

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.

For more info, visit www.roadstosuccess.org.

Did you know?

The most effective job-hunting methods involve person-to-person contact:

- Researching companies with informational interviews & follow-up.
- Calling companies listed in the phone book to find out if they're hiring for work you can do.
- Knocking on doors of companies that interest you.
- Asking people you for job leads.

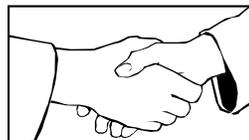
Source: "What Color Is Your Parachute?" author Richard Bolles, at www.jobhuntersbible.com

The Power of Networking

Teens can get a head start on their careers by talking to adults about their work experiences — their first jobs, what they loved, what they hated, how they got where they are today.

Neighbors, teachers and extended family members, friends from sports teams or religious organizations — all can be good sources of information. That's networking.

Networking is about building relationships that last for years. It's about giving help as well as accepting it. Young people may be uncertain about what they have to offer in exchange for job leads or advice. Here are some ideas:



Lend a hand.

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people. And it gives you a chance to show how hard-working and resourceful you are. Help with a neighborhood clean-up, organize a clothing drive, or share your computer skills.

Show enthusiasm.

Teens who are eager to learn can be a refreshing change from the "been there, done that" attitude of some more experienced workers.

Give somebody a chance to be a hero.

Most people like talking about their jobs and giving advice. People find it satisfying when a young person succeeds because of their help. Two rules of networking: #1: Let the person who helped you know how things turned out. #2: Say thanks.

Once your teen has his first job, remind him that this is his chance to show what he can do. Can his boss count on him? Does he do more than what's required? Being a good employee adds to the network of people willing to help him when it's time to move on.

Grade by Grade: Real-world Communication

Most teens use e-mail and many use instant messaging. This means plenty of opportunities to develop very unbusiness-like habits when it comes to using the Web!

In Grade 8, Roads to Success presents classes that focus on ways business communication is different from chatting with friends.

Some highlights:

- How to leave a phone message
- Appropriate screen names & e-mail etiquette
- How people you know can help you find work — and how you can help in return (networking)
- How to say thanks
- How to shake hands

- How to start a conversation and keep it going

Web Tip:

Online journals (such as blogs or personal web pages) can be found by people they were never intended for — such as family members or future employers. Caution teens that material meant to be private may be more public than they realize.