



Meet Chris

Chris is interested in studying animals. He likes working with animals and people, and believes he would like to work in the veterinary field.

Elkhart Community Schools • Six Schools of Study
Example: School of Natural Resources

A life-long pet owner, Chris has always had an interest in animals. He remembers the first time he learned about animal science in his elementary classroom, as his class was incubating, hatching, and raising chicks. Inspired by the exercise and his love of animals, Chris has decided to make animals the focus of his future studies.

Throughout elementary school, Chris does well in science, especially anything related to animals and agriculture. He is a social student and instrumental in coordinating the largest Pet Refuge donation drive on record for his school.

In middle school, Chris begins to study potential career fields around his interests, including agriculture, animal science, and biology. Through his studies, he learns about the traits needed to succeed in these fields, as well as the schooling needed, opportunities for advancement, and possible incomes. He begins volunteering with a local animal shelter.

After examining career options, Chris determines that he wants to study animal science and seeks to study it in a way in which he can fulfill his goal of working in the veterinary field.

When Chris reaches the 10-12 grade campus, he decides to pursue his studies within the **School of Natural Resources**.

Here, Chris will experience curriculum that is taught to the required standards, but in a way that is meaningful to his passion and goals. What this may mean is that he will learn English standards through reading about animal behavior, for example. He will have a strong emphasis on hands-on learning labs. His electives may include psychology and sociology, where he will learn tools to help in his future career. Since he is learning the required standards at each grade level, if he decides to change between grade levels, he can transition to a different school of study. He'll have the safety of exploring while still in high school.

In addition to his traditional principal, counselor, and teachers, Chris will be supported by a business dean and a business advisory group who will ensure he is receiving an education that puts him ahead in his industry. This team will help Chris receive hands-on experience through job shadowing, internships, and work-study.

Throughout high school, Chris' teachers and counselors have encouraged him to follow his dream of working with animals at a veterinarian office. Upon completion of a successful work-study at a local vet's office, Chris is invited to join the team as a veterinary assistant.