

Project: The *JA Finance Park* program is a unique, one-time opportunity for 8th and 9th grade students to learn about careers and personal finance, and then practice what they have learned during a day-long simulation. Using curriculum materials provided by Junior Achievement, the students will study units on **Financial Institutions, Taxes and Salaries, Budgeting, Pricing Research** and **Investments** over a four week period. Following the completion of the classroom training, the students will travel to the *JA Finance Park* facility in Tempe where they will spend the day participating in a hands-on simulation applying learned concepts in a life-like community.

JA Finance Park has twenty-two mini-businesses including a City Hall, an Allstate Insurance shop, a Credit Union and nineteen other professional businesses. During this one-day experience, students assume randomly awarded family and income scenarios and visit businesses to gather information for their personal financial decision-making. Participating students use bank services, contribute to charities, purchase housing, transportation, furnishings, food, health care, and other expenses, make investment decisions, and work to create and balance their personal budgets. Following their visit to *JA Finance Park*, the students engage in self-reflection and set their career goals.

Expected educational value

Instead of relying on luck or chance, JA teaches children that the path to success is paved with smart decisions about finances, school and work. The average student who graduates from high school lacks basic skills in the management of personal financial affairs. Many are unable to balance a checkbook and most simply have no insight into the basic survival principles involved with earning, spending, saving and investing. Many young people fail in the management of their first consumer credit experience, establish bad financial management habits, and stumble through their lives learning by trial and

error. *JA Finance Park's* goal is to ensure that students learn basic personal financial management skills that will enable them to be savvy savers and consumers.

Junior Achievement charges an \$18 fee per student and we are required to furnish our own transportation. We are requesting a grant to cover the (pick one or both program fee or transportation costs).

Budget (sample)

Program Fees (24 students x \$18)	\$432
Transportation (bus)	<u>\$1,500</u>
Total	\$1,932

* Additional funds will be obtained through school fundraisers, parent contributions and other donations.

How the project relates to curriculum and/or state educational standards

JA aligns all of the lessons on an activity-by-activity basis with Arizona State Skill Standards. *JA Finance Park* correlates to Arizona State Skill Standards in math, language arts, social studies, art, technology and civics.