



Ramp-Up News

June 2017

For You:

Whew. You made it. Another year is coming to a close. I thank you wholeheartedly for your college and career readiness leadership. By leading Ramp-Up to Readiness, you have widened and diversified the pool of students who now believe college is a possibility and who are gaining the tools needed to get there. You have supported staff members who believe in the cause, and probably had to challenge some who do not yet believe in it. **Thank you!** Busting up traditions and mindsets is exhausting and exhilarating work all at the same time. I hope you find ways to rejuvenate over the summer!

For Staff:

The curriculum in grades 9 - 12 has been revised this past winter and spring and is ready for release. The high school curriculum has been improved in the following ways:

1. The pedagogy supporting the curriculum has been revised with the goal of increasing the intellectual quality of students' thinking, and thereby engaging students. The pedagogy focuses on higher order thinking skills, deep knowledge about key concepts, substantive conversation between teachers and students, as well as among students, and making connections to the world outside of the classroom.
 - a. Questions for class dialogue have often been rewritten for higher levels of Bloom's Taxonomy.
 - b. Instructional strategies have been designed to reflect a more interactive approach.
 - c. More worksheets have been included. The worksheets that have been added, however, require higher level thinking and/or student reflection on what is studied. The worksheets do not reinforce lower level thinking and concepts.
2. There are more digital options for learning and reinforcing content. For example, Quizizz learning games are now included in some Activities. At times options have been provided for 1:1 schools, as well as choices for those without such tech tools for students.
3. Greater attention has been given to postsecondary options other than two and

four-year schools. For example, there is a new Activity devoted to apprenticeships.

4. Some new content has been added, such as how to manage stress, the growing pay gap, using time productively, employability, the power of yet, and hopes for senior year.
5. Students are asked to do more self-reflection about the content to personalize it.
6. Newer, interesting videos have been incorporated.
7. Activities now reference far more colleges from around the country.
8. A greater focus on learning as a permanent orientation has been embedded across the curriculum, and a new Activity focuses on lifelong learning being a 21st Century imperative.
9. Newsela, an online news resource that provides current events articles at varied reading levels, is now utilized in several Activities.

All 2017-2018 curriculum is currently stored in Google Drive. The link to access the curriculum is the following: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B-D0aYi4dhsTeGJkRkFyTTROSUE>. Our tech team is working on the Ramp-Up website and the curriculum will eventually be posted there as well.

For Parents:

As the school year winds down, parents with students going off to postsecondary may appreciate some insights about the issues their child may face at college. Macalester College, in St. Paul, MN has provided an interesting article called “25 Challenges for Students and Their Parents” that addresses transition, academics, college life, relationships, and home and family issues. If you would like to pass it on to your families, the URL is: <https://www.macalester.edu/parents/tipsforsuccess/25challenges/>