



Meet Jake

Jake is interested in studying nature. Always up for a walk in the woods, Jake believes he would like to be a DNR conservation officer.

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

As an Eagle Scout and avid camper, Jake has always enjoyed the outdoors. Inspired by the world around him, Jake would like to see more people engaged in outdoor activities, and believes more should be done as a society to protect our natural resources.

Throughout elementary school, Jake does extremely well in science. He is active in baseball and Boy Scouts, and his favorite memories are class trips to Wellfield Botanic Gardens and Bonneyville Mills.

In middle school, Jake begins to study potential career fields around his interests, including environmental science, plant science, and law enforcement. 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 spending his weekends volunteering at the Elkhart Environmental Center.

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

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

Here, Jake 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 Math standards through studying the measurable impact of new plants in an environment, for example. He will have a strong emphasis on hands-on learning labs, and he will have the opportunity to participate in the summer Earth Science trip to Colorado and the Marine Biology trip to Maine. His electives may include criminal justice and communication, 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, Jake 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 Jake receive hands-on experience through job shadowing, internships, and work-study.

At the end of his high school career, Jake has explored a variety of careers related to environmental science and conservation. Backed by his experience in helping manage the environmental ecosystem at the ECS ACCELL Farm, Jake feels confident he wants to continue his education in pursuing a degree in Environmental Science.