

# ROADS to SUCCESS

Grade 9

Careers

## Family Newsletter

### What Matters Most

**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.

**Did you know?** In a 2004 survey of 1,700 young professionals and students about to graduate from college:

3/4 said *how* they spend their time is more important than how much money they make.

Less than 1/3 were willing to sacrifice family time just to "get ahead."

Source:  
Northwestern Mutual  
Financial Network  
(www.nmfn.com)

How can we help kids make thoughtful career choices? Knowing the ins and outs of lots of different careers — the education required, working conditions, and day-to-day job duties — is half the picture. The other half is knowing yourself. This means sorting out likes and dislikes, skills and abilities, and personal values.

#### Discuss values.

In today's status-conscious world, it's easy for teens to get the wrong message: that fame and fortune are the only things worth reaching for. Ask families what they really want for their kids, and you're likely to hear something different. *I want her to be able to support herself. I want him to be happy.*

Talking to your kids about what's important to them is one way to help them find a career that fits.

#### Consider possibilities.

**Money:** do you want the best of everything, or is paying the bills enough?

**Friends & family:** Are they your first priority, or can you handle work that needs your attention 24/7 (or are you somewhere in between)?

**Security:** Do you need a job where your path is clear and your future is certain?

**Knowledge:** Do you want to learn new things?

**Independence:** Do you prefer to work alone or be part of a team?

**Recognition:** Do you need to be rewarded for good

performance (or at least hear somebody say "good job")?

**Creativity:** Do you like to find new ways of solving problems?

**Helping others:** Do you want to make the world a better place?

**Adventure:** Do you like to try new things and visit new places?

What if your teen shows an interest in a career that seems foolish or out of reach? **Don't say no.** Encourage her to get all the facts before deciding. Help her think through her choices, and keep the conversation going.

For more information, visit: **RUReadyND.com.**

### Grade by Grade: Personal Values



In ninth grade, Roads to Success students explore three different careers — one they choose, one that's in demand in their state, and one that matches their career type based

on what they like to do.

Students investigate careers to get information about job descriptions, earnings, and the type of education needed.

They also think about how their own values will play a part in their career choices.

Students may change career directions many times during their adult lives. But knowing what to consider when making career decisions will stick with them forever.