

**A Correlation Between**  
**Pennsylvania High School Academic Standards**  
**And**  
***JA Finance Park* Program Curriculum**

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# *JA Finance Park*

*JA Finance Park* is a six-week economics education program for middle grades social studies students. *JA Finance Park* provides a hands-on, follow-up experience to the economics concepts introduced in elementary grades. In addition to carry-over concepts, students are introduced to concepts concerning personal financial decisions and career exploration.

The culmination of the program is a visit to the *JA Finance Park*<sup>™</sup> site. There, students compute their actual net monthly -income to create a realistic budget. The simulation area is divided into separate areas dealing with various aspects of personal financial responsibility. At each area, students gather information as consumers, determine what expenditure options they can afford, and pay their bills. These on-site activities allow students to apply the personal finance and economics concepts and skills learned in the classroom. More importantly, this experience leaves students with a deeper understanding of personal economic issues, from which they can draw the rest of their lives.

*JA Finance Park* is designed to:

- Help students think creatively, analyze tasks, and solve problems
- Encourage students to develop and demonstrate personal responsibility for learning and self-management
- Actively involve the business community and parents in helping students attain their goals
- Communicate and work with schools to promote the highest level of student achievement
- Help students develop and follow a monthly budget

## **Units**

*Unit 1: Financial Institutions*—Students recognize the role of financial institutions and the various services they provide. They explain debit cards and their use, explain the advantages and disadvantages of using credit, evaluate the risks and benefits of saving and investing, identify the impact interest rates have on investment value, read stock quotations, and determine stock value. (six lessons over six 45-minute class periods)

*Unit 2: Taxes and My Salary*—Students explore what taxes are, why they are important, what they are used for, and how they affect income and expenses. (two lessons over