

Ramp-Up News

September 2017

For You:

Excitement is in the air as yet another school year kicks off and brings great opportunities to make a difference in each student's life through college and career readiness. As a reminder, the Ramp-Up curriculum in grades 9 - 12 was overhauled and is ready for use. As a result, please be sure to discontinue use of any old Ramp-Up high school curriculum. The new 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/drive/folders/0B-D0aYi4dhsTeGJkRkFyTTROSUE?usp=sharing>

For Staff:

Social and emotional readiness is one of the Ramp-Up pillars for good reason. “Noncognitive factors,” such as mindsets, perseverance, behaviors, learning strategies, and social skills are strongly linked to academic performance, which in turn can predict positive life outcomes and help students become competent, caring adults. The evidence is becoming increasingly clear that noncognitive factors are not fixed traits that students do or do not have, and that we can teach them to students. A video, produced by the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research, provides an overview of noncognitive factors. This video is worth sharing with your staff so that they can fully understand the need for supporting students’ social and emotional readiness. The video can be found at:

https://vimeo.com/201720747?mc_cid=76029fb8e5&mc_eid=8df95ec1f6&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=https://vimeo.com/201720747&mc_cid=965a15cf33&mc_eid=1ef4c66b90

For Parents:

The costs associated with postsecondary education can be daunting. Consider sharing a website (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/resources/parents>) with parents at your school so that they can begin to think about how to pay for college. Topics addressed on this helpful site include how to save for college, what parents should know about financial aid, and what the application process is like.