

# ROADS to SUCCESS

## Grade 8

### Newsletter

#### Careers in the Middle-School Years

**Roads to Success** is a new program designed to help middle and high school students prepare for their futures. This newsletter will keep you posted on what we're doing in school, and how families can follow through at home.

To find out more, visit [www.roadstosuccess.org](http://www.roadstosuccess.org)

#### Did you know?

Which of the following is most important to student success?

- 1) Money
- 2) Family background
- 3) High expectations

If you guessed #3, you're right. Giving your kids clear, positive messages about what you expect is key to their success.

We expect our kids to crawl before they walk and babble before they talk. Kids also go through stages as they figure out what careers they'd like to pursue.

Somewhere around middle school, students move from career fantasy (pro athlete, singer, actress) to more realistic view of work.

During this stage, they begin to compare what a career requires with what they're good at.

Don't panic if your student doesn't know what she wants to do after graduation! (This process isn't finished until early adulthood, and may be revisited throughout adult life.) There are many things families can do to support young people as they try to

figure out what career is right for them.



- Express concern for your teen's future. Remind students of the need for a high school degree and further training after high school. The mission is to help them prepare for a job they'll love.
- Encourage them to take challenging classes—courses that will allow college as an option or expand students' interests beyond their

current comfort zone.

- Share workplace stories. Talk about what you like about your job.
- Show them what's expected at work—from being on time to teamwork to respect. Draw connections between expectations at work and in other places—schools, sports, family.
- Help interpret the realities of work. Help your teen see workplace issues from another person's perspective.
- Make informal contacts for exploring job choices. Encourage your teen to talk to friends and family members about his/her career interests.

#### Grade by Grade

Do you like to build kitchen cabinets? Study space travel? Conduct a symphony orchestra? These questions and others like them are part of the Interest Profiler found at [RUReadyND.com](http://RUReadyND.com)

The answers provide clues to the kind of work your

son or daughter might be interested in.

The Interest Profiler isn't a fortune teller. And it's not a test. It's simply a place to get started—a guide to the many job possibilities that are out there.

Students take the Interest Profiler as part of their Roads to Success class. Family members can use it, too. Just create a parent account at [RUReadyND.com](http://RUReadyND.com).