Family Conversation Guide

As a GEAR UP student, your child will participate in lessons about the **FACES of GEAR UP** every year. We believe that students need to develop skills in these five areas to be ready for a happy and successful adult life. These lessons help ensure students are:

F - Financially Ready
A - Academically Prepared
C - Contextually Aware
E - Emotionally Resilient
S - Socially Connected

Each year, the lessons will help students learn about what they need to do NOW to be ready for college and career when they graduate. **Use the guide below to connect with your student about a lesson they had to help them become academically prepared for adulthood.**



From Here to Career

Connecting School, Experiences & Goals to Future Careers



What Did They Learn?

Explore Career Pathways
Students explored different careers and learned about **Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways.**

Connect School to Careers
Students looked at school courses and how those classes can be useful in future careers. They talked about how **even classes they may not love can help them build skills for the future**.

Think About the Future
Students thought about possible future careers. In middle school, the goal is not to choose a career right now, but to be curious about possibilities and learn about opportunities..

Take Small Steps with Goals
Students learned how **goals can help break a big dream into smaller, do-able steps**.

Talk About It At Home

Try one of these questions with your 7th grader:

- **What career or type of work sounds interesting to you right now?**
- **What are you good at that could be useful in a future career?**
- **Did you learn about a career that surprised or interested you?**

Try This At Home

The Career Connection Challenge
Careers are all around us! Choose 2–3 adults your family knows and talk about their jobs or careers. Ask these questions for each person.

- **What do they do?**
- **What skills do they use?**
- **What school subjects might have helped them?**

Family Takeaway

Encourage your child to **stay curious and take small steps toward the future**. Every school class and life experience can help them discover what interests them in the long term.