



HEALTHCARE CAREER EXPLORATION

Syllabus

Discovery Middle School
1304 Hughes Road
Madison, AL 35758

Teacher: Mrs. Wendy Pinto
Email: wepinto@madisoncity.k12.al.us
Class Webpage: [MCS Discovery Teacher Directory](#)
Phone Number: 256-837-3735 xt. 82519

Course Description:	Healthcare Career Exploration introduces students to the broad and dynamic field of health science and the diverse career opportunities within it. Students will examine the historical development of healthcare professions, explore the five major health science career pathways, and gain foundational knowledge and skills necessary for success in health-related fields. Through research, hands-on activities, and practical skill demonstrations, students will develop an understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and ethical standards of healthcare professionals.
Course Objectives:	At the conclusion of this class, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Incorporate safety procedures in handling, operating, and maintaining tools and machinery; handling materials; utilizing personal protective equipment; maintaining a safe work area; and handling hazardous materials and forces.2. Demonstrate effective workplace and employability skills, including communication, awareness of diversity, positive work ethic, problem-solving, time management, and teamwork.3. Explore the range of careers available in the field and investigate their educational requirements and demonstrate job-seeking skills including resume-writing and interviewing.4. Advocate and practice safe, legal, responsible, and ethical use of information and technology tools specific to the industry pathway.5. Participate in a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) to increase knowledge and skills and to enhance leadership and teamwork.6. Demonstrate effective infection control techniques as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and The Joint Commission guidelines.

	<p>7. Describe a variety of healthcare professions, indicating the purpose and scope of practice of each one.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Research and report on the historical development of the healthcare industry, its leaders, and its response to major scientific advancements. b. Research and report on the impact of medical research on the healthcare industry. c. Investigate and present information about a healthcare career area of interest.
<p>Classroom Expectations:</p>	<p>Classroom Rules and Procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Only use chromebooks when instructed. 2. Use of cell phones or other smart devices are not permitted per school policy. 3. Be prepared to learn each day. 4. Bring necessary materials to class each day. 5. Treat yourself and others with respect. 6. Respect the belongings and personal space of others. 7. Be responsible for all technology and supplies. 8. Set high expectations for yourself. 9. Follow all district-level, school-level, and classroom-level policies and procedures. <p><i>All students must follow the Madison City Schools Code of Conduct</i></p>
<p>Textbook:</p>	<p>Classroom copies of Introduction to Health Care & Careers Enhanced Edition ISBN: 978-1-284-32229-3 Parents and guardians can access other supplementary materials through the Schoology platform.</p>
<p>Grading:</p>	<p>Test grades will account for 60% of the 9-weeks grade, with the remaining 40% being determined by quiz/daily grades. The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (65-69), and F (below 65). Grades will be a reflection of mastery of the standards. Make sure all absences are excused as work can be made up and graded for excused absences only.</p>
<p>Make-up Work:</p>	<p>Under normal circumstances, it is expected that students will submit <u>previously</u> assigned work upon return to school after an excused absence. All work missed on the day(s) of excused absences must be</p>

	made up within a timeframe determined by the teacher. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure he or she makes up work following excused absences. Students will not receive credit for and will not be allowed to make up any assignments, tests, work, activities, etc., missed during unexcused absences. (DMS 2025-2026 Student Handbook)
Late Work:	For work turned in late, the following policy will apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assignment will drop one LETTER grade for each school day that passes. For example, if an assignment is turned in one school day late, the highest a student can receive is 89%; two days late, 79%, etc. 1 day late = maximum credit 89% 2 days late = maximum credit 79% 3 days late = maximum credit 69% 4 days late = maximum credit 59% 5-10 days late = maximum credit 50% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half credit is always better than no credit! Until work has been made up, "Missing" (which counts as a zero) will be put in the grade book. This will be updated once work is completed and turned in.
Accommodations:	Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.
Technology	Concerning laptop utilization: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. 2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. 3. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. 4. Laptops will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher and should be brought to school daily.
Materials and Supplies:	Required: notebook, pencils, closed toe shoes for labs. Class Wish List: Clorox wipes, colored copy paper, cardstock, sharpies, band aids, paper towels, expo markers, tissue boxes

9 Week Plan *Subject to Change

Week	Unit 1 - Course Introduction - 2 Weeks
1	Introduction to the course and classmates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions to teacher and classmates • Team Building Activities • Syllabus Introduction • Lab Safety Review & Exam: Must have a 100% pass rate • Lab Safety Exam
2	Introduction to Health Careers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research the history and evolution of healthcare professions. • Learn and apply medical terminology, including prefixes, suffixes, and root words. • Understand the importance of ethical and legal behavior in healthcare settings.
Week	Unit 2 - Career Types I - 3 Weeks
3	Therapeutic Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore direct patient care careers such as nursing, physical therapy, and dental hygiene. • Research education, salary, and working conditions for therapeutic professions. • Practice entry-level skills such as taking vital signs and identifying medical instruments.
4	Diagnostic Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate careers that involve testing and evaluating patients to detect and diagnose diseases. • Learn about roles such as radiology technologist, respiratory therapist, and phlebotomist. • Perform hands-on diagnostic activities like vision screening, pulse oximetry, and blood typing.
5	Health Informatics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore careers focused on managing healthcare information and data. • Interpret basic medical abbreviations and terminology used in informatics. • Practice office and communication skills such as record evaluation and telephone etiquette.
Week	Unit 3 - Career Types II - 3 Weeks
6	Support Services

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Examine behind-the-scenes careers that maintain healthcare facilities and operations. ● Learn about roles such as dietary aide, clinical simulation technician, and transport technician. ● Develop employability and organizational skills related to healthcare support functions.
7	<p>Biotechnology Research and Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discover scientific and research-based health careers that drive medical innovation. ● Identify lab equipment and perform experiments such as aseptic techniques and DNA extraction. ● Understand how biotechnology contributes to new medical treatments and diagnostics.
8	<p>Informatics in Health Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify careers that integrate technology with healthcare systems, such as telehealth and electronic health records. ● Explore ethical and legal issues related to patient privacy and information security. ● Use online research tools effectively to locate reliable healthcare information.
Week	Unit 4 – Final Project – 1 Week
9	Students will work in teams to determine the root cause of an unknown illness. They will choose a career type and play the role within their team to solve the illness. Finally, they will prepare and present slides describing their approach.
<p>Parent & Student Syllabus Acknowledgement Form</p> <p>Please complete the Parent / Guardian and Student Syllabus Acknowledgement Form for this class. This form acknowledges that you have read and understand the expectations and procedures of the class. The form can be found at this link: https://forms.gle/2HfKEPGJc6oSWt7o6. Please contact me with any questions!</p>	