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## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Kimberly Middle School Students are Making Connections with Careers

**Kimberly, Wis. – January 30, 2019** – As a way to connect what students at [J.R. Gerritts Middle School \(JRG\)](#) are learning in the classroom with job opportunities in our community, school staff organized a Community Connections event. For the event, professionals from the [career clusters](#) they have been studying were invited to present to the students and answer questions the students had regarding their line of work.

As part of the school's [Academic and Career Planning \(ACP\)](#) process, JRG students learn about a career cluster each month during the year. So far this school year, the students have learned about the following career clusters:

- Health Sciences
- Arts, Audio/Visual, Technology and Communication
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security
- Finance

For the Community Connections event, 16 guest speakers graciously volunteered their time to present on their respective career field. The goal of the event was to help students gain a greater awareness of local occupations and career paths. The community members discussed their job description, education requirements for their career, presented props or visuals related to their occupation, and answered student's questions about the career field.



Dr. Karl Greene, Neurosurgeon, spoke to JRG students about the Health Sciences career cluster.

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Career clusters are a system of organizing career pathways into 16 categories based on common knowledge and similar skill requirements. Within each cluster there are pathways that break those careers down further into smaller groups.

Later this school year, JRG students will learn about the four career clusters for architecture and construction, business management and administration, information technology, and education and training. Then next year, they will learn about the other eight career clusters. This ensures that by the time they finish seventh and eighth grade at J.R. Gerritts Middle School, the students have studied all 16 career clusters.



Natalie Heinan, Tax Accountant and Advisor, spoke to JRG students about the Finance career cluster.

Academic and Career Panning is a student-driven, adult-supported process in which students create and cultivate their own unique and information-based visions for post-secondary success, obtained through self-exploration, career exploration, and the development of career management and planning skills.

Throughout their time at JRG, students will have a variety of opportunities to thoughtfully consider who they are as people and how that relates to future career options. Students complete interest inventories, career research, set academic and personal goals, and reflect throughout the year with the support of their TLC teacher. Likewise, students will be exposed to a variety of hands-on experiences to help them begin narrowing the focus of possible career options.

Within the [Kimberly Area School District](#), Academic and Career Planning resources and processes help to ensure that every student is prepared for college, career and life.

### **About the Kimberly Area School District**

The Kimberly Area School District is a progressive public school district committed to providing the best possible education available to students. Its responsibility is to help lead the way in developing well-rounded students and future citizens. The District wants every student to be given the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts and co-curricular activities. It encompasses approximately 17 square miles and serves over 5,100 students in one 4K center, four elementary schools (5K-4), two intermediate schools (5-6),

one middle school (7-8) and one high school (9-12). To learn more about the Kimberly Area School District, call (920)788-7900 or visit [www.kimberly.k12.wi.us](http://www.kimberly.k12.wi.us).