

**Dr. Linda Macias**  
*Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction & Accountability*

**Dr. Mark Henry**  
*Superintendent*

Parents/Guardians:

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Junior Achievement of Southeast Texas (JA) will be hosting “JA Inspire” which will be northwest Houston’s fourth and largest event that will engage all CFISD 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students in a job awareness fair at the CFISD Berry Center. This job awareness fair will allow students a unique opportunity to interact with business representatives and view displays from many local companies. Students will learn about the skills and education required for these jobs; they will be encouraged to develop individual career maps through materials and instruction provided by JA and participating companies.

During the fall semester of 2016, all Cypress-Fairbanks ISD 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students completed an informational curriculum during advisory time as well as a career assessment, Career Matchmaker, which assessed students’ interest for career possibilities. The JA Inspire event will provide direct access to many of those career possibilities.

On the assigned day for your student’s campus, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD will transport students by bus to the Berry Center on Barker Cypress Road for the day long job awareness experience. Inspiration and motivation will be provided by dynamic speakers not only during the opening and closing ceremonies but also throughout the day. Students will also be able to interact with Houston area businesses that will participate as exhibitors and will showcase their companies’ jobs of the future. Exhibitors are encouraged to provide a “hands-on” or a “wow” factor to their booths as 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students are visual and need to see to believe. Students will be provided information in a booklet that each student will receive at the home campus after the event. This booklet will include a company overview and job descriptions that denote skills needed and educational requirements.

Texas House Bill 5 requires that your student make some important choices regarding graduation plan endorsements and four year planning by the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The day will also feature industry presentation breakout sessions that will correlate with the four of the five Texas House Bill 5 Graduation Plan Endorsements.

1. STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
2. Business & Industry
3. Public Services
4. Arts and Humanities

The event will begin at 9:30 AM and close at 1:30 PM. Each campus is assigned to February 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>. Students will be monitored by a full complement of home campus staff members, CFISD district administrators, JA team members and industry and collegiate volunteers. The Berry Center facility will be at full capacity on all three days; therefore, JA is offering a parent preview information night on February 7 at 5:30 PM or 6:15 PM. You are encouraged to attend.

It is the hope of Junior Achievement that through this fun and unique experience, students will be able to map out a plan for future pursuits. They will better understand the courses and education needed to prepare them for their chosen careers. Whether they are bound for a 4-year university, junior college, trade school or the workforce, each student needs to be prepared to meet the challenge those institutions require. Our superintendent, Dr. Mark Henry, has stated that his hope for JA Inspire is for students to make the all-important connection between high school and future careers.

Please review the permission slip for additional details. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact your student’s home campus. We hope that you will sign and return the permission slip so that your student will be included in this fun and unique experience.

Sincerely,



Dr. Linda Macias