

# Newsletter - 2019

REALITY TOWN<sup>®</sup>

## WHAT'S NEW?

We here at R.E.A.L. Curriculum, creators of the Reality Town Curriculum, worked hard this summer to finish the update we started last year. Last January we rolled out a new logo and update. This summer we added 3 more businesses to the update and continued work on changing our new logo. Those of you who ordered the update, or a new kit last year will receive the additional business instructions with your handbook orders this year.

We haven't up-dated for 4 years, so this is one of our larger up- dates. We updated 15 of our 24 businesses. The update also includes a Flash Drive with some Presentation updates.

We also decided it was time to create a new fresh look to our logo and game materials (spinner boards, card sets). These materials were also updated using our new logo but are not part of the update package.



## NEW LOGO

We are rolling out a new logo as you can see from our newsletter. This new logo has been added to our business update and the 2019 Student Handbooks.

We have printed a few of the updates using the old logo so that they will match your exiting kits. These are limited so please order early if you don't want a mixture of businesses with the old and new logo.

If your Business Instruction sets are getting old or you just want a new uniformed look, we also offer a set of all the businesses. These sets also include the Flash Drive.

## THE 2019 UPDATE CHANGES?

Added new cars and deleted some. We update the prices of our houses, and cars. That affected all the businesses associated with those businesses (Car Insurance, Utilities, and Property Taxes). Personal Care and Entertainment prices had not been updated in a while, so they were updated. The cost of food has increased, and we have more services added like food delivery packages and on-line ordering and pick-up. Health Insurance has changed again since we last updated. We added and deleted to the communication business as we have some new items and deleting some old in this everchanging technology era.

**2019 Update includes:** 3-4 laminated business instruction for each business

- Child Care
- Communications
- Groceries
- Entertainment
- Housing
- Health & Dental
- Car Insurance
- Military Recruitment
- Personal Care
- Property Taxes
- Transportation
- 2nd Jobs Lists
- Utilities
- Life Insurance
- Investments
- Flash Drive (includes updated presentations)



## CAREER LIST

We have a new career list which should have been included with this email. Please contact us by email if you did not receive a copy.

Some of the changes you might notice are that the list is a little shorter. We have combined some of the careers (mechanic includes truck, cars and planes). With regards to doctors & surgeons our research showed that the average 30-year-old would only be

in their 1st or 2nd year of residency and has not started to specialize. Resident doctors make substantially less. Doctor salaries do not jump until they have finished their residence, however they are expected to start paying back their student loans as a resident. Since the average student loan to become a doctor is around \$200,000 with a monthly payment of around \$1,600 on those loans, we have put all doctors in Reality Town on an “Income driven” payment plan. Meaning that as they make more money their monthly loan payment will increase. Their loan payments will be between \$350 and \$400 a month. This is a REAL student loan for medical students.

We have also eliminated a few jobs that most students wouldn't be qualified to do at age 30. Hospital & College Administrators, Head coaches in college, a pilot captain.

We adjusted salaries on other jobs where a 30 year old would be working in a smaller market to get experience and “hone” their skills and therefore would not be paid as much as they would in a larger market – in the past we

because of the time-consuming nature of the research you may be charged \$5 for each additional job.

## **REALITY TOWN VARIATION**

### **Idea for using Reality Town with Older Students**

Last year I was asked by the high school where I teach to run Reality Town for our Jr. class with the emphasis of getting more students to be more serious about their “after high school plan”. I approached this idea with much skepticism as we already run Reality Town at our middle schools, so I was surprised at how well this worked. We adapted some things as our goal was different for our Juniors. We didn't emphasis the budgeting but rather what is a living wage and what do you need to do to get to that wage. I have shared what we did with you on our website – under our “quick Links” the information is titled “Reality Town Variation “

## **HOW TO SUBMIT STUDENT JOB INFORMATION:**

We haven't changed anything here. This is just a brief summary in case you need a quick refresher.

We have two ways for submitting student job information:

**Spreadsheet** – have students complete a job application and then you put their name and job choice in a

had used the averages of the larger markets. Some of these jobs include a radio or TV announcer, city administrator or an editor.

We have also eliminated some of the jobs which would be considered part-time or seasonal and would not pay enough income to live on for the full year.

In our research for this update we found that less than 1% of 30-year old's make over \$70,000 per year. Our job list now reflects that so that students experience more of “reality” and not an inflated idea of how much money they will make.

We hope this will help more students choose careers that they are interested in and not just the high paying jobs.

We are also offering a shorter career list with just the most popular jobs. Email us if you would like a copy of that list. Our On-line submit forms will still contain the longer list. You are still welcome to submit a job that is not on our list or was on our lists in the past. We have limited this service to 3 per school for no cost, more than that

spreadsheet and submit it to us through email. *PDF Job applications are available at [realitytown.com](http://realitytown.com)*

**Time saver** – use the “Pay Stub Template”. Copy and paste your student list into the spreadsheet. The jobs are in a drop-down menu so that you if you start to type the job it will appear for you to click on. This template is found under “Recourses” and then under “Quick Links” This template uses Excel.

**On-Line form** - We have 2 forms for submitting on-line student job requests. Both work the same. This is an on-line service that we provide for the low cost of \$24.95. Let us know when you plan to have your students submit.

If you are using our on-line submission form, we have provided the following information so you can make sure it is not blocked by your school

## **ON-LINE SUBMIT WEBSITE INFORMATION:**

Realitytownsubmit.com – this form is run on “joomla”

Realitytown.com - On-Line Form is found on under “Resources” on the righthand side quick links. This site is ran using Wordpress.

We are finding that Chromebooks at some schools are experience problems – but not all schools

Please let us know if you have problem so that we can help you find another method of submitting.