

We are pleased to inform you about an exciting new resource that we are using within our school. Career Connections from Guidance Direct is a unique online college and career planning tool designed exclusively for school counselors and students in New York State. With the Career Connections website, students and parents can now access comprehensive college and career planning tools from school and home. Students will be given a school ID and password by their counselor, which they can then bring home and share with their parents. This resource will assist students in identifying colleges and careers that best match their interests, and preferences. Career Connections provides students and parents with the following resources:

- **Interest Profiler:** An online interest inventory that helps students explore careers that might be right for them. Students simply answer questions about their interest in some common work activities, and the Interest Profiler identifies their matching work related interest areas and suggests occupations for them to explore.
- **Occupation Search:** Students can search for occupations directly, or can use an advanced search to find occupations that best match their preferences. They can review in-depth descriptions and information on their occupations of interest and can link to related majors and colleges.
- **College Search:** The college search includes in-depth information on over 3,700 colleges. With powerful and easy to use search tools, students can customize college searches based on their interests.
- **Scholarship Search:** Students and parents can use this tool to search for scholarships, grants, prizes, fellowships, and forgivable loans. Information pertaining to over 5,000 private financial aid programs and college administered aid is included.
- **Resume Writer:** This tool helps students create a resume. By using simple-to-use online forms, students can create an expertly designed resume. They can also select a resume style, select what information to include and export a copy in several formats.
- **Career Portfolio:** Students can store and review information about college and career exploration in their career portfolio. Counselors then have access to viewing their student's information to develop a better understanding of their students' interests.

Our district is very eager to get our students up and running with Career Connections and hopes that they will take full advantage of the opportunities that the program has to offer.