

HIGH SCHOOL FCS EDUCATOR RECRUITMENT **LESSON PLAN**

Make Your Mark-Aim for a Career in FCS Education

TIME: 1-2-3 CLASS PERIODS

Objectives:

- *Identify the goals and mission of FCS.*
- *List and define related careers.*
- *Determine the critical role of FCS teachers in carrying out the goals of FCS.*
- *Identify the areas of study within the FCS discipline.*
- *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.*

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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.

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

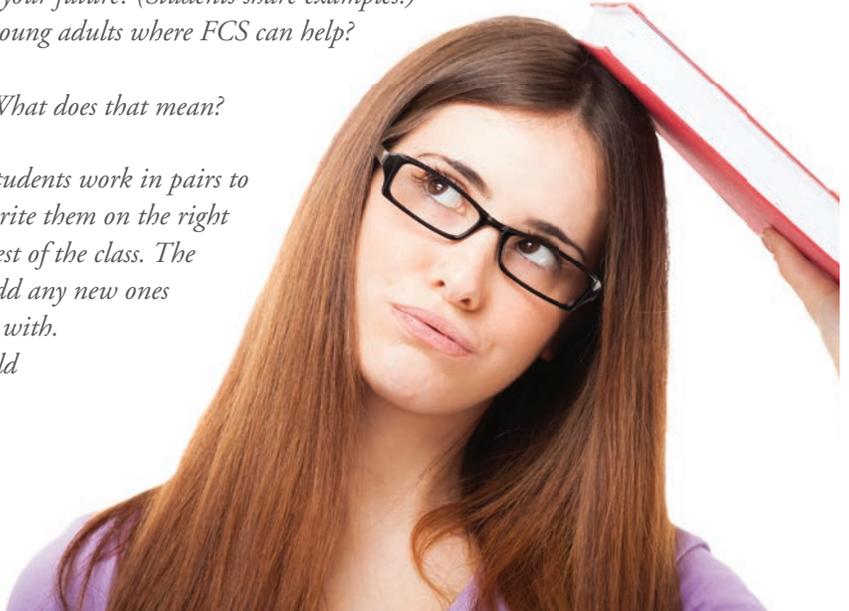
Use the inquiry process with Socratic questioning to help students come to logical conclusions.

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 an 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.)

Now let's look at the mission of FCS.



IV. Rewrite the mission of FCS education (NSAFCS 2008-2018) ahead of time so that all students can see it.

Mission of Family and Consumer Sciences Education (NSAFCS 2008-2018)

The mission of Family and Consumer Sciences Education is to prepare students for family life, work life, and careers in Family and Consumer Sciences by providing opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors needed for:

- » *Strengthening the well-being of individuals and families across the life span.*
- » *Becoming responsible citizens and leaders in family, community, and work settings.*
- » *Promoting optimal nutrition and wellness across the lifespan.*
- » *Managing resources to meet the material needs of individuals and families.*
- » *Balancing personal, home, family, and work lives.*
- » *Using critical and creative thinking skills to address problems in diverse family, community, and work environments.*
- » *Successful life management, employment, and careers development.*
- » *Functioning effectively as providers and consumers of goods and services.*
- » *Appreciating human worth and accepting responsibility for one's actions and success in family and work life.*

Teacher directed discussion questions:

- *Which of the nine items listed in the mission are a top priority for you personally now or in your immediate future? How or why are these important to you?*
- *If you were to become a FCS teacher, which of the items would be most valuable for you to teach or share with others/students?*
- *How might becoming a FCS teacher make your life easier?*
- *If you knew there was a severe shortage of FCS teachers and that many current graduates get several offers for jobs before even graduating from college, what benefits do you see for considering going into FCS teaching as a career? What might be some disadvantages?*



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- V. Prewrite the 16 FCS areas of study ahead of time so that all students can see. This could be done with a transparency, newsprint, on a white board, or a PowerPoint slide.

The 16 Family and Consumer Sciences Areas of Study include:

- *Career, Community, and Family Connections*
- *Consumer and Family Resources*
- *Consumer Services*
- *Education and Early Childhood*
- *Facilities Management and Maintenance*
- *Family*
- *Family and Community Services*
- *Food Production and Services*
- *Food Science, Dietetics, and Nutrition*
- *Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation*
- *Housing and Interior Design*
- *Human Development*
- *Interpersonal Relationships*
- *Nutrition and Wellness*
- *Parenting*
- *Textiles, Fashion, and Apparel*

Teacher directed questions:

- *Which of the areas listed are most familiar to you?*
- *Which of the areas need a description or an explanation of how they relate to FCS?*
- *What job titles fit into each of the areas? (Refer to the job titles listed on the foldable.)*
- *How do the areas of study fit the needs of individuals and young adults wanting relevant, meaningful work and family lives?*
- *Where might you as a working adult find value in a FCS career?*

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 and mission of FCS.)

VI. 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 two page essay on how FCS teaching could be an interesting and/or possible career for them.*
- *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.*

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Additional Activity Suggestions:

- *Research labor trends and job/career projections for FCS teachers at the middle, secondary, and post-secondary levels up through the year 2020.*
- *Research skills and training required to become a FCS teacher.*
- *Research the possible careers in one of the 16 FCS areas of study.*
- *Access a professional website for information on FCS teaching. (See resources below.)*
- *Develop an FCCLA related project on FCS education.*
- *Take an interest/ skills inventory to see how closely students match to the FCS teaching profession interests and skills.*
- *Job shadow a FCS teacher in another school or district.*
- *Write an essay of how and why they might enter a FCS teaching career.*

Resources:

- *American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS.org)*
- *Kappa Omicron Nu Honor Society*
- *National Association of State Administrators of Family and Consumer Sciences (NASAFCS.org)*
- *Phi Upsilon Omicron National Honor Society*
- *US Bureau of Labor Statistics.gov*