

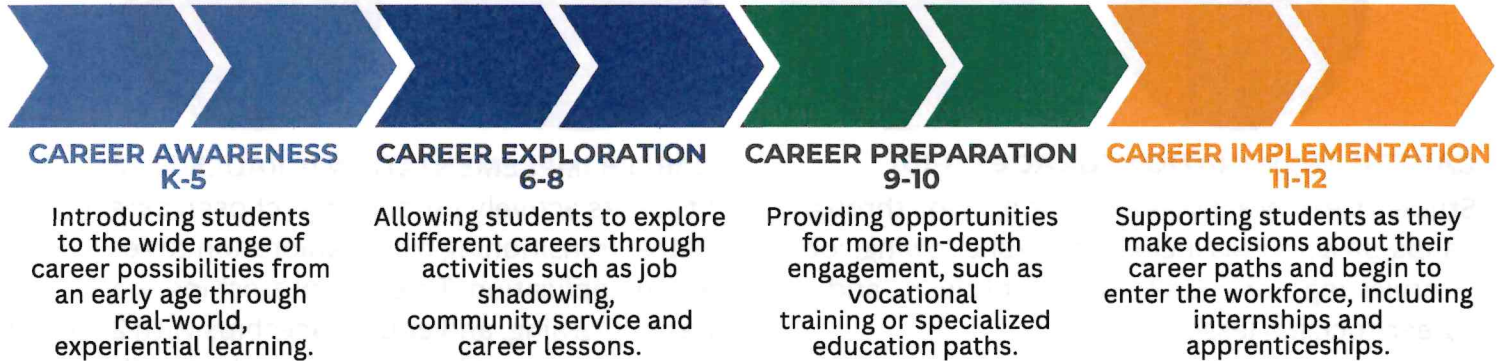


K-12 CAREER EXPLORATION PATHWAYS

KALISPELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The K-12 Career Exploration Pathways is at the heart of the KPS K-12 Student Experience.

Our goal is to engage students in community and career exploration by gradually introducing them to diverse experiences from kindergarten through high school, preparing graduates for career and college opportunities.



SCALING THE KPS COMMUNITY NETWORK

BY THE NUMBERS: 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

650+

K-8 EXTENDED
CLASSROOM
EXPERIENCES

15,000+

K-8 INDIVIDUAL
STUDENT
EXPERIENCES

200+

BUSINESS
INTERNSHIP
PARTNERS

275+

HIGH SCHOOL
INTERNSHIP
PLACEMENTS

K-8 CAREER AWARENESS & EXPLORATION

INTRODUCING STUDENTS TO CAREER POSSIBILITIES



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

- **Extended Classroom Experiences** shape career awareness and exploration to take learning beyond traditional classroom walls.
- **Engaging interactions within the community** create meaningful connections.
- **Real-world experiences** show how classroom learning relates to careers.



COMMUNITY PRESENTERS

- **Community professionals and industry experts** volunteer to bring career insights directly into KPS classrooms.
- **Presentations, demonstrations, and interactive discussions** allow students to explore a variety of professions.
- **Inspiration sparks curiosity** about future careers.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

- **Hands-on volunteering** allows students to make a meaningful impact in the community.
- **Life skills development** includes empathy, leadership, teamwork, and responsibility.
- **Preparation for the future** extends beyond the classroom, supporting academic, personal, and professional success.

9-12 CAREER PREPARATION & IMPLEMENTATION

ENGAGING STUDENTS IN CAREER AND COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES



CAREER PREPARATION (GRADES 9-10)

Students explore diverse career options through hands-on activities including job shadowing, job interviewing, community service projects, and career-focused lessons.

This phase provides opportunities for deeper engagement with various industries, helping students discover their interests through vocational training programs and specialized education paths while building foundational skills for future career decisions.

CAREER IMPLEMENTATION (GRADES 11-12)

Students actively pursue their chosen career paths, transitioning from exploration to real-world application. Through internships, work-based learning, and apprenticeships with 200+ business internship partners, students will gain practical skills and professional networks.

This phase supports students as they make critical decisions about career and college opportunities following graduation.

INTERNSHIPS: THE CULMINATION OF CAREER EXPLORATION

KPS's internship program represents the pinnacle of K-12 Career Exploration Pathway, transforming years of preparation and implementation into real-world experience. Beginning with career awareness in elementary school and progressing through middle school exploration, students arrive at high school ready to apply their discovered interests in professional settings.

These internships provide students with authentic workplace experiences, professional mentorship, and practical skill development in their chosen fields. This hands-on approach validates students' career choices as well as build the confidence, networks, and competencies essential for career and college success.



"As an orthopedic rehabilitation intern, I discovered how physical therapy merges my passions for science, athletics, and helping others. This experience has solidified my path toward becoming a pediatric physical therapist and eventually opening my own practice."

Nakiah Persinger
Glacier High School, '25

JOIN THE KPS COMMUNITY NETWORK



- Classrooms presentations about your business
- Host a student tour of your business
- Provide a student internship for a semester

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.sd5.k12.mt.us/partner-network



THE 5 STEPS OF LIFELONG LEARNERS

CONNECTION

Engaging students in learning environments that provide context and their value in the community.



DISCOVERY

Capturing opportunities for students to explore in our abundant geographical resources.



AGENCY

Facilitating learning environments where students develop agency over their quest to grow in knowledge.



COMMUNITY

Connecting students with community members to develop interpersonal relationships. Education is strengthened by the contributions of our partners who bring their knowledge and connections.



LEARNING

Expanding learning where the classroom is redefined. Encouraging students to be inquisitive and curious both inside and outside of the school.

PERSONALIZED, COMPETENCY BASED EDUCATION

Kalispell Public Schools engages students in personalized and diverse opportunities that empower individuals to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

PURPOSE

Extended Classrooms is a holistic view of education where learning is accomplished through a variety of environments and modalities.



SUPPORT

These activities are a natural extension of what is being taught by the teacher where our community partners further support the instruction with relevancy and real life application.



APPLICATION

Students are applying content knowledge with direct practice at all K-12 levels.



ENGAGEMENT

The learning experience is the cumulative effort of all members of our community. Students feel valued and engaged from the broad net of support.



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Future Industry Leaders

Intern Profile Series

Meet KPS students who have successfully completed a community-based internship while enrolled in high school.



Scan the QR code to
read their full profiles

