

Money Matters, Sessions 3-4
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Welcome to Money Matters! This is a course designed to introduce students to essential financial concepts that will get them started on their journey to financial literacy. They will discover the world of banking, work on budgeting skills, and dive into investing by playing The Stock Market Game. With collaborative projects, discussions and games, students will build foundational knowledge needed to understand how money impacts the world around them and their own relationship to it.

SESSION 3: We will begin our journey into the world of finance by examining behavioral economics, learning the basics of comparison shopping and saving money as well as working on the mathematical skills necessary to understand finance. We will learn the basics of investing by playing The Stock Market Game. This is an online simulation that teaches students about the stock market, the economy and investing. Students work in teams to manage a virtual \$100,000 portfolio of stocks, bonds and mutual funds. The game starts February 3 and continues through May 30. They will attend to their portfolios weekly as part of each class.

SESSION 4: The class will learn practical strategies to create an effective budget, understand how loans and credit scores impact financial health, demystify tax basics, and explore the importance of insurance for protecting your assets. The students will also continue to manage their virtual portfolios and see how much their investments will grow.

Expectations: In *Money Matters*, students are encouraged to actively engage in their learning by taking guided notes and participating in demonstrations and discussions. Participation is key to deepening understanding and making the most of our time. During class, the students will be building their own Financial Literacy Portfolios, and they may take them home to discuss with family or store them in the class. They will need these folders every class.

Students will have the opportunity to play games and work in teams. Good Sportsmanship and encouraging attitudes are a must. Grading will be based on participation and completion of assigned projects and papers. All work will be done during class time.

Grading: Grades will be based on participation, and completion of their Financial Literacy Portfolio notes given out each day in class.