Picture this: It’s graduation day and students are walking across the stage, excited to receive their diplomas. These students have been on a pathway that began in pre-kindergarten and elementary school, where they learned about future career choices and developed career readiness skills. In middle school, they explored career options and refined career readiness skills. In high school, they selected one of twelve Career Pathways, experienced the world of work through internships, service learning, and mentoring relationships, and applied career readiness skills. All students walking across that stage have taken courses that prepared them for the career they wish to pursue, they have used tools that match their interests and skills with a range of careers, they have a resume and an electronic portfolio, and a clear understanding of the next steps required for their chosen career — whether it’s postsecondary education, the military, or industry certification — as a result of Career Pathways.

What is Career Pathways? Career Pathways is a way of learning about careers in Newport News Public Schools. The Career Pathways way of learning is now in every school, so all students will leave our school division equipped with the necessary skills and a clear understanding of the pathway to success in their chosen career.

Get Involved!
Discover the many ways your business or organization can help place a student on a pathway to a career.

Become a Career Pathways Champion!
Contact: Ann Ifekwunigwe (757) 283-7783
career.pathways@nn.k12.va.us

Learn more about Career Pathways at www.nnschools.org/careerpathways
Post internship opportunities at www.nnschools.org/careerpathways/internships.html
Newport News Public Schools offers 12 Career Pathways:

- Architecture and Construction
- Arts, Audio-Visual Technology, and Communications
- Business Management and Administration
- Education and Training
- Government & Public Administration
- Health Science
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology, Modeling & Simulation, and Gaming
- Manufacturing and Engineering
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

While exploring Career Pathways, students develop and enhance Career Readiness Skills:

- Speaking and Listening
- Problem Solving
- Work Ethic
- Positive Attitude
- Independence and Initiative
- Self-Presentation
- Attendance
- Teamwork

For Further info:
Visit http://www.nnschools.org/careerpathways or contact a school counselor

In early childhood centers and elementary school, students will:

- Begin developing an awareness of “self” and their own unique, personal characteristics, likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses.
- Develop an awareness of the relationship between school and the world of work.
- Appreciate the contributions of various occupations to self and the community.
- Understand the existence of a broad array of career options.

Career Awareness

In middle school, students will:

- Understand the relationship among course content, educational achievement, and career preparation.
- Identify personal preferences, skills, and interests that influence career choices and success.
- Understand the career readiness skills and behaviors essential to success in the job market. (i.e. punctuality, courtesy, appropriate dress and language, and hard work.)
- Demonstrate Career Readiness Skills such as individual initiative, teamwork, problem solving, organization, and effective communication.
- Demonstrate awareness of educational, vocational, and technical training opportunities available in high school.

Career Exploration

In high school, students will:

- Understand the value of ethical standards and behavior in education and the workplace.
- Understand how work and leisure interests can help to achieve personal success and satisfaction.
- Understand how the changing workplace requires lifelong learning, flexibility, and the acquisition of new employment skills.
- Demonstrate skills involved in locating, using, and interpreting a variety of educational resources, including the Internet.
- Apply decision making skills to career planning resources, including the Internet.

Career Opportunities

Ways to Get Involved:

- Help students make the transition to the world of work easier by sharing information about your career.
- Discuss with students the experiences and education that led to your career.
- Give examples of how the skills students learn in school—math, science, reading, writing, or others—are used in your job.
- Take a young person to your work site for a tour.
- Let students know the importance of managing time wisely and how that skill will help them succeed in the workplace.
- Ask young people what their career interests are and what they are doing to pursue them.
- Talk about how setting personal and career goals will help them make better choices about further education or training.
- Consider offering internships, job shadowing, or apprenticeship opportunities at your business.
- Visit classrooms to talk about your career.
- Participate in a career day.
- Invite classes to visit job sites.
- As an employer, provide release time for employees to visit schools.

Resources:

- Virginia Career View http://www.vaview.vt.edu/
- Know How Virginia http://www.knowhowvirginia.org/
- Youth Career Cafe (in Newport News at Patrick Henry Mall) http://www.pcfvd.org/Youth_Cafe.php
- School-Business Partnership Strategies http://www.danielsfund.org/sevenstrategies/
- Career Voyages http://www.careervoyages.gov
- Developing Financial Literacy http://www.themint.org/