

On the career path

Students get tool to plan future

Alamogordo Daily News
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Posted: 06/12/2009 12:00:00 AM MDT

Getting students to think about their futures is one of the goals of a test/development tool all eighth graders in the Alamogordo schools district have been given.

APS has been working toward a plan to help students make choices about who they want to be and where they want to go when they get out of high school.

The Kuder Assessment is a new tool for helping students determine their interests and pursue a career pathway into something they would be happy doing.

"We want the eighth graders to have the Kuder in hand as they choose their courses," said Wendy Parker who teaches computer technology at Alamogordo High School. "Maybe they will have a direction to go when they get to college."

AHS has a series of career clusters that can begin a student at the beginning with a potential path that is not set in stone.

"Every cluster has core curriculum at its heart," Parker said. All the students have English, mathematics and social studies requirements they have to fill.

Results of the Kuder can travel with the students even beyond high school; the information saved on the Kuder Web site can be kept and shared. Up to

four resumes can be developed and saved as well.

"The Kuders can open their eyes as to what they think they want to be," said Glenda Cummings who teaches in the hospitality/food services cluster.

"You have the ability to pick electives by the things you need to explore," APS Director of Curriculum and Instruction Joe Jaramillo, said. "We are really trying to get kids to understand the need to be in active pursuit of what's going to happen after high school."

Parents have the opportunity to find out what their children are interested in because the Kuder results are available, by computer, to the students and their families. School schedules can be adjusted early, before freshmen are lost in the hallways if parents will work with them and use the assessment as a tool.

"It would be so much easier to get the schedules straightened out during the summer," Parker said. "It's a tool."

Parker said she can mail the Kuder results to parents if they need it and don't have access to the Internet.

Jaramillo said the Kuder is a tool to help parents connect back to the schools. When children are in elementary school, parents attend conferences regularly but as the students get older, the connection between parents and teachers becomes thinner.

Parents can call Jaramillo's office for more information on their children's Kuder results at 812-6005.

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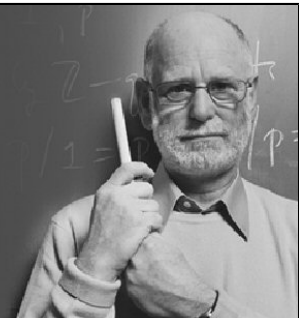


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