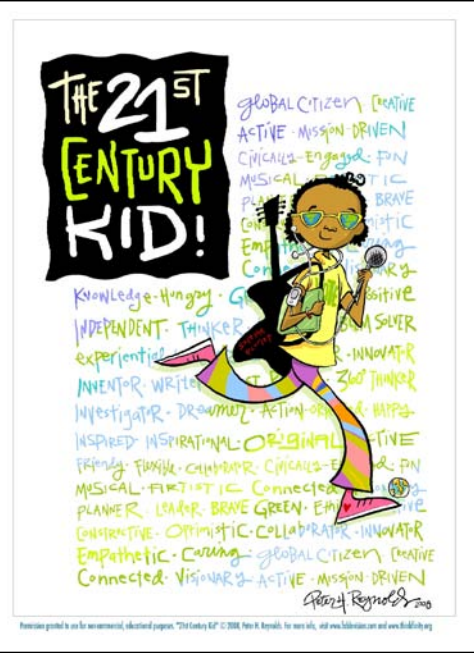




The 21st Century Learner and College/Career Readiness

What Parents Should Know:



- Today, a skilled workforce requires at least a high school diploma and some form of higher education.
- To succeed in the 21st century, students will need to perform to high standards and acquire mastery of rigorous core subject material.
- All students will need to gain the cognitive and social skills that enable them to deal with the complex challenges of our age.
- Considering the pressure of today’s global society; a college degree – whether from a university, community college or trade school – is an essential step for nearly everyone.

"Studies show children tend to get higher grades, have fewer behavioral problems, and hold higher aspirations – like going to college- when their parents are involved. These findings hold true across all family income levels and backgrounds." (How Parents Can Help, Aim4College)

What does a 21st Century Learner and Learning Environment Look Like?

21st Century Learner

- In order to succeed in work and life, the 21st Century learner should master the following skills and knowledge:
- Creativity and Innovation
 - Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
 - Communicating and Collaborating
 - Information, Communication, Technology, & Media Literacy
 - Flexibility and Adaptability
 - Initiative and Adaptability
 - Initiative and Self-Direction
 - Social and Cross-Cultural Skills
 - Productivity and Accountability
 - Leadership and Responsibility
 - Employment and Career Development

Learning Environment

- The environment for learning 21st Century skills is built upon:
- Relationships
 - Relevance
 - Rigor
 - Results
 - Responsive Culture

What does research say about the 21st Century Skills and College/Career Readiness?

- “We have shifted from a manufacturing based economy to a service based economy, which means brain power has replaced muscle power.” (Julie Cammorota, University of Arizona)
- In 1959, the workforce consisted of 25% professionals, 60% unskilled workers and 15% skilled workers. In 2000, the workforce consisted of 25% professionals, 15% unskilled workers, and 60% skilled workers. (*US Department of Labor and Statistics*)
- According to the Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce, a very high level of preparation in reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, science, technology, literature, history and the arts will be crucial for most members of the workforce.
- A recent survey of 400 employers across the United States cited professionalism/work ethic, oral/written communications, teamwork and collaboration, and critical thinking and problem solving as the most important skills recently hired graduates from high school and two and four year postsecondary institutions need.

What Families Can Do to Help Their Child Prepare for College/Career?

- Monitor your child’s progress – from pre-school through high school.
- Motivate your children to do well in school by raising expectations. All children want to succeed. You can motivate them by showing them organizational techniques, helping them establish relationships with their teachers, being available when they need help in school, making sure they have the resources they need.
- Communicate expectations for achievement and the value of education.
- Learn about college or career requirements so that you can help your child choose appropriate courses and activities that will enable him/her to meet these requirements.
- Know what financial aid is available for college or training and how to receive it.
- Understand the college application process, including required testing; various deadlines and what must be included on application forms.
- Use the counseling and guidance office at your child’s high school for assistance.
- Assist your child with career planning. Career planning is a complex lifelong process. From being a kindergartner, learning about the workplace to the career management of economic changes in jobs or employment; to the later years of choosing a retirement career or interest, one needs to think proactively about skills and knowledge needed.

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“Parents need to monitor their child’s progress from preschool through high school. Our system of education is like a pyramid. Success at each level, high school, college and beyond, depends on earlier preparation. Mediocrity at any stage will diminish possibilities for the next. A cracked foundation threatens the whole.”

William Burnett, The Educated Child