The Students of Metuchen Public Schools District will be prepared to make successful transitions from Metuchen Public Schools to post-secondary life and careers with connections between their academic experience and their career paths. They will explore their strengths, interests, and values as they gain not only content knowledge but also social emotional skills, self-regulation, communication, collaboration, and time management. Students will graduate with the skills necessary to set and achieve both academic, personal, and professional goals as they progress from career awareness, to exploration, to planning.

By the end of grade 12, students will have met the 21st Century Life and Careers Standard of Career Awareness, Exploration, and Preparation as well as the NJDOE's Career Ready Practices through a variety of activities completed throughout the years with classroom teachers and school counselors.

Grade	Themes	Sample Activities/Lessons	21st Century Life and Careers Standard 9.2 Career Awareness, Exploration, and Preparation (Grades K-4)
K	All about me Cooperation Values- grit/ perseverance Self-regulation NJ SEL Competency – Self-management NJ SEL Competency – Social Awareness	• Developing Self-Regulation in Kindergarten • Identify likes and dislikes • Identify skills needed to work cooperatively with others	9.2.4.A.1 Identify reasons why people work, different types of work, and how work can help a person achieve personal and professional goals. 9.2.4.A.2 Identify various life roles and civic and work-related activities in the school, home, and community. 9.2.4.A.3 Investigate both traditional and nontraditional careers and relate information to personal likes and dislikes. 9.2.4.A.4 Explain why knowledge and skills acquired in the elementary grades lay the foundation for future academic and career success.
1	My strengths and skills Values- grit/ perseverance NJ SEL Competency – Self-management NJ SEL Competency – Self Awareness	• Identify strengths and interests • Identify personal skills and work habits needed for school success (responsible, polite, good listener, good communicator etc.) • Classroom jobs • Parents sharing information about their careers	
2	Personal job skills Making Connections NJ SEL Competency – Responsible Decision Making	• Why do people need good work habits? • What are good work habits? • Job applications for classroom jobs- What job is best for me? (Problem Solving Steps) • Compare skills, roles, and responsibilities of jobs in school and their community. • Connect academic skills to career paths? • What is work, a role, and responsibility? • Why do people work? • Identify workers in school and families	

3	Investigating careers and skills for success NJ SEL Competency- Self Management	• Goal setting • Gather information regarding training and education needed for a variety of careers • Identify and explore personal, ethical, and work habits (organization, time management, communication)	
4	Working together Exploring career paths Careers in the community NJ SEL Competency- Relationship Skills	• Personal and ethical skills needed to work in groups • What communication skills are needed to work with others? • Explore interests, talents, strengths, and set goals for the future. • Identify personal and educational interests and strengths similar to a community worker. • How does education prepare us for future jobs and careers?	
5	Goal Setting Identify talents Learning styles Self-regulation NJ SEL Competency- Self Management	• Using Naviance for goal setting as well as completing Strengths Explorer and Learning Style Inventory • Goal Setting • Lessons on Self-Regulation from College & Career Competency Framework	**21st Century Life and Careers Standard 9.2 Career Awareness, Exploration, and Preparation (Grades 5-8)** 9.2.8.B.1 Research careers within the 16 Career Clusters® and determine attributes of career success. 9.2.8.B.2 Develop a Personalized Student Learning Plan with the assistance of an adult mentor that includes information about career areas of interest, goals and an educational plan.
6	Explore and identify career cluster Evaluating one's personal, ethical, academic, and work habits NJ SEL Competency- Self Awareness	• Explore career clusters and complete cluster finder on Naviance • What are ethics? How does who I am relate to employability? • Identify work habits that contribute to success • Goal Setting • Values-What's important to me in a career?	9.2.8.B.3 Evaluate communication, collaboration, and leadership skills that can be developed through school, home, work, and extracurricular activities for use in a career. 9.2.8.B.4 Evaluate how traditional and nontraditional careers have evolved regionally, nationally, and globally.
7	Making connections between personality, interests, and skills in careers NJ SEL Competency- Self- Management	• Explore careers based on Cluster finder completed on Naviance • Complete job applications using job seeking skills • Identify skills needed for interviewing for a job • Research careers in the cluster that matches their assessments on Naviance • Career Key on Naviance- Inventory based on Holland's Theory of Career Choice • Discover strengths using Strengths Explorer on Naviance • Goal Setting	9.2.8.B.5 Analyze labor market trends using state and federal labor market information and other resources available online. 9.2.8.B.6 Demonstrate understanding of the necessary preparation and legal requirements to enter the workforce. 9.2.8.B.7 Evaluate the impact of online activities and social media on employer decisions.

8	Planning for high school and beyond NJ SEL Competency- Responsible Decision Making	• Goal Setting • Introduction to HS Program of Studies • Create plans of study for high school • Road Trip Nation on Naviance • Social Media and its impact on employer decisions	
9-12	Putting it All Together! NJ SEL Competency- Self Awareness NJ SEL Competency- Self-Management NJ SEL Competency-Responsible Decision-Making	• Goal Setting and lifelong learning (personal, academic, and career goals) • Course Planning • Complete resume on Naviance throughout the four years. • MI Advantage assessment (Multiple Intelligences) • Explore training/ educational requirements, job outlook, and average salary for interested career • Complete Do What You Are (personality inventory) • Career Interest Profiler • "Questions Every Student Should be Able to Answer Before They Graduate" • College Research grades 11-12 using the research process • College Planning • Financial Aid program	**21st Century Life and Careers Standard 9.2 Career Awareness, Exploration, and Preparation (Grades 9-12)** 9.2.12.C.1 Review career goals and determine steps necessary for attainment. 9.2.12.C.2 Modify Personalized Student Learning Plans to support declared career goals. 9.2.12.C.3 Identify transferable career skills and design alternate career plans. 9.2.12.C.4 Analyze how economic conditions and societal changes influence employment trends and future education. 9.2.12.C.5 Research career opportunities in the United States and abroad that require knowledge of world languages and diverse cultures. 9.2.12.C.6 Investigate entrepreneurship opportunities as options for career planning and identify the knowledge, skills, abilities, and resources required for owning and managing a business. 9.2.12.C.7 Examine the professional, legal, and ethical responsibilities for both employers and employees in the global workplace. 9.2.12.C.8 Assess the impact of litigation and court decisions on employment laws and practices. 9.2.12.C.9 Analyze the correlation between personal and financial behavior and employability.