

PERSONAL FINANCE SYLLABUS

HAZELWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Course Description:

Understanding and managing personal finances are key to one's future financial success. This one semester course is based on the Missouri Personal Finance Competencies and presents essential knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about real world financial issues. Students will learn how choices influence occupational options and future earning potential. Students will also learn to apply decision making skills to evaluate career choices and set personal goals. The course content is designed to help the learner make wise spending, saving, and credit decisions and to make effective use of income to achieve personal financial success.

There is **NOT** a textbook specifically for this course. There is a set of class books used in previous classes which we will use from time to time. Our material comes from the internet, lecture and handouts provided by the teacher. MAKE SURE YOU BRING ALL HANDOUTS WITH YOU EVERYDAY.

Course Expectations:

- Complete pre and post assessments to guide instruction
- Explain and use personal finance strategies in real-world situations
- Analyze and compare personal finance strategies
- Use a problem-solving method to debate the pros and cons of a real-world situation
- Set personal goals and devise a plan to reach them
- Gather, analyze and apply information and ideas
- Recognize and solve problems
- Make decisions and act as responsible members of society
- Read articles pertaining to the content being studied
- Read one non-fiction book pertaining to the content being studied
- Weekly homework assigned
- Ongoing summative assessments
- District common assessments

Sample Course Activities/Projects/Assessments:

- Create a graphic organizer or timeline to outline your potential career and life goals. (Unit 1)
- Analyze and create a monthly budget using Microsoft Excel (Unit 2)
- Compare and contrast banking services. Learning to maintain accounts properly (Unit 3)
- Compare the characteristics of financial investments, including savings accounts, stocks, bonds, mutual funds and real estate. (Unit 4)
- Credit Math Activities. (Unit 5)
- Evaluate consumer purchases as well as consumer protection (Unit 6)

Course Outline:

Unit 1: Goals and Decision Making

- a. Goals for the future
- b. Choices and goal attainment
- c. Educational attainment
- d. Career choices
- e. Career goals
- f. Planning for the future

Unit 2: Budgeting

- a. Financial Planning
- b. Saving and spending patterns
- c. Key budget terms
- d. Employee benefits
- e. Paycheck deductions
- f. Developing a budget

Unit 3: Banking

- a. Banking terms
- b. Checking accounts
- c. Electronic banking and smart cards
- d. Role and responsibilities of the Federal Reserve System

Unit 4: Saving and Investing

- a. Financial investments
- b. Risk and return
- c. Affects of inflation
- d. Primary and secondary markets
- e. Stock trading
- f. Brokers

Unit 5: Credit

- a. Debit and credit cards
- b. Credit and interest
- c. Consumer protection laws
- d. Types of loans
- e. Loan applications
- f. Credit report
- g. Finance charges
- h. Credit problems and how to correct them

Unit 6: Consumer Skills

- a. Consumer purchases
- b. Consumer rights and responsibilities
- c. Costs and benefits of buying, leasing, or renting
- d. Financing options
- e. Insurance coverage

Course Curriculum Map:

<p>Theme 1: Goals and Decision Making Theme Length: 1 week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify goals for the future Learn to recognize choices and goal attainment Practice problem solving Money management Define standard of living <p>CSI 1 (14)</p>	<p>Theme 2: Careers and Planning Theme Length: 1 week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define resources and income Evaluate resources Explore income as it relates to educational attainment Research career choices Establish career goals Develop a plan to reach career goals <p>CSI 4 (35)</p>	<p>Theme 3: Budgeting Theme Length: 2 weeks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define scarcity Define goals Create a financial plan Examine saving and spending patterns Identify key budget terms Explain employee benefits Distinguish between required and optional deductions Develop a budget <p>CSI 6 (61)</p>
<p>Theme 4: Banking Length of Theme: 2 weeks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key banking terms Compare checking accounts Learn about electronic banking and smart cards Explain the role and responsibilities of the Federal Reserve System <p>CSI 7(85)</p>	<p>Theme 5: Saving and Investing Length of Theme: 3 weeks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify spending and saving Recognize financial investments Describe the five types of financial investment risk Describe risk and return Distinguish between real and nominal rate of return Summarize how inflation affects spending and savings Distinguish between primary and secondary markets Identify the costs and benefits of trading stocks Explain the role of brokers <p>CSI 8(108)</p>	<p>Theme 6: Credit Theme Length: 3 weeks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differentiate between debit cards, credit cards, and cash Define credit and interest Compare the advantages and disadvantages of using credit Review consumer protection laws Compare types of loans Identify the qualities a lender looks for in a loan applicant Analyze a credit report Calculate finance charges Analyze finance charges, principal of a loan, and the loan repayment period Propose ways to avoid or correct credit problems <p>CSI 9 (134)</p>
<p>Theme 7: Consumer Skills Length of Theme: 3 weeks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate consumer purchases using a set decision-making model Analyze advertising Analyze consumer rights and responsibilities Evaluate the costs and benefits of buying, leasing, or renting Analyze financing options Evaluate insurance coverage <p>CSI 11 (155)</p>	<p>Assessment Plan</p> <p>Pre-tests and post-tests, which are included in the curriculum, are given for each theme.</p>	<p>Common Assessments</p> <p>Theme 2 Theme 4 Theme 5 Theme 6</p>

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

Below is my list of non-negotiables. We will create a set of individual class rules in the near future. Detentions will be assigned as described in the Student Behavior Guide. Pay particular attention to the tardy policy.

1. Arrive to class on time.
2. Come to class prepared to work.
3. Engage in class activities.
4. Minimize distractions.
5. No food or drink (except a bottle of water) in the classroom.

GRADING:

Students will be graded on class participation, homework, class work, and tests. Tests will account for 70% of your class grade, and all other class work will account for the other 30% of your class grade.

TESTS/QUIZZES:

Tests/quizzes will come in a variety and combination of forms – T/F, Multiple Choice, Short Answer, Essay, and Case Problems. Almost every test will have some type of ESSAY or CASE PROBLEM question.

GRADING SCALE:

A = 90-100% B = 80 -89% C = 70 - 79% D = 60 - 69% F = BELOW 60%

COURSE POWER VOCABULARY:

Benefits	Insurance coverage
Bonds	Interest rates
Brokers	Investments
Career path	Mutual funds
Consumer protection laws	Net pay
Consumer agreements	Nominal rate of return
Consumer purchases	Opportunity cost
Consumer rights	Optional deductions
Credit limit	Period expenses
Credit report	Primary markets
Deductions	Real estate
Disposable income	Real rate of return
Electronic banking services	Savings account
Finance charges	Secondary markets
Financial institution	Smart cards
Fixed expenses	Spending behaviors
Goal attainment	Spending patterns
Grace period	Stocks
Gross pay	Tradeoffs
Inflation	Variable expenses