

MIDDLE SCHOOL FCS EDUCATOR RECRUITMENT **LESSON PLAN**

Make Your Mark-Explore a Career in FCS Education

TIME: 1-2-3 CLASS PERIODS

Objectives:

- *Identify the goals of FCS.*
- *Identify the areas of study within the FCS discipline.*
- *List related careers.*
- *Determine the critical role of FCS teachers in carrying out the goals of FCS.*
- *Investigate the shortage of FCS teachers regionally, state, and nationally.*
- *Explore FCS education as a career pathway and potential for personal professional growth and development.*
- *Interconnect the STEM principles applied in FCS education.*

I. This lesson can be done as an introduction to a FCS class, career unit, or as a last review/summary activity with students.

Introduction:

- *Instruct the students to fold a plain sheet of notebook paper in half lengthwise.*
- *Have students write the capital letters for FCS vertically along the left side of their paper leaving approximately 1 inch of space beneath each letter. To the right of each letter, direct students to write a word for what each of the letters stands for.*
 - » *F (Family)*
 - » *A (and)*
 - » *C (Consumer)*
 - » *S (Sciences)*
- *With the exception of the word “and”, have students write a short definition of what each of the words mean. Share their thoughts with the rest of the class.*

SAY YES TO FCS!

Body of the Lesson:

- Share the official definition from AAFCS (American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences).

II. Prewrite the definition ahead of time so that all students can see. Be prepared to write additional thoughts or explanations on or near the document. This could be done with a transparency, newsprint, on a white board, or a PowerPoint slide.

AAFCS Definition of FCS/FCS-“Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) is the comprehensive body of skills, research, and knowledge that helps people make informed decisions about their well-being, relationships, and resources to achieve optimal quality of life. The field represents many areas, including human development, personal and family finance, housing and interior design, food science, nutrition, and wellness, textiles and apparel, and consumer issues.” - AAFCS

Teacher directed discussion questions:

- What are some words here that you don't know or understand? (Circle them for the students.)
- Ask the class if anyone would be willing to share their definitions or meanings of the words.

(Write the best, most understandable words/meanings/definitions by the words or phrases on the definition for all to see.)

III. Use the inquiry process with Socratic questioning to help students come to logical conclusions.

Possible questions to ask:

- What do you think this class is (or has been) about?
- How do the various areas of study help in your lives? (Students share examples.)
- How useful is the knowledge gained for your future? (Students share examples.)
- What issues/concerns are you facing as young adults where FCS can help? (Students share examples.)
- FCS is considered on applied science. What does that mean?

Look again at the definition of FCS. Have students work in pairs to list as many related careers as they can and write them on the right side of their paper. Share the ideas with the rest of the class. The teacher could write them on the board and add any new ones as the students share what they have come up with. (If students are missing areas, the teacher could give hints to make the list more complete depending on time.)



SAY YES TO FCS!

Many careers are related to FCS, the most primary is FCS education or teaching. When males and females, see the value of FCS in their lives, they need to think also about becoming a FCS teacher.

There is a severe shortage of FCS teachers in the state and nation. What might be some reasons for this? (i.e. - retirements, teachers moving into other related fields, going into business, or becoming entrepreneurs.)

Cite statistics on job outlook for the individual state or region or in the nation specific to your location. (These could be summarized for students on a handout or as an addition below the definition of FCS.)

IV. Summary: The BIG question! How would FCS teaching fit into your life? How can you “make your mark” in a positive way?

With many future needs for FCS teachers, you would be trained for a job/career waiting for you anywhere in the nation.

If you like the sciences, FCS might be for you. What areas of FCS include scientific approaches and study? (Include STEM or STEAM concepts in your responses. Pick several examples or expand on student responses to help students see the greater value of the profession and future career opportunities.)

Might you be able to “live your work and work your life” and have a positive influence on future students’ lives?

Draw a simple sketch of how FCS teaching could help you “make your mark” in life on the upper back side of the foldable activity.

Share your (the teacher’s) personal history including training and college education along with the benefits and value of the profession as a FCS teacher. Share your journey, opportunities, and successes within the field.

Assessment Strategies:

- *Complete and turn the in-class completed foldable activity started by the students in the introduction.*
- *Write a 5 sentence (minimum) essay on how FCS teaching could be an interesting and/or possible career for them. (This could be put on the lower backside of the foldable paper activity.)*
- *Research and give a brief report on any FCS career that began with a FCS teacher in a FCS classroom.*
- *Write how the work of the family and the work/job/career one does or has in life are similar.*