

Spring Street Link

December 5, 2016

I recently received the summary below of an article, *Globally Ready*, which appeared in *Educational Leadership*, December 2016/January 2017. The summary, by Kim Marshall of *The Marshall Memo*, describes characteristics of a 21st-century workforce and how this may relate to the educational experience our children need to participate in to be prepared for success in the 21st century. I thought this summary was interesting and speaks directly to the role that schools and families have in ensuring our students are best prepared to find success in this century. I hope that you find this summary informative and thought provoking and will contribute to developing a better understanding of the skills, knowledge, and characteristics that our students will be required to demonstrate throughout their education and career.

How Can We Prepare Students for the 21st-Century Economy?

(Originally titled "Globally Ready" by Marc Tucker in *Educational Leadership*, December 2016/January 2017 (Vol.74, #4, p. 30-36), summarized by Kim Marshall, *Marshall Memo #663*, November 28, 2016)

In this article in *Educational Leadership*, Marc Tucker (National Center on Education and the Economy) says that globalization, automation, and the improved skills of workers in other countries are transforming the U.S. economy. As Brynjolfsson and McAfee said in a 2014 article, "There's never been a better time to be a worker with special skills or the right education, because these people can use technology to create and capture value. However, there's never been a worse time to be a worker with only the 'ordinary' skills and abilities to offer, because computers, robots, and other digital technologies are acquiring these skills and abilities at an extraordinary rate."

In addition to education and technical skills, global-ready graduates must have the ability to:

- Learn new things;
- Relate to a constantly changing array of people from different backgrounds and with different views and skills;
- Work independently with great focus and within tight timelines;
- Make sound judgments on the fly;
- Be trustworthy and ethical;
- Do the creative and imaginative work that machines can't do.

What does this mean for K-12 schools? Tucker offers some suggestions for preparing global-ready graduates:

- *Focus on continuous, deep learning.* "It's simply not true that the profusion of knowledge in recent years makes accumulation of knowledge unnecessary," he says. "Being able to analyze and synthesize will require students to know a lot about the material they're analyzing and synthesizing."

- *Integrate academic and technical learning.* We should abandon the old dichotomy between bookish and practical education, says Tucker: "The curriculum that students need must create a constant interplay between academics and application; problems that arise in the course of application give rise to the questions addressed in the academics, and the constructs learned in the academics are explored in application." But it must go deeper than some current project-based learning that doesn't go beyond what students can find on Wikipedia.

- *Develop ethics.* Beyond academic and technical skills, students need to build “a full range of qualities, many of which are related to character,” says Tucker. “Schools should create experiences for students in and out of school that will enable them to develop the full range of habits, values, ethical commitments, skills, and knowledge they need.” In the schools of the future, he says, sports teams will be no less important than math classes, a week on a wild river with ten classmates no less important than literature, and apprenticing in a manufacturing facility no less important than AP physics. And a faculty member will “be responsible for the development of each student in a process owned by the entire faculty.” Students need to be able to do the right thing when no one is watching, be strong contributors to a team, and experience leadership first hand. These used to be the skills for the elite, says Tucker. “But now, given the skills we need, we must treat all students as elites.”

- *Cultural competence.* Does this include being fluent in foreign languages? Tucker thinks not. “[A] large portion of the world’s professionals now speak English,” he says. “More to the point, you may work for an employer who assigns you to work in another country. However, you have no way of knowing which country that will be when you’re in school, and the likelihood that the language you choose to study will be the language you need is small indeed. You’ll usually find that your employer will be more than willing to pay for you to learn the language you’ll need.” What’s far more important, he believes, is that Americans understand the perspectives of different people. “Whether our future graduates will be selling to people in other countries, buying from them, building teams with them, or simply voting on issues that arise from our conflicts and alliances with other countries, it’s essential that we Americans know much more than we currently do about people whose cultures are different from our own.”

REMINDER - Early Release Day Tomorrow

Please be reminded that all Shrewsbury Public Schools are following an early release schedule on Tuesday, December 6, so that faculty may participate in professional development. Dismissal will begin at 12:15. Lunch will not be served tomorrow.

