TOUR OF MANUFACTURING

2026

EDUCATOR PREPARATION GUIDE

FOR PARTICIPATING IN MANUFACTURING TOURS

Thank you for helping your students **explore** *the future of* **manufacturing.**

MMA
midwest manufacturers association

AMFA
Arrowhead Manufacturers & Fabricators Association

CMMA
Central Minnesota Manufacturers Association

LAKES AREA MANUFACTURERS ALLIANCE

MINN-DAK MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

tri-state MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

STUDENT PREPARATION GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

The Tour of Manufacturing gives students a unique opportunity to step inside real manufacturing facilities, meet professionals working in the industry, and see how modern technology and innovation shape the products we use every day.

Preparing Students for the Tour

Understanding Modern Manufacturing
Many students may picture manufacturing as outdated or repetitive work. Today's manufacturing environments are high-tech, innovative, and problem-solving focused.

Before the tour, help students understand that modern manufacturing includes:
• Robotics and automation
• Computer-controlled machines (CNC)
• Engineering and product design
• Quality testing and inspection
• Logistics and supply chain operations
• Advanced materials and technologies

Explain that manufacturing careers often combine technology, creativity, teamwork, and critical thinking.

Safety First

Safety is the top priority when hosting visitors in a manufacturing environment.

Required Safety Preparation
Determine if the following are needed for visitors:
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
• Safety glasses
• Hearing protection (ear plugs or ear muffs)
• High visibility vests
• Hard hats (if required in specific areas)
• Closed-toe shoes (required for all visitors)

Manufacturing facilities are active workplaces where safety is the highest priority. Students should understand that they are visitors in a professional environment.

What Students Will See During the Tour

Encourage students to notice how people and technology work together to create products used around the world.

Explore
• Automated machines producing parts
• Robots assisting with production tasks
• Engineers designing products
• Quality control labs testing materials
• Assembly and packaging operations
• Skilled technicians maintaining equipment

Career Questions
• What types of jobs are available here?
• What education or training do I need?
• What skills are important for these careers?
• Do employees receive training on the job?
• What classes in school help prepare someone for this work?

Workplace and Company Questions
• What does a typical workday look like?
• What do you enjoy most about your job?
• What challenges do you solve in your work?
• What products does this company make?
• Where are these products used?

Technology Questions
• What machines or technology are used here?
• How do robotics or automation help your work?
• What software or computer systems do employees use?
• Do you have to be experienced on computers or machinery?

Encouraging questions helps students better understand the applications of their education.

To get the most out of the experience, students should:
• Observe carefully and notice how different roles work together.
• Listen actively to employees and tour guides.
• Think about which parts of the process interest them most and skills they already have.

Classroom Discussion
• What surprised you most about the manufacturing facility?
• What technologies did you observe?
• What careers seemed most interesting to you?

Research Caereers
Encourage students to research careers such as:

• Machinists
• Welders
• Engineers
• Quality technicians
• Maintenance technicians
• Production supervisors

The Impact of Your Participation Will Impact Manufacturing Careers:

• Competitive wages
• Hands-on problem solving
• Opportunities for advancement

• High demand for skilled workers
• Paths through technical training, apprenticeships, or college degrees

Thank you for opening your doors and helping showcase the future of manufacturing.

Questions or Assistance
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