

I AM Career Exploration

**WHAT CAREER IGNITES YOUR PASSION?
WHAT STEPS CAN YOU TAKE NOW TO PREPARE FOR THAT CAREER?**

BACKGROUND:

The I AM Career Exploration is your year-long capstone project. Get ready to use the project skills you have developed over the course of your entire education so far to plan a meaningful adventure! This project will provide opportunities to learn about crucial real-world career skills such as career research and exploration, goal setting, networking, résumé development, problem solving, communication, and interview/presentation skills. In addition to learning about the job of your choice, you will make connections to community leaders and set up a site visit for our entire class. In years past we have visited a natural history museum, a hospital, a busy newsroom, a financial planner, a psychologist's office, a music venue, a photography studio, a veterinarian office, a horse barn, and NC Space Grant. We practiced reporting the weather on a green screen, fed sharks, watched a real bariatric surgery, participated in a photo shoot, watched a dog's dental surgery, practiced creating voiceovers of the news, and chatted with a scientist in a genomics lab. In short, it's an incredible journey. This project sheet will give you an overview of where you are headed, but you will be carefully supported each step of the way.



PROCESS:

1. **EXPLORATION:** We begin with the *Personal Legend* project, which uses our reading and discussion of *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho as a springboard to explore careers that might interest you. In this project, you will develop a goal statement and narrow in on your year-long focus.
2. **NETWORKING:** After learning about the importance of networking, we will explore the online networking platform LinkedIn and create our own personal database of networking contacts. You will initiate communication with your network contacts and seek valuable insight about your career field.
3. **SITE VISITS:** You will also communicate with your network contacts to arrange a site visit relevant to your chosen career. This will require careful attention to detail as you confirm the schedule, directions, and itinerary of our trip. When leading your site visit, you will provide a brief presentation to orient your classmates to your chosen career. You will have thoughtful questions prepared for our host.
4. **RÉSUMÉ PREPARATION:** As we read *Beowulf*, you will use the *Hero for Hire* project to learn about résumé development and formatting. You will create a résumé for an epic hero before using the skills you learn to draft your own personal résumé.
5. **INTERVIEW SKILLS:** In the *Finding Your Voice* project, we will read *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare and use this as a springboard to discuss how we present ourselves. You will use monologue preparation and performance as a means of preparing for interview preparation and performance. Then you will actually complete a mock interview with a professional from a local business!
6. **PRESENTATION:** Your experience will culminate in a final professional presentation to your families and community mentors wherein you will describe your incredible journey, answering the essential questions above.

