Researching Local Career Options

TOPIC: CAREER AWARENESS

GRADES: 3-5

LESSON DURATION: 2-4 HOURS

SOFT SKILLS: RESEARCH, COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION

Introduction:

- This lesson is designed to be used in social studies to complete a standard and teach students about emerging job opportunities in Indiana. The lesson can be adjusted based on local corporations/companies.

Learning Outcome:

- Students will develop an understanding of their likes/strengths and match them to general job categories.
- Students will identify jobs in technology as an area of specialization.

Activities:

1. Students can complete the Job interest activity.
2. Students should be assigned to small groups. Each group will be tasked with a mini research project on a company found within Indiana. Obviously, these companies/corporations can be changed depending upon location. The teacher can group students based upon the results of the job interest survey.
3. The teacher may choose to have students present the information to the class.
4. The questions for the project can be found here and can be modified as the teacher sees fit.
5. A list of possible companies includes but is not limited to:
   - *Eli Lilly*
   - *Evonik*
   - *SIA*
   - *Wabash National*
   - *PEFCU*
   - *Simon property*
   - *Anthem, Inc.*
   - *Payless Supermarket*
   - *Rook Security*

Enrichment/Follow-up Activities:

- The teacher may choose to establish Skype sessions with representatives from some of the companies assigned so that students can ask questions and interact with a professional in the field.
- The teacher should place an emphasis on the soft skills required in each job. There should also be representation from professionals in technology and cybersecurity.
- Upper elementary students could be asked to develop future jobs-what might these jobs look like in 20 years?
- Students could be asked to work alone, and the teacher could create a simulation of a Job Fair in the classroom. After student have completed both the mini research and a brief presentation, the teacher could arrange for local volunteers from the community to come in for a job fair. Students could dress appropriately and do a short mock interview while also learning about the career field. The teacher should make sure to include careers in technology (programming, cybersecurity, website developers, etc.).