

Project

The **JA BizTown** program is a unique, one-time opportunity for our 5th grade students to learn about careers, personal finance and workforce readiness, and then practice what they have learned during a day-long simulation. Using curriculum materials provided by Junior Achievement, the students will study four units over a four week period – **Community & Economy, Financial Literacy, Work-Readiness and Business Management**. Following the completion of the classroom training, the students will travel to the JA BizTown facility in Tempe where they will spend the day operating the mini-city – JA BizTown. JA BizTown has 130 different jobs and twenty-four mini-businesses including a City Hall, a TV Studio, a Wells Fargo Bank, an Insurance shop and twenty other professional businesses.

Prior to the simulation, the students will engage in a variety of activities such as developing a resume, interviewing for a job and electing a Mayor. They will learn to write checks, balance a check book, take out a business loan and market a product or service. On the day of the simulation, we will transport the students to the JA BizTown facility, where each of the shops will be staffed with a student CEO, CFO and various sales and marketing personnel. Students must meet goals during the day which include: paying back the business loan, opening a personal checking account, cashing two paychecks, budgeting their money, marketing their product, delivering services, paying taxes, electing a mayor, voting for city rules, and, of course, eating lunch and shopping during their two 20-minute breaks. Students write and create newspaper, radio and TV ads and web pages to support their marketing efforts. Throughout the day, children discover how money is made, spent, earned and saved. They see how the consumer spending choices and job choices they make affect their personal finances.

Simultaneously the children develop lifelong skills in fiscal management, civics, problem-solving, team building and critical thinking.

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 program fee (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 BizTown correlates to Arizona State Skill Standards in math, language arts, social studies, art, technology and civics.