A VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR FOR STUDENTS

Launch Date: February 9, 2022, - June 2022

Educator Brochure
When our students know where they're going...

We all advance

JA Inspire Virtual is Junior Achievement’s capstone career development program for 7th-12th grade students brought to life by our region’s employers.

Using virtual technology, JA Inspire 2022 features an interactive online career event filled with local business exhibits providing downloadable career information and exhibitor videos.

Thanks to our generous donors, this program is available at no cost to schools. JA Inspire is adaptable for in-class or remote learning!
JA Inspire is recommended for all students in grades 7th-12th.

JA Inspire launches February 9th and will be available through the remainder of the school year.

Students will explore local businesses within the 16 career clusters. Virtual booths will showcase careers and company information, videos, pamphlets, and more. All developed by the businesses, just like an in-person career fair.

Students have the opportunity to visit as many booths as they would like. They may visit businesses within their career cluster chosen through the career interest inventory in session one of the curriculum, or they may visit others that seem interesting to them.

Virtual back pack allows students to collect information from the booths and access it at a later date. Even better, they have access to the entire career fair 24/7 and throughout the remainder of the school year, allowing them to share information with teachers and others at home.

Webinars are available in the virtual auditorium around work and career readiness, financial literacy and entrepreneurship. JA Inspire can be completed while in school or while students work remotely. It's up to you.

Want a deeper dive? After completion of program, educators can submit a request to JA Staff to bring in a speaker either virtually or in-person, from a participating JA Inspire company.

Each student receives unique log-in to track activity on platform. Reports available upon educator's request.

Meets MDE requirements for career readiness

Self-guided curriculum in-class or remote

Survey results from JA Inspire last school year showed 99% of students would recommend the experience to a friend. Click here to check out our JA Inspire 20-21 impact report.
The program consists of three segments:
- Pre-survey assessment and pre-event career-oriented sessions;
- The JA Inspire Virtual career fair, with career exhibit booths to explore and various webinars or sessions led by local businesspeople; and
- Post-survey assessment and a post-event reflection.

**NEW JA Inspire Curricula for Middle and High School**

**Middle School Program Objectives**

- Tell why career planning is important.
- Assess their values, skills, and interests and use that information to evaluate potential careers.
- Explore career clusters that interest them.
- Recognize the connection between education and training choices and careers.
- Find information about the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to be successful in a job, through virtual company exhibits and webinars about careers that interest them.
- Develop a personal career plan.

**High School Program Objectives**

- Tell why career planning is important.
- Assess their values, skills, and interests and use that information to evaluate potential careers.
- Explore career clusters that interest them.
- Recognize the connection between education and training choices and careers.
- Find information about the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to be successful in a job, through virtual company exhibits and webinars about careers that interest them.
- Explore post-high school education options, including apprenticeships and educational funding opportunities.
- Explore soft skills that employers value.
- Create a “brag sheet” listing their career experiences.
Welcome to JA Inspire Virtual

Stay on track. Organize and document your experience!

Navigating the JA Inspire Virtual Platform

Five main areas make up the virtual career fair:

- Lobby
- JA Info Desk
- Exhibit Hall
- Auditorium
- Learning Lab

Take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with these areas.

Lobby

The Lobby is where you enter the career fair and access all its resources. Visit the Exhibit Hall to learn about local businesses and jobs in each career cluster. Watch videos and webinars in the Auditorium. Get help at the JA Info Desk. Use the navigation bar to explore further.
JA Info Desk
How do you get help finding your way around the event? Go to the JA Info Desk. There you can:

1. Learn how to navigate and use the features of the event.
2. Get technical help.
3. Find listings of exhibitor booths organized by career cluster.
4. Find listings of speakers and webinars.

Learning Lab
Visit the Learning Lab to find work and career readiness activities you can do on your own. The topics are:

- What's Work Like?
- Plan Your Path
- Work with Others
- On the Job
Exhibit Halls

Enter the exhibit halls to explore local companies, booths, and learn more about the 16 career clusters.

- Use the Exhibitors Index to locate specific booths or move left or right to visit booths.
- Visit the career clusters booths to learn more about jobs in those career cluster fields.
- At each booth, view documents, videos, and links. Some booths have hyperlinks on the pictures.

Add information to your backpack and email it to yourself or a parent. You can spend as much time as you want in the fair through June. Feel free to share the experience with others, including friends, teachers, and family members.

**Exhibit halls include:**

- Exhibit Booths - Career information for you to explore and save.
- Exhibitor Index - An alphabetical listing of the exhibits in that exhibit hall.
- Search Box - Enter the name of the business you would like to visit
Career Cluster Booths

Career Cluster Booths offer:

- Videos about jobs within the career cluster. Click on the booth images and click on the video section below the booth.
- Pamphlets and flyers that detail educational levels, salaries and jobs within the career clusters are under the document section.

You are able to add provided information to your virtual backpack and revisit it after your leave the career fair by emailing and/or downloading the content. You can reenter the fair as many times as you want and can share with other students, teachers, and adults at home.
Exhibit Booths

- Company - Brief description of the business.
- Documents - Information that can be saved in your virtual backpack.
- Videos - Videos about careers and the business that can be saved into your virtual backpack.
- Ask an Expert - Some exhibits offer Ask an Expert. If you have a question about this business or careers at this business, select this link and enter your question. The answer will be posted in the booth within one week.
- Backpack - Click Backpack beside any document or video you want to save. When you are done in the career fair, you can email and/or download the items in your backpack.
Auditorium

- Watch pre-recorded webinars to learn about career-readiness, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship. Click on the JA Inspire screen to see the available list.

All speakers and webinars are "on demand" so you may visit at any time.

Backpacks

Using the backpack:

- Click "backpack" beside videos and documents in each booth. This saves the document to your backpack.
- At the end of your stay, click "backpack" in the top bar, click "select all" or on individual videos/ documents. Click "email" and enter your school or home email address. Click "send". All documents will be emailed to you.
Being a JA Inspire Virtual attendee offers you the opportunity to seek information about certain careers, industries and career clusters. Students who visit JA Inspire Virtual will have the option to complete preparatory curriculum that will allow them to learn about their strengths and interests that could lead them to fulfilling careers.

Who should attend?  
Students in grades 7-12.  
We suggest full grade levels attend.

How long is the virtual career fair?  
While students could visit for less time, we suggest at least 3 hours to get the most out of the fair.

Will there be any type of curriculum during the fair?  
Yes. A downloadable workbook will be available to each school. Students may use the workbook during the virtual career fair.

Does someone from my school need to be a participant in the event?  
No. However, if you would like to be present, you may attend.

How do the students get access to the event?  
The JA staff will send you log in information prior to the event.

Will we know which companies will be in attendance prior to event?  
Yes. There is a link in the student workbook that contains a list of exhibitors prior to your visit.

Will the students be able to chat with vendors and other students?  
No. There will be no live interactions with or between students. This is a safe environment for all.

How can I prepare my students for the experience?  
JA will provide a curriculum to prepare your students for the experience, along with a debrief. JA will also provide pre and post assessments.

Is there a set schedule for day?  
No. However, we suggest the following ideas:
  • Implement as a half day, career day
  • Implement in ELA or elective classes
  • Implement during counselor meetings/ seminars with students
  • Implement as an activity for students digital portfolios/senior projects
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Serving students in: Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, Livingston, Shiawassee, Genesee, Lapeer and St. Clair