WEST CHICAGO
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
DISTRICT 33
Together for Excellence ★ ¡Juntos por la Excelencia!

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Board of Education

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Jenny Brunke, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning
DATE: November 5, 2026
RE: Elementary Career Week

This memo is:

[x] Information only
[ ] Information with a recommendation and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed:

Previous memos on this topic can be found:
[ ] in previous Board packet(s) dated.
[ ] or attached to this memo

Basic Information:

All Elementary buildings participated in our second annual D33 Elementary Career Week from October 5th to October 9th. The goal of our Elementary Career Week is to ensure our D33 students are aware of the variety of career opportunities available to them as they prepare for and complete their high school and college experience. All Elementary buildings participated in similar activities throughout the school day during the Week of October 5th to ensure equity in student and family participation.

The Career Week slides linked here provide more information. All activities were created by the Library Media Specialists and Instructional Technology Coaches and utilized District 33-approved resources. A few key highlights include library posters and books displays, college and career-aligned morning announcements each day, exploratory career activities taking place during library time, a choice board of K-2 and 3-5 activities completed within classrooms, green screen and VR experiences created by Instructional Technology Coaches, and a career spirit day in which students dressed as their future careers or color-coded their attire based on various career fields. Staff dressed in their college attire to promote future college options as well. We are truly all in to support our students as they build early-career awareness and connect their learning to real-world applications.

Students really enjoyed the week, and we look forward to expanding upon our career exploration in years to come!

Background/Historical Context:

Beginning in August 2019, Leman Middle School updated its exploratory pathways to include a Career Cruising Exploratory, in which students independently use their learning to connect their abilities, aptitudes, and strengths to 21st-century career options. Additionally, in August of 2020, Leman Middle School incorporated an AVID exploratory program. This program also incorporates college and career exploration and readiness.

Historically, D33 elementary classrooms have incorporated career study across curricular units, including the ARC unit “Jobs in My Community” and various Social Studies and Spanish Language Arts units of study. During the 2025-2026 school year, D33 opted to expand career exploration beyond its ties to various curriculum units and hold an annual Career Week for all grade levels at each elementary building.
Previous decisions, actions, or parameters that relate to this topic or issue:
Recommendations:
N/A