Holiday Scrip Orders - 12/6 and 12/13

Two more orders will be placed for Holiday gift cards through the Scrip program. Please have orders in by Tuesday 12/6 or 12/13 for your gift cards to be received by the Holidays. Gift Cards will go home in the Monday folders the following week (12/6 orders will receive gift cards on 12/12; and orders placed on 12/13 will receive gift cards on 12/19). Buying gift cards through the Scrip program helps our school - thank you for your continued support. Any questions please email springstscrip@gmail.com or jghidella@townisp.com.

Mixed Bags Design Orders Are In!

Our fall catalog Mixed Bags Design orders have arrived. They will be sorted and ready for pickup by Tuesday December 6th after 12pm. The orders will be in the main hallway and sorted by grade. Please stop by and pick up your merchandise. Thank you for your support!

Winter Craft Night a Success!

Thank you to everyone who attended this years Winter Craft Night! It was a night full of festive fun and creativity! A warm thank you to the many people (kids, parents, teachers) who volunteered their time to make this event so successful. An extra special and heartfelt “thank you” goes to Jenny Ghidella - without her hard work, dedication and super creativity, this event would not have taken place.

2-Ovens Dine Out Day is Tomorrow

Hope you can join us for our first early release Dine out day at 2 Ovens! Bring the kids out to lunch, take a night off from cooking or simply order take out! Just bring the coupon your child brought home today and 2-Ovens will donate 15% of your total purchase to our PTO!

From previous links:

Ski/Snowboard Lessons at Ski Ward

Thinking of registering your child for ski or snowboard lessons this year at Ski Ward? Ski Ward has offered to donate 5% of the proceeds of the lessons it gives to Spring Street School students to the Spring Street School PTO. Attached is the lesson information. If you decide to have your child take lessons at Ski Ward, all you need to do is select Spring Street School as an affiliation and the PTO will receive 5% of the lesson money back at the end of the winter season. A great way to support a local business and your PTO at the same time!

Kindergarten 2017-2018

If you have a child that will be eligible to attend kindergarten in the fall of 2017 (must be 5 years old by August 31, 2017), please send an email to Diane Abbott, our Registrar with your child's information so she can check that your child is on the incoming kindergarten database. Her email address is dabbott@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us
Information required:

Student First Name

Student Last Name

Date of Birth

Gender

Address

Phone Number

Parent's Name

Parent's Email Address

Name of preschool child is attending (if applicable)

For more information, please visit our website: <http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov>, click on Student Registration, click on Kindergarten Information 2017-2018.

Volunteering Requirement-CORI Checks

Anyone volunteering at our school must participate in the Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check before volunteering. Volunteering includes classroom volunteering, field trips, field day, etc. Once a CORI check has been completed, your 'CORI' is valid for 3 years. CORI checks are applicable to any volunteering in the Shrewsbury Public Schools. Unfortunately, CORIs completed elsewhere are not valid for Shrewsbury Public Schools. This link can be used to access the form. Please return the completed form in person to Mrs. Judith Adair, our secretary, with your license for the CORI to begin being processed. Please allow for at least 2 weeks for CORI checks to be completed before participating in any volunteer activities at our school. Volunteers without a completed and processed CORI will be unable to volunteer until the process is complete. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

<http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/district/documents/coriform.pdf>

Important Dates

Tuesday, December 6, Early-Release Day, 12:15 Dismissal, Professional Development

December 6, 2 Ovens Pizza Dine Out Fundraiser

December 26-January 2, December Vacation

January 11, Dine Out Fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings

Monday, January 16, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, No School

Tuesday, January 17, PTO Meeting, 7:00-8:00pm

Thursday, January 19, Grade 4 Chorus Concert, 7:00pm

Thursday, January 19, Sky Zone Night

Friday, February 3, Movie Night at SSS, 6:00pm

Tuesday, February 7, Early-Release Day, 12:15 Dismissal, Professional Development

February 20-24, President's Day/Winter Vacation

Have a good week.

Bryan Mabie