

10 Things to Know About CHISEL

1. CHISEL is an Acronym that stands for Chronological Investigation of Self and Exploration of Life Work.

The name says it all. By engaging in CHISEL, students will participate in activities designed to help them learn about themselves. Additionally, students will explore how their interests, strengths and personalities are best suited in various work opportunities. These experiences and the reflection on them will be collected in a portfolio.

2. The symbol that was adopted is a statue titled "Self Made Man".

This image was adopted because one of the goals of CHISEL is that students use life experiences as opportunities to learn about themselves through reflective practices. Much like the "self made man" who is carving himself, with each reflection, they learn more about who they are. In doing so, they "chip away" at who they are not in order to define themselves.

3. CHISEL is for Everybody.

The CHISEL Project at Peru Central School District is for everybody. All students in all grade levels will have opportunities to reflect on learning experiences in a way that will help them identify their interests, learning styles, personal strengths, and skills. In addition, as students progress through their education, they will begin to explore various pathways that lead to work.

4. CHISEL is not a "Careers Program".

The foundation of CHISEL is that students define who they are and make decisions about their future based on self-understanding rather than making uneducated decisions based on the influences of peers and pop culture. Until students have spent some time reflecting on who they are, they cannot begin the process of exploring career options. Ultimately, students who have fully engaged in the CHISEL Project will have a greater understanding of themselves and will be well informed about future work options.

5. Opportunities for participation in CHISEL are multi-tiered.

When fully implemented all students in each grade level should have at least one universal "shared experience" in their classroom related to CHISEL. Additionally, there will be standalone activities organized on campus that are not classroom based that may take place before, during, or after school. There will also be off campus activities such as touring a job site, and individual opportunities such as volunteering, job shadowing, and internships.

6. Students will collect data about themselves.

Many of the activities associated with the CHISEL project will have reflection exercises as a component of the activity. These documents, as well as results from interest inventories and personal planning will be collected in a portfolio that will give students, parents and school personnel student specific data. The data collected in each student's portfolio will give them the ability to track their progress as they work to accomplish goals.

7. CHISEL has identified two goals.

Teach 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.

Use authentic learning and work experiences to expose students to a wide variety of workplace and learning roles.

8. CHISEL activities are aligned to ASCA standards.

The American School Counselors Association (ASCA), a national organization of school counselors, has identified key competencies which guide academic, personal, social and career development for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. As a part of the CHISEL Project, members of the CHISEL advisory group have identified ASCA standards that are most important for Peru students to develop competency in within each grade level. CHISEL activities are aligned to the ASCA standards and intended to provide learning opportunities that will lead to the development of competency in the standards identified.

9. CHISEL is about being happy for the rest of your life.

Over the course of one's life, they spend on average about 80,000 hours at work. The goal of CHISEL is to help students make the connection between what they enjoy doing, and employment opportunities that incorporate those interests.

10. Improves student engagement, connectedness, relevance.

As students learn about themselves and possible pathways, they will be better able to connect school experiences to their plans. At the same time, students and teachers will learn more about each other, which supports school community connections.