel worker, Purchasing agent, Factory supervisor, Shipping and receiving clerk, Auto sales executive, Payroll clerk, Retail salesperson, Restaurant manager, Judge, Lawyer, Property manager, Contract administrator, Personnel specialist, Chef, Airport manager, and more.

Engineering, Mechanical, & Information Technologies

Engineer, Computer assisted drafter, Biologist, Marine biologist, Astronomer, Meteorologist, Doctor, Nurse, Scientist, Computer network technician, EEG technologist, Hazardous materials technician, Surgical technician, Software developer, Research analyst, Chemical engineer, Water plant operator, Nursing assistant, Computer equipment repairperson, Nuclear medicine technologist, Dental assistant, Pest controller, Microbiologist, Actuary, Database administrator, Environmental specialist, Operations research analyst, Sanitarian, Pharmacist, Medical technician and medical assistant, Dentist, Dental assistant, Electrician, Office machine repairperson, Data entry specialist, Digital technologist, and many more.

Health, Environmental, & Life Science

Doctor, Nurse, Nursing assistant, Chemist, Dietician, Forest ranger, Animal caretaker, Farmer, Recreation leader, Environmental engineer, Rancher, Biologist, Biochemist, Food scientist, Nursery worker, Veterinarian, Physical therapist, Pharmacist, Horticulturist, Sanitarian, Respiratory technician, Astronomer, Forester, Water and wastewater plant operator, Marine biologist, Environmental lawyer, Health care worker, Dental technician, Surgical nurse, X-ray technician, Medical technologist or technician, Chemical engineer, Veterinary assistant, Quality control specialist, Construction inspector, Fisherman, and many more.

Human Services

Policeman or policewoman, Military, Fireman or firewoman, Teacher, Lawyer, Child care worker, Barber/cosmetologist, Social worker, Physical therapist, Chef, Chauffer, Trucker, Human relations specialist, Counselor, Librarian, Coach, Clergy, Career counselor, Retail salesperson, Salesperson, Telemarketer, Inspector, Museum curator, Manicurist, Psychologist, Mass transportation provider, Flight attendant, Park ranger, Supermarket cashier, Fast food worker, Licensed child care provider, Umpire or referee, Massage therapist, Nursing home care provider, employment interviewer, Corrections Officer, Psychiatrist, and many more