



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

JA Finance Park (Entry) helps students build a foundation upon which they can make intelligent lifelong financial decisions, including those related to income, expenses, savings, and credit. The *JA Finance Park* traditional curriculum, designed for 7th-9th grade students, is composed of 13 required teacher-taught, in-class lessons. It culminates in a hands-on budgeting simulation that is implemented at JA Finance Park presented by Truist.



TRADITIONAL CURRICULUM

- Unit One: Income (three 45-minute lessons)**
Students recognize the fundamental role of income in managing their personal finances and the factors that affect income and take-home pay. They will understand that the decisions they make about education and careers will have an impact on their potential income and quality of life.
- Unit Two: Savings, Investing, and Risk Management (two 45-minute lessons)**
Students explore saving and compare investments as part of their overall financial planning. They also examine risk and how insurance may help protect savings.
- Unit Three: Debit and Credit (four 45-minute lessons)**
Students compare financial institutions and their services. Through discussion and a game activity, they weigh the advantages and disadvantages of debit and credit. Students also examine how credit scores and credit reporting affect personal finances.
- Unit Four: Budget+ (three 45-minute lessons)**
Students discover the importance of spending money wisely and recognize a budget as a valuable tool. They create personal budgets based on savings and lifestyle goals and day-to-day situations.
- Unit Five: Entry Simulation (4 hours)**
Students spend the day at JA Finance Park, where they work with iPads and community volunteers to apply classroom learning by creating a family budget based on a random hypothetical life situation. Students recognize the impact of credit history, savings and debt on budget planning and purchasing options.
- Unit Six: Debrief (one 45-minute lesson)**
After the JA Finance Park simulation, students participate in a reflective assessment of their accomplishments.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

JA Finance Park is very flexible. While the program length is a minimum of 13 classroom hours and 4 site-visit hours, the optional extension activities can provide up to 21 extra hours to meet classroom needs. Teachers receive an easy-to-use teacher guide with detailed lesson plans, and every student receives a workbook.



I [went] to JA BizTown when I was younger... I wasn't sure what to expect at this level but I can say I enjoyed it just as much. My favorite part this time was that it was truly applicable to real life and budgeting.

- MIDDLE TENNESSEE STUDENT AFTER VISITING JA FINANCE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For questions or registration information, contact:
Kat Jordan, Director of Capstone Programs
kathrynj@janash.com | (615) 627-1197