



**JA Finance Park helps students build a foundation for making intelligent, lifelong, personal financial decisions through hands-on, realistic site-based experiences.**

Key learning objectives listed beside each unit highlight the skills and knowledge students will gain.

### **Unit 1: Income**

Students recognize the fundamental role that income plays in their personal finances and the factors that affect income and take-home pay. They discover how their decisions about education and careers impact their potential income and quality of life.

**Concepts:** Career, Goals, Government, Income, Values, Salary, Taxes, Wages

### **Key Learning Objectives**

- Rate their interests, abilities, and values.
- Determine work preferences and match them to career choices.
- Define taxes and explain their purpose and impact on income.
- Figure net monthly income.

### **Unit 2: Saving, Investing and Risk Management**

Students explore and compare saving and investing options as part of their overall financial planning. They also examine risk and how insurance may help protect savings from both planned and unplanned events.

**Concepts:** Benefits, Goals, Interest, Saving, Savings, Investment, Opportunity cost, Risk

### **Key Learning Objectives**

The students will:

- Identify the benefits of saving a portion of income for future use.
- Explain short- and long-term saving options.
- Explain some of the advantages and disadvantages of various saving and investing options.
- Assess personal risk and risk management.

### **Unit 3: Debit and Credit**

Students compare financial institutions and their services. Through discussion and a game activity, they also weigh the advantages and disadvantages of debit and credit. Students also examine the role that credit scores and credit reporting have on personal finances.

**Concepts:** Banking, Credit, Credit reports, Credit score, Debit, Debt, Deposit insurance, Financial responsibility, Identity theft, Interest, Loans, Payment methods

### **Key Learning Objectives**

The students will:

- Define financial institutions and identify the services they provide.
- Examine debit and credit cards and their use.
- Explain the benefits and common pitfalls of credit cards.
- Explain the benefits of debit cards.
- Define credit score and describe how it influences the ability to get credit and borrow money.

## Unit 4: Budget+

Students recognize the importance of spending wisely to achieve financial success and the value of creating and maintaining a budget.

**Concepts:** Wants and needs, Goal setting, Impulse buying, Budgets, Categorizing spending

## Key Learning Objectives

- Categorize spending by needs and wants.
- Compare teen and adult spending patterns.
- Determine which categories belong in a budget.
- Relate the need to save money to meet goals.
- Prepare a budget using goals and income.

## Unit 5: Simulation and Debriefing

Students participate in the *JA Finance Park* simulation. They put into action all they have learned in the classroom by making important spending decisions and maintaining a balanced budget. Following their simulation experience, students participate in a reflective assessment.

**Concepts:** Budget, Expenses, Income, Needs, Savings, Taxes, Wages, Wants

## Key Learning Objectives

- Create a family budget using hypothetical life situations.
- Make saving and investment decisions.
- Reflect on their simulation experience.

### **JA Finance Park enhances students' learning of the following skills:**

Active listening, critical thinking, interpersonal communication, math computation, self-reflection, teamwork, self-knowledge, reading, working in pairs and teams, and interpreting and working with data, Comprehension and collaborative learning, information literacy, inquiry, speaking and listening, self-direction, small group discussion, vocabulary acquisition, brainstorming, comparing, collaboration, decision making, following directions, reading for information, summary writing, critical reasoning, employing valid research strategies, invention, using technology to enhance productivity

All JA programs are designed to support the skills and competencies identified by the Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. These programs also augment school-based, work-based, and connecting activities for communities with school-to-work initiative.