

# Dare to Dream: Career Exploration for K-5



BOULDER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Career & College  
Connections

# Today's Agenda

**1** Why Career Week Matters

**2** Planning & Logistics Essentials

**3** Materials, Speakers & Activities

**4** Execution Day — Tips & Lessons Learned

**5** Q&A + Your Next Steps

# Flatirons Elementary Dare to Dream 2023



# Why Career Week Matters

80%

of future jobs  
don't exist yet

K-5

prime window for  
career curiosity

3×

higher engagement  
with hands-on learning

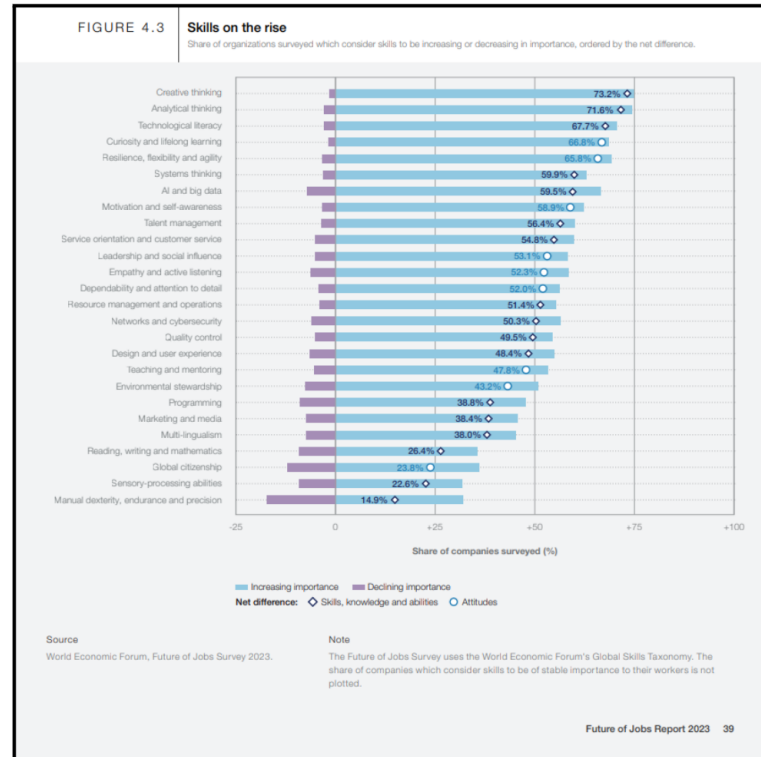
## Dare to Dream Goals

- Laying the foundation for Career-Connected learning
- Expand students' awareness of career possibilities
- Connect classroom learning to real-world application
- Inspire — especially students with limited exposure at home
- Build partnerships between school, families & community

# Why Career Week Matters

1. Creative Thinking
2. Analytical Thinking
3. Technological Literacy
4. Resilience, Flexibility, and Agility
5. Curiosity and Lifelong Learning

## World Economic Forum: Future Jobs Report 2023



# What is Dare to Dream Career Week?

- ★ 4 days of lessons – for all grades PK-5
- ★ 1 day with guest speaker rotations – 1.5 hours – for all grades PK-5
- ★ All materials & a banner provided by district – grant funded
- ★ All templates for communication personalized for each school
- ★ Kickoff assembly slides personalized for each school
- ★ Guest Speaker Recruitment managed by District
- ★ Handwritten Thank you notes and small gifts for guest speakers (Provided by District)

# Dare to Dream Sample Week

## Monday

Opening Assembly

Classroom Activity -  
Exploring Careers

## Tuesday

Classroom Activity -  
Discovering Me -  
Interests/Skills/Passions

## Wednesday

Classroom Activity -  
Asking & Answering Questions  
(is a job-ready skill!)

## Thursday

Guest Speaker Round Robin -  
Exploring Possibilities  
1 hour Guest Speaker Rotations

## Friday

Classroom Activity -  
My Future COULD Be

Optional: Closing Assembly

## Teacher Lift:

- Read through the lesson plan for each day.
- Use supplies provided to conduct the lesson in your classroom whenever it works in your schedule.
- ALL materials/copies/supplies are provided.

- ❖ In 23-24 Dare to Dream Career Week as founded at Flatirons Elementary School – we expanded to one additional school this year.
- ❖ In 24-25 the full Dare to Dream Career Week was done at 11 elementary schools
- ❖ For 25-26 we expanded Dare to Dream to all 34 Elementary Schools in the district.

The district Work Based Learning Coordinator worked with each school to create a schedule that worked best, and provided support throughout the planning, execution, and reflection process.

# Planning Timeline

## 8–6 Weeks Out

- Select dates & get admin approval
- Assemble planning committee/point of contact
- District personnel complete templates

## 3–2 Weeks Out

- Confirm speakers & schedules
- Prepare student materials for teachers
- Coordinate volunteers as needed

## 5–4 Weeks Out

- Recruit community speakers
- Design student activity stations
- Send family communications

## Week Of

- Final speaker confirmations
- Set up classrooms & stations
- Briefing for all staff

# Materials & Resources

## Student Materials

- Day 1 Theme: Exploring Careers – [Lesson Plans](#)
- Day 2 Theme: Discovering Me – [Lesson Plans](#)
- Day 3 Theme: Asking & Answering Questions (is a job-ready skill!) – [Lesson Plans](#)
- Day 4 Theme: Explore the Possibilities – Guest Speakers
- Day 5 Theme: Making Connections – [Lesson Plans](#)
- [Preschool Lesson Plan & Resources](#) - Week Long Activity

## Planner Resources

- 4-5 Weeks Out – Introduction letter, Guest Speaker Info, order banner
- 3-4 Weeks Out – Teacher Email, Guest Speaker Sign Up
- 2-3 Weeks Out – Internal processes – assembly slides, materials, room rotations
- 1-2 Weeks Out – Confirmation to Guest Speakers, Finalize schedule to share with staff, deliver materials
- Week of – TAKE PHOTOS
- [Event Planner Spreadsheet](#), [Schedule for Staff](#), [To-Do Checklist](#)

# Recruiting Guest Speakers

Start with your school community — parents, staff families

Aim for diversity: gender, background, career field

Request a 15-20-min presentation  
3-5 min intro + 10 min demo + 3-5 min Q&A

Provide a clear speaker guide with grade-level talking points

Follow up with handwritten thank-you notes



# Guest Speaker Day Tips & Tricks



Over-communicate with speakers —  
send 2 reminders



Have a backup plan for no-shows  
(video career profiles, staff member)



Keep rotations to 15 min for K–2 students



Teachers start the first rotation in their own  
classroom to help the speaker get setup



Capture photos/video for next year's recruiting



Debrief with staff same week while it's fresh



# FAQs

## → **How long are the daily lessons?**

- ◆ Daily lessons are meant to run about 30 minutes. Ultimately it is up to the teacher how much time you want to spend on them.

## → **When do we conduct the lessons during the day?**

- ◆ This is up to the teacher - whenever it fits best in your daily schedule, unless otherwise directed by your Admin.

## → **How do guest speaker rotations work?**

- ◆ A guest speaker will be assigned to each classroom. Students and teachers will move, speakers will stay put. A rotation schedule will be provided. There will be 4 rotations of about 15 minutes each, with transition time in between.

## → **Do you have lessons in Spanish?**

- ◆ All resources (except books) are translated in spanish. We are working on a more robust spanish curriculum for next school year.



### Dare to Dream Week Reflection

What is a dream you have for yourself?  
to become an engineer



What have you learned during Dare to Dream week (and all year)?

I thought I was realistic, artistic, social but this week I realize that I am not social I am investigative so ya like.

What do you like about using RIASEC?

I like using the RIASEC because it made me think about what I wanted to be want to grow up.

What is something you learned from a career speaker this year?

I learn that if you try hard on something you will get better.



### Dare to Dream Week Reflection

What is a dream you have for yourself?

I really like being outside and playing sports

What have you learned during Dare to Dream week (and all year)?

I learned that I can explore new things.

What do you like about using RIASEC?

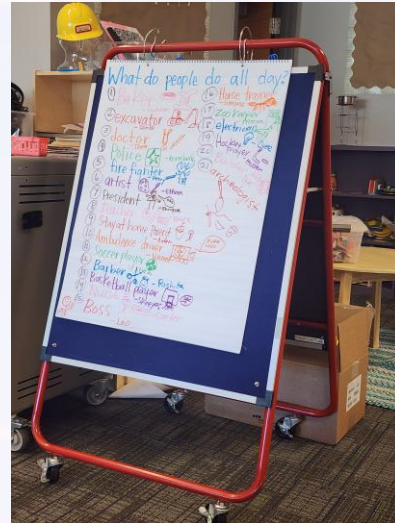
it's easier for people to know my personality.

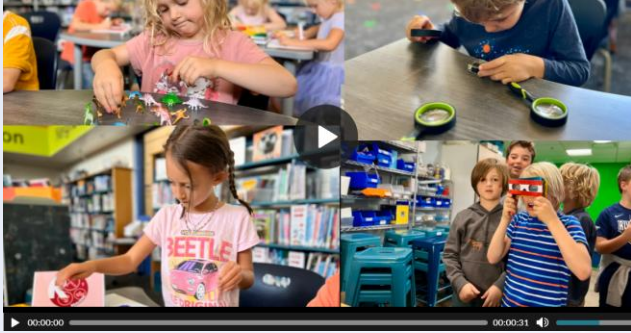
What is something you learned from a career speaker this year?

that their jobs can be easy and hard at the same time.



I could wear these shoes as a Principal. I like to work hard as a Principal.

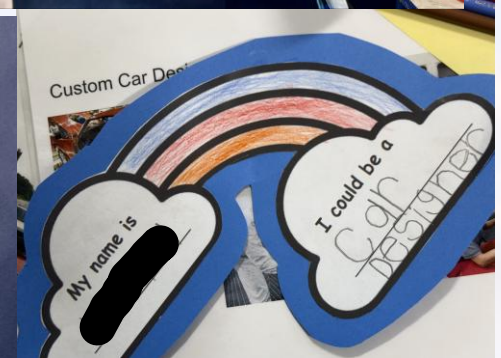




5<sup>th</sup> Grader describes their experience with RIASEC



Example 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Portfolio



ILC Activity

# The REAL Work...

Dare to Dream is a Brand – it Covers ALL Work-Based Learning activities in Pk-5

Dare to Dream Career Week, was founded with the intention of being a springboard for career-connected learning at the elementary level

D2D Career Week is intended to ignite excitement in the students that leads to passionate educators who want to continue this work

**Anyone can do activities, but that doesn't drive change.**

**What is at the HEART of these activities?**

**What is it that the students REALLY need out of education to be ready their futures?**

Systems - Common Career-Connected Vocabulary - RIASEC

Skill Development Progression

# Thank you!

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