

UP for Learning presents

MASTERMIND GUIDES

DRIVING YOUR LEARNING 2018/19



Empower youth to drive their learning by building their understanding of how the brain processes information, effective brain-based learning and study skills in time for mid-year exams.

Mastermind Guides are high school youth who are the messengers for this information at a faculty meeting and over the course of three advisory sessions, building the student body's confidence and competence as high school learners and their capacity for independent, lifelong learning.

The work begins with exploring how the brain learns, highlighting the role of self-concept on learning and helping students develop a visual image of how their brain works when they are taking in information. This includes the role of our sensory register and its sensitivity to our belief in our ability to learn, as well as the role and purpose of short- and long-term memory and strategies to embed learning.

However, it is not enough to be more aware of how the brain learns; we also need to be able to act on this knowledge to become empowered as learners. Thus, participants are introduced to proven effective learning strategies, some that might even seem counter to what is familiar or comfortable!

Understanding how, why and when our brain learns empowers all learners to reach their full potential.

The details

Youth guides and their adult partners will attend a one-day training on October 12 where they will experience the three sessions they will be facilitating, including practicing the first session with structured feedback. They will return to school to lead a meeting with the advisory faculty, sharing the content of the three sessions and asking that these strategies be utilized on a regular basis. The support and partnership of all advisory faculty is key to the success of this effort, including reviewing the upcoming advisory curriculum content in advance of each session. Their three advisory peer-to-peer sessions are then implemented, as a lead-up to mid-year exams, ensuring that the content is highly relevant and immediately applicable to students' lives.

Mastermind Guides will require weekly support from adult partners to fully master the content of these sessions, adapt them to their own style, thoroughly prepare for sessions with their youth co-facilitator and debrief before moving to the next session. Consistently provided scaffolding is critical to the success of this initiative; full faculty support is also key.

Mastermind Guides Adult Partner Roles

- Recruit students and prepare them for the training workshop
- Coordinate the advisory time for the three sessions
- Help youth prepare and lead an hour-long meeting for the advisors of the advisories they are facilitating

- Provide ongoing support for the guides' preparation and debriefing for three advisory sessions
- Celebrate at the conclusion (!)
- Reflect upon and document the process

Adults' commitment to this effort is honored with 15 hours of professional development. Involvement includes an invitation* to a December 12 day-long workshop with Bill Rich, an expert in utilizing brain-based best practices in the classroom.

Mastermind Guides Youth Roles

- Attend a full day training
- Lead an hour-long meeting for the advisors of the advisories they are facilitating
- Participate in meetings to prepare for and debrief three advisory sessions
- Facilitate three advisory sessions as a peer teacher
- Reflect upon their experience

Youth are encouraged to integrate this work into their Personalized Learning Plan and/or secure independent study credit for this effort.

UP for Learning will provide:

- Curriculum for three advisory sessions
- A template for an engaging faculty meeting agenda
- Training day including lunch
- Follow-up support

Logistics

Date: High school team training: Friday, October 12, 2018.

Location: TBD

Cost: \$800 for a team of up to 10, or 5 advisories (this is a reduced fee thanks to a generous matching grant from the Vermont Department of Health). If your team exceeds this number, an on-site training may be arranged.

*The Bill Rich training will have a separate cost.

For more info, contact: Bruce G. Perlow at bruce@upforlearning.org

Note: The Mastermind Guides initiative is one option in the M3: Mindset, Metacognition & Motivation initiative, focused on building students' understanding of how their brains learn and effective learning concepts, while engaging them as peer-to-peer guides.



Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning

