Beyond Cognitive Skills: ISAC’s Developmental Curriculum for Middle School Students’ Success

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ISAC
During the 2022-23 school year, GEAR UP reaches 14 pairs of middle and high schools primarily located in rural communities throughout Illinois.

- All middle schools are given the option to implement the GEAR UP Developmental Curriculum into 7th and 8th grade classes.
- Quarterly class or structured activities facilitated by trained staff.
Savitz-Romer and Bouffard suggest an adolescent developmental approach to college readiness and success.

They discuss five core developmental stages that are crucial for students: Envisioning, Believing, Aiming, Organizing, and Connecting.
READY, WILLING, AND ABLE – FIVE CORE STAGES

- Envisioning
- Believing
- Aiming
- Organizing
- Connecting
Here the goal is to develop self-awareness and form an identity consistent with postsecondary success.

The ILGU domain of Identity includes the Ready, Willing, and Able (RWA) stages of Envisioning and Believing.
We want students to learn the skills necessary to develop and successfully execute a plan for the desired postsecondary outcome.

The ILGU domain of Planning includes the RWA stages of Aiming and Organizing.
Self-Advocacy

Ideally, students will develop the skills necessary to persist through challenges and to build a strong and supportive social network that can guide a student to and through postsecondary education and into a successful career.

The ILGU domain of Self-Advocacy includes the RWA stage of Connecting.
ILGU is designed to provide students with guided exploration of relevant topics in a manner that is consistent with the developmental stage of each student.

This developmental work is intended to prepare students to more fully engage with the content areas of Illinois PaCE: Career Exploration, Postsecondary Preparation and Financial Literacy.
During 7th Grade a Student Should Be Supported To:

- **Engage** in guided self-reflection
- **Articulate** aspirations
- **Envision** a positive future

- **Explore** their habits
- **Create** or change a habit
- **Record** their progress
- **Explore** career interests

- **Explore** their strengths
- Effectively ask for help
- **Understand** a growth mindset
During 8th Grade a Student Should Be Supported To:

EXPLORE BARRIERS TO ASPIRATIONS
ARTICULATE PERSONAL STRENGTHS
IDENTIFY SOURCES OF MOTIVATION

EXPLORE CAREER INTERESTS
DEVELOP AN EDUCATIONAL PLAN FOR AT LEAST ONE CAREER INTEREST
COMPARE POSSIBLE FINANCIAL FUTURES
COMPLETE A CAREER CLUSTER SURVEY
ATTEND A CAREER EXPLORATION DAY

DEMONSTRATE A GROWTH MIND SET
EXPLORE LEARNING STYLES
MAP A SUPPORT NETWORK
COMPLETE A UNIT ON EDUCATION PLANNING
During 8th Grade a Student Should Be Exposed To:

THE CONCEPT OF CAREER CLUSTERS OF INTEREST

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMUNITY SERVICE/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND POSTSECONDARY/CAREER GOALS

A FINANCIAL LITERACY UNIT IN A COURSE OR WORKSHOP
7th Grade – Aspiration

• Engage in Guided Self-Reflection

**WHO AM I?**

**My Identity**

Make a list of the things you think are most important in making you the person you are today.

[ ]
[ ]
[ ]
[ ]
[ ]
[ ]
[ ]
[ ]
[ ]
[ ]

Then, use the pie chart to show how much you think each item on your list impacts who you are today.

Name ___________________________ Date _____________
7th Grade – Planning

- Explore Habits
- Create or Change a Habit

**WHAT’S YOUR MARSHMALLOW?**

- Students watch the TED Talk “Don’t Eat the Marshmallow”
- They list and name their own temptations that often lead to procrastination, distraction, and keeping them from completing tasks
- The activity is intended to address issues with self regulation and introduce the concept and benefits of delaying gratification.
7th Grade – Self-Advocacy
• Understand a Growth Mindset

WHO’S IN CHARGE HERE?

HELLO
my name is

Look closely. Your pre-frontal cortex is your driver. This not yet fully developed part of your brain calls all of the shots. Some decisions are great. Some decisions are ok. And sometimes you (or those around you) might feel like there’s a maniac out of control at the wheel. Who is this driver? Select a name for this chauffeur you’re riding with for the next several years.
Where I’m From
By George Ella Lyon

I am from clothespins, from Clorox and carbon-tetrachloride.
I am from the dirt under the back porch.
(Black, glistening it tasted like beets.)
I am from the forsythia bush, the Dutch elm
whose long gone limbs I remember as if they were my own.

Where I’m From
I’m from hot sunny weather, from stormy nights and foggy mornings. I’m from small home but great assets. The guinea pig and hamster make the only noise when no one is home and the house is alone.
8th Grade – Claim Your Future
• Explore Career Interests
• Compare Possible Financial Futures
8th Grade – Planning
• Understand the Concept of Career Clusters
• Complete a Career Cluster Survey
8th Grade – Financial Literacy

• Be Exposed to a Financial Literacy Unit in a Course or Workshop

Materials:

Money Minded Illinois Curriculum - Attached and available at https://illinoistreasurer.gov/Financial_Education/Overview/Middle_School_Resources

Lesson 1 - Employment, Minimum Wage, Online Banking
Lesson 2 - Human Capital, Standard of Living, Investing in Self
Lesson 3 - Interest Rates, Stocks, Shareholders, Investing
Lesson 4 - Insurance, Identity Protection, Saving for College and Retirement
Lesson 5 - Budgeting, Wants vs. Needs, Taxes
Lesson 6 - Managing Credit Cards, Credit Scores, Impact of Bad Credit
8th Grade – Self-Advocacy

• Demonstrate a Growth Mindset
• Map a Support Network

From: Nick Brown
Sent: Friday, July 5, 2019 4:33 PM
To: Principal_jones@ilgu.org

Subject: Help With Homework and classes

Dear Principal Jones

It’s me, Nick Brown. Can you help me out? I am not doing so well in my classes and I really want to do better but I can’t seem to do it. I never get my homework all done, and even without doing all of my assignments, I’m up really late trying. But then I get tired and frustrated and give up. Then in class everyday I’m super tired and it is hard for me to pay attention. Some of my classes are so boring I don’t know how to keep myself awake. I get lost in class and then the tests seem so hard. I feel like everything is out of control and my parents are so upset with me that I’m grounded all the time. I hate even going to school anymore. I wouldn’t go at all except that it’s the only time I get to see my friends. What can I do?

Nick
Thank You