



Reflection with a Direction

Check out the Peru Central School District website www.perucsd.org and click on CHISEL



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CHISEL

Chronological Investigation of **S**elf and **E**xploration of **L**ifework

What is it?

The CHISEL project at Peru Central School District will develop students who have learned to engage in the continuous process of examining who they are, exploring work opportunities, and the various ways to reach the goals that they have set for themselves. They will document their career and self-exploration in a cumulative personal portfolio.

How does it work?

- Uses authentic learning and work experiences to expose students to a wide variety of workplace and learning roles.
- Teaches students to use their life experiences including: classroom instruction, field trips, mentorships, job shadows, peer mentoring, work experiences, business liaison visits, volunteer work, and participation in extracurricular clubs and sports as opportunities to learn about themselves through reflective practices.

How can I get involved?

- Stop by the College and Career Center
- Attend business liaison visits "Lunchtime Grill"
- Attend 10th period CHISEL sessions
- Add to your portfolio in various classes
- Complete a reflection exercise
- Attend field trips to local businesses
- Take skills, interests, or personality assessments in the College and Career Center
- Shadow a professional in a career field
- Volunteer in an area of interest

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Dear Parent/Guardian

As parents, there is nothing that we want more for our children than a happy and fulfilling life. From the time that they are born, through their adolescent years and on into adulthood, a smile on their face brings a smile on ours, and when they are sad, we too feel their sadness. Unfortunately, while we have significant influence on our children's happiness at a very young age, as they grow and become more independent, that influence fades. Fortunately, we know that, if as adults our children find enjoyment and fulfillment in their work life, they will be well on their way to feeling fulfillment overall. The difficulty, of course, is helping our children choose a career that is well suited to them. While this may seem a distant concern for parents of our youngest students, much like instruction in foundational math and reading skills needs to start at a young age, so too does the process of exploring self and careers.

To address this need, we would like to introduce the CHISEL Project to the Peru School community. CHISEL or **Chronological Investigation of Self and Exploration of Lifework** is a program that engages students at every grade level from Kindergarten through 12th grade. While in lower grades CHISEL will focus more on self-exploration activities than careers, in the upper grades students will begin to explore how their personality, interests and skills articulate with jobs as well as the many avenues that lead to those jobs. As part of their self-exploration, the CHISEL Project will expose students to work experiences as well as various methods of attaining employment in those fields through academic research, classroom activities, mentorships, job shadows, and group tours of workplaces. Students will be able to record and reflect on their exploration experiences through a cumulative portfolio.

While it is possible that by the end of their K-12 education students may select a career field that they find engaging and fulfilling without doing any research, it is far more likely that it will happen through a guided process of introspection and research. To drive this point home, I point out that you wouldn't buy a car without doing some research first, why would you decide on a career without researching it first?

We look forward to working with students, faculty, parents and the community as CHISEL develops. Please encourage your student(s) to engage in CHISEL activities as they have the opportunity to do so. Working together to support students as they engage in self-exploration as well as career and job planning will ultimately increase academic success by developing a connection to school as well as their learning.

Sincerely,

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