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|  | **First Steps: Understanding the World of Work through Career Technical Education** is a standard-based, CTE focused, career development curriculum for students in grades 7-8. The First Steps logo indicates instructional resources are aligned to the [First Steps Standards](https://cte.idaho.gov/Resource_Catalog/Program_Areas/Middle_School/TheIdahoMiddleSchoolCTEInitiative.pdf) and IDCTE approved! |

**First Steps Standard(s):** Domain3 Future Planning (How do I get there?) 2. Understanding High School Offerings (What can I do in high school to reach my goals?) C. Examine the benefits of participating in school and community activities. D. Examine academic and other high school pathways

**Career Activity Curriculum Topic:** Pursue Your Passions!

**Learning Outcomes:** Students will be able to(SWBAT):

1. Understand what academic pathways are available at the high school.
2. Research about the extracurricular activities available at their high school
3. Reflect on the importance of being involved in their school and community during high school.

**Activity Summary:**  This lesson will give students the opportunity to explore the variety of extracurricular pathways, activities, and opportunities that exist for them. They will also gain an understanding of why it is important and satisfying to get involved in high school.

**Estimated Time:** One 45 to 60-minute class period

**Suggested Grade Level:** 8th grade

**Materials Needed:**

* Teacher Materials: Computer/projector, slide deck, handout (Assignment Sheet/WebQuest (1 per student)), research before lesson (school specific resources)
* Student Materials: Pen/pencil, assignment sheet/WebQuest, device with web access

**Academic Vocabulary:**

* **Evidence:**  Examples, direct quotes, paraphrasing, etc. from a text that will be used to support an opinion or argument
* **Extracurricular:** An activity pursued in addition to the normal course of study [(LEXICO)](https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/extracurricular)

**Introduction:** You are about to embark on a journey to high school and that can be overwhelming. The priority in high school should be academics, to prepare and help you learn the skills you need to achieve your future goals. However, this learning is not strictly done in the classroom. Some essential learning happens in the activities that you choose to pursue outside of your academics, and this activity will help you explore the many options that exist for you.

**Learning Activities/Procedures:** Use slide deck**.**

1. Go through the slide deck on “Getting Involved” and why it is important in high school.
2. Have students pause and brainstorm on their assignment sheet. They have two questions to answer regarding the importance of extracurricular activities and which ones they are familiar with (that are available to them).
3. Discuss the brainstorm and make a class list on the whiteboard or in the PowerPoint. Make sure that students know that extracurriculars don’t have to be associated with the school and that they look different for everyone (just like careers and hobbies).
4. Review the goal of the WebQuest Assignment sheet/answer any questions. “Your task is going to be to collect evidence to help you answer these questions”: Why is it important that I get involved in my high school and community? What academic programs, athletics and activities, clubs and organizations, and community involvement is most appealing to you right now?
5. Provide the WebQuest to students and give them the time to collect evidence
6. Students should be reviewing multiple resources for each topic (they can use the ones provided or find their own as long as they cite them)
7. Teachers/schools may recommend resources, as appropriate.
8. Remind students to complete the reflection at the end of the assignment when they finish the WebQuest.
9. If time allows: do an Exit Ticket or Share-Out at the end of class: have each student share an opportunity that they found that they are actually interested in exploring when they get to high school!

**Accommodation/Adaptations/Extensions:**

**Accommodation:** Provide less resources to prevent overwhelm or have students choose only 2 of the sections to fill out in the note catcher, provide a definition sheet, simplify or choose one question for reflection at the end.

**Adaptation:** Virtual:Encourage virtual students to look for VIRTUAL programs that they could get involved in (as an extension of this activity). Challenge them to answer the question, is it possible to gain these experiences if you are a virtual learner?

**Extension:** When students have decided on an opportunity that interests them to pursue, push them to investigate and present (writing, drawing, discussion, etc.) how that activity or pathway will help them develop skills for the career path they have researched in other lessons from this curriculum.This could also be turned into a field trip where students would have to visit locations around the high school that provided the information needed.

**Evaluation:** Students will submit the completed WebQuest and reflection. They will be able to identify multiple academic programs, athletics/activities, clubs/organizations, and community involvement they are interested in pursuing while in high school.

**Closing:** There are tons of opportunities to get involved in high school. No matter what you choose, it is important to find activities that you are interested in and help support your growth and learning during your time in high school.

**Resources/References:**

“4 Reasons Schools Should Prioritize Career & Technical Education.” *Build Your Future*, 14 May 2021,

https://byf.org/4-reasons-schools-should-prioritize-career-technical-education/.

“High School Extra Curricular Activities.” *Next Steps Idaho*,

https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/video-library/high-school-extra-curricular-activities.

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“Connect to What's Possible.” *Next Steps Idaho*, https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/.

*Counseling/Career Center / Counseling/Career Center Home*, https://www.kunaschools.org/Page/282.

“How Important Are High School Clubs?” *The Princeton Review*,

https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/joining-high-school-clubs.

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“Five Benefits of Teen Volunteering.” *United Way of Central Minnesota*,

https://www.unitedwayhelps.org/blog/5-benefits-of-teen-volunteering#:~:text=Volunteering%20helps%20teens%20gain%20new,time%20management%2C%20and%20decision%20making.&text=As%20the%20teen%20in%20your,make%20it%20a%20family%20event.

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https://cte.idaho.gov/programs-2/career-areas/.

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*Https://Www.kunaschools.org/Page/283, https://www.kunaschools.org/Page/462.*

*Kuna High Athletics / Kuna High Athletics Home*, https://www.kunaschools.org/domain/762.

Scholarships.com. “Benefits of Volunteerism in High School.” *Scholarships for College Free College*

*Scholarship Search 2020-2021*, https://www.scholarships.com/resources/public-service-and-volunteering/benefits-of-volunteerism-in-high-school/.

“Why Career and Technical Education?” *SkillsUSA.org*, 5 Oct. 2020,

https://www.skillsusa.org/about/why-career-technical-education/#:~:text=Career%20and%20technology%20education%20can,to%20the%20needs%20of%20employers.

**KUNA SPECIFIC RESOURCES:**

[Kuna High School Course Description Guide](https://www.kunaschools.org/Page/282)

[KHS Dual Credit Opportunities](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1lcrS_BP0ydxO3QcsoO-tAyTiG6QFtFpzxlHWAmD32Fg/edit#gid=0)

[Kuna High School Athletics](https://www.kunaschools.org/domain/762)

[Kuna Volunteer and Community Service Opportunities](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tgyA5qkscX3sCoAqaPFV_H7S9y39AILnjlAo4sfVO6Q/edit).

[Kuna High School Virtual Job Board](https://padlet.com/abauer12/fsuedoujw9ocmjob)