



The Imagine Academy of Careers will have a curriculum that focuses on career exploration and development.

Drop out rates in St. Louis have continued to climb during the past three years. Placement rates for Career/Technical Education students continued to climb. In 2004, 78.7% of Career/Technical Education students were placed in jobs related to their field; in 2005, that percentage increased to 80.2%. Therefore, it is easy to see that career education has been proven to be a very important component to our students' educational needs.

The State of Missouri has already completed extensive research in the area of career education. There are complete curricula that have been established to guide students throughout their years in school toward exploring, thinking, and working toward various careers.

In working through the various types of careers, Missouri has established 16 Career Clusters. These are the career pathways that help guide students toward their areas of interest.

Beginning in kindergarten, students will be exposed to increasing levels of career exploration and development that will continue until the time they graduate. Each year, students will receive instruction and be given the opportunity to explore and learn about all 16 Career Clusters. By having the opportunity to gain insight into various career options and being given the opportunity to have some hands-on exposure to a wide variety of careers, students will be better prepared to focus on the area of studies in high school and beyond that will best help them travel down the career pathway that each individual student pursues.

The sixteen career clusters are the following:

- **Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources**
- **Architecture & Construction**
- **Arts, Audio/Video Technology & Communications**
- **Business, Management & Administration**
- **Education & Training**
- **Finance**
- **Government & Public Administration**
- **Health Science**
- **Hospitality & Tourism**
- **Human Services**
- **Information Technology**
- **Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Marketing, Sales & Service**
- **Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics**
- **Transportation, Distribution & Logistics**

There is additional information about career clusters as well as associated curriculum on the following websites:

- [www.careerclusters.org](http://www.careerclusters.org)
- <http://missouricareereducation.org/currecmd/guidanceplacementG/lessons/index.php>
- <http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/>

In addition to the curriculum that will be incorporated into the classrooms, Imagine Academy of Careers will also be working with local business by developing partnerships with them for additional training on career education. Many times, our best resources are those in our local neighborhoods.

Our plans are to have representatives from a wide variety of businesses to serve as mentors to our students and to provide them with first-hand knowledge of the aspects of various careers.

Instead of having one career day during the school year, Imagine Academy of Careers will have a multitude of career presentations at the different grade levels so that our students receive an ongoing exposure to career opportunities as well as the necessary education and training required to pursue those careers.

Mrs. Shirlie Wright will lead the team of educators at the Imagine Academy of Careers. Presently, there are two campuses. Grades K-5 will be located at 3740 Marine Avenue. Grades 6-8 will be located at 1901 N. Kingshighway.

If anyone would like to contact Mrs. Wright, she can be reached by e-mail at [shirlie.wright@imagineschools.com](mailto:shirlie.wright@imagineschools.com) or by telephone at (314) 776-6300. She is looking forward to leading her staff to provide the best education possible for all of the students enrolled in the Imagine Academy of Careers.

## MRS. SHIRLIE WRIGHT K-5 PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Wright has been in education since 1985. She began her career in education as a business and an English teacher. For the past eleven years, she has been in administration. During that time, she has been responsible for a wide variety of duties—building principal, assistant principal, transportation director, and athletic director to name a few.

In the area of education, Mrs. Wright has a bachelors, a masters, and a specialists degree. She is certified in elementary administration, secondary administration, special education administration, superintendent, as well as in business education and English.

Her views on education are all focused on children. She believes that we, as educators, should always have the students' best interest at the core of everything we do.

She is very excited at having the opportunity of beginning the Imagine Academy of Careers and looks forward to having a wonderful school and community to work with.