



PERSONAL FINANCE EDUCATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

AMY BROEKHUIZEN
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES EDUCATOR
EAST KENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
GRAND RAPIDS, MI

Family Economics and Financial Education

- Family Economics & Financial Education's (FEFE) mission is to provide educators with no-cost curriculum materials, and the skills and confidence to effectively teach family economics and finance. This is accomplished through an annual grant from [Take Charge America, Inc., a non-profit debt counseling and management service](#) located in Phoenix, AZ. The project began in 2001, using teacher input to design a quality, ready-to-teach family economics and finance curriculum and training program.



Family Economics and Financial Education

- Why should high school students be exposed to personal finance? (as of 2004 Jumpstart Survey)
 - 56% of parents believe high school graduates are totally unprepared to manage their personal finances responsibly.
 - 57% of parents put no restrictions on how their child can spend the money they are given.
 - Almost half of all parents say they don't set a good example when it comes to handling their own money and are not capable of properly teaching their children.
 - Teens aged 12-17, numbered at over 25 million in 2004, are a formidable consumer market with considerable spending power. Teen spending [is expected] to reach \$124 billion in 2004, up 45% from 1999 levels.
 - Personal savings as a percentage of personal income decreased from 7.5% in the early 1980s to 2.3% in the first three quarters of 2003.





Why use Family Economics and Financial Education?

- A free curriculum for anyone who teaches financial education to middle school and high school students.
- Continuously updated information created by master teachers across the United States.
- Can be taught as stand alone lessons, units, or whole classes.

What units are covered?

- Values, Needs vs. Wants, Goal Setting & Life Cycle Planning
- Career Development
- Paychecks, Spending Plans & Savings
- Investing
- Major Expenditures – Housing, Transportation & Food
- Financial Institutions
- Credit
- Consumer Protection
- Insurance



Career Related Lessons for High School Students

- [1.1.1 Career Notebook](#) Students create a professional notebook to be used as a career development resource throughout high school.
- [1.1.2 Career Research](#) Students use current government publications as references to research careers and employment projections. This information is used to design and present a PowerPoint presentation about their chosen career.
- [1.1.3 Comparing Job Offers](#) Students evaluate the factors involved when comparing job offers. Students learn how to calculate the cost of living between two cities.
- [1.1.4 Cover Letters](#) Students recognize the importance of a cover letter, what information should be included, and the proper format when developing their own.
- [1.1.5 Developing a Resume](#) Students learn what a resume is, information to include in a resume, and how to use "action verbs" to emphasize experiences and accomplishments.
- [1.1.6 Interest Inventory](#) Students take a personal interest inventory test. The test results are evaluated to determine which careers best match personal values and goals.
- [1.1.7 Interview Etiquette](#) Students read a twelve-page booklet and play a game titled "Professionally You." This has been created to compliment the interview lesson plans. It reviews etiquette before, during, and after the interview.



High School Lessons continued...

- [1.1.8 Interview Questions](#) Students realize the importance of non-verbal communication and practice responses to typical interview questions
- [1.1.9 Investment in Yourself](#) Students evaluate their human capital by learning about qualities employers seek and determining what they can do to develop these qualities. They then examine the relationship between education and lifetime earnings.
- [1.1.10 Mr. Holland's Opus](#) Students evaluate the many roles Mr. Holland plays in his life and how he interpreted success after watching the movie "Mr. Holland's Opus."
- [1.1.11 Role Play Interview](#) Students examine what steps need to be taken before, during, and after an interview by evaluating two mock interviews. One interview shows an unprepared candidate and the other demonstrates a professional and prepared candidate.
- [1.1.12 Thank You Notes](#) Students recognize the components of a well written personal and career thank you note and when it is proper to write one. They then practice writing thank you notes.



Career Related Lessons for Middle School Students

- 2.1.1 Does Money Grow on Trees? Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to: define job, define career, define occupation, and explore the relationship between educational level and income.
- 2.1.2 The Places You Will Go! Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to: examine human capital, define transferable skills, and create a plan to reach future career goals.
- 2.1.3 What Does Your Future Hold? Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to: explore personal interests, and research job characteristics.
- 1.1.13 Job Application Upon completion of this lesson, participants will be able to: properly fill out a job application, appropriately obtain a job application, identify illegal questions that cannot be asked on a job application, compare and contrast job applications, and understand the legal rights that employees have





What do you get in a lesson?

- Everything has been prepared for you.
- Lessons will include:
 - Background information
 - Step-by-step instructions
 - Handouts
 - Notes in Powerpoint format
 - Activities



How do you access the information?

- www.fefe.arizona.edu
- You will need to create an account, which is free and easy to do.
- Have questions?
 - amy.broekhuizen@kentwoodps.org