

# I. Gaming Pathways

*a theme song*

MEGA RAN

*In the spring of 2022, each event for the Gaming Pathways Program opened with a music video commissioned from the educator and rapper Mega Ran. It was created to highlight the ways gaming can inspire youth to integrate student's passions with life and career goals. Below are the lyrics (the video itself can be found on YouTube). We recommend reading this out loud.*

Yo, did you know that so many people in so many prominent vocations have their love and appreciation for video games to thank for it?

True story.

My momma told me I was wasting my time  
All that did was make me stay on the grind  
For all the nights I stayed in to write  
Video games might've saved my life  
AND THATS REAL

So here's a little story I'd like to tell  
About one shy kid coming out of his shell  
Thanks to video games, he claimed victory  
And, oh yeah, that kid was me

I heard somebody say "video games make you violent, dude"  
When I hear that kinda talk I really get confused  
Because there's so much violent imagery on nightly news  
For the charges brought against me, I stand accused

Are they distracting? Honestly, I hope they are  
Because my breathing techniques only will take me so far  
I know so many super talented programmers and artists  
And a career in video games is the perfect target

Remember 2020 right when COVID hit

We couldn't go outside, I was 'bout to throw a fit  
Man, I was over it,  
I could barely cope with it  
Then Animal Crossing dropped, and it was so legit

Just when I was heated and completely defeated,  
It was calming and gave me the distraction I needed  
So continuous and fluid, so you don't really need to beat it,  
There's no need to stress out about unlocking achievements

See! And they could help you in similar ways  
Civil engineers and teachers all influenced by games  
So on any career path you decide to embark  
I guarantee video games play significant parts

They said:  
Games were a waste of time,  
Now we gotta change their mind  
Make 'em see that that's another antiquated state of mind  
We can move into the future while they choose to  
Stay behind

Information tech to architects making great designs  
Step into the great beyond, empower and inspire  
motivate and encouraging all your wildest desires  
The future of education, in every part of the nation  
But still they look at it like it's a quadratic equation

Peep game!  
It's impacts on social interactions  
Pathways through gaming to cash in on passions  
Video games run the world  
So opportunities are popping up like microtransactions  
In Fortnite, now we got the foresight  
Artists and creators that are gamers need some more light  
We learn to overcome, brainstorm our way through an obstacle  
Get your head in the game, and you'll be unstoppable!



## 9 in 10

Gen Alpha and Gen Z are game enthusiasts, respectively, compared to 79% of the total online population



## 70%

of Gen Z are interested in socializing in in-game worlds beyond game play in the future (% definitely/probably)



## 1 in 2

Gen Alpha and Gen Z spend money on video games, respectively, compared to 42% of the total online population

*Young people are interested in games, socializing in in-game worlds, and spending money on video games. Additional game-related research and reports can be found at Newzoo, who provided the above information.*