



JA BizTown®

Volunteer Information JA BizTown Introduction Letter

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This year, our class will participate in an exciting Junior Achievement program called JA BizTown. JA BizTown encompasses important elements of community and economy, work readiness, financial literacy, and business management. As part of the program, we will spend the day at the JA BizTown site on _____ (*date*). This on-site visit will provide students with an opportunity to apply what they have learned in school in a realistic setting. Each student will assume a job, produce and/or sell products or services, receive a paycheck, work on a business team, repay business loans, shop, and manage a personal bank account. Throughout the program, students are encouraged to use critical thinking skills to learn about key economic concepts as they explore and enhance their understanding of free enterprise.

Once in-class preparation begins, every week or so, you will receive a **JA BizTown Family Newsletter**. The point of these communications is to keep you informed and encourage you to talk with your child about his or her classroom learning. The goal of experiential education programs such as JA BizTown is to help students see how classroom learning connects to real-world actions and events. Students acquire knowledge through hands-on classroom activities and discussions and then seek relevance between their new learning and their future lives. Consider trying a few of the BizTalk! prompts offered in each newsletter. If you relate what the student is learning in class to what you actually do in your day-to-day life, learning will be more lasting and meaningful.

Because of their unique learning format, students remember Junior Achievement's capstone simulation experiences like JA BizTown for many years following their visit. We hope your child enjoys the JA BizTown experience and that you can live a little of it, vicariously, through them!

To make the simulation visit a real success, we will need 14 to 18 Volunteer Facilitators to accompany us to JA BizTown for the 5-hour on-site visit. Volunteers who attend the simulation must also complete the required training to prepare to work with the students. More information about this volunteer opportunity and training requirements, will be sent to you as the simulation date nears.

There is a cost for the curriculum and on-site visit. The local JA Area Office works with area businesses to cover over 60% of the cost, but there is a school fee of \$_____ per student plus transportation costs. As our simulation visit draws nearer, we will advise you if we need any support from parents to help pay these costs through fundraising and/or collection of individual payments.

We look forward to participating in this exciting educational opportunity with you.

Sincerely,

(Teacher's Signature)