**Sequencing Rationale**

The career development program for 8th graders has been set in a particular way to represent a connection between understanding careers and planning a career path for high school. We start with core concepts of what careers are and move to researching careers of interest and finally picking/create the career of choice.

The first unit is “Understanding Careers” because the starting point in developing a career path would be first to understand what a career is and what are the parts that make up the workforce (three career choices). The students will first have a presentation from the school counselor on vocational, college and military careers. The student will follow by taking a career assessment that looks at the interests of the student. The student will get their career assessments back and will take the top two career results. The students will then have the option to add one additional career that they have an interest in if it did not appear on the assessment.

The second unit is “Investigating Careers” which will be the research portion of the project. The student will have access to computers to investigate the three career choices they chose or found in their assessment. They will pick narrow down their choice to one career and will be put into a group that aligns with their career choice (i.e. vocational, college, military). The students will consult with their classmates in the group and discuss their career decisions. The student will create six questions with their group to ask a professional about their career choice. It is the student’s responsibility to find a professional to interview. If the student cannot find a professional to interview they are to contact the teacher or counselor to help them make contacts. The student will then interview the professional and make a summary of the interaction. The student will research the career of choice and find out what education/skills/responsibilities are needed to achieve in this career.

The third unit is “Presenting Careers” which will be the final stage of their career development course. The student, with their group, will meet and collaborate on a way of presenting their career choices. This could be a poster board, videotape, internet presentation, etc. The student will hand in a paper at least three pages long expressing their opinion on the project, what they thought of the career they chose, if they will pursue this career in high school and what path they will take to make their career a reality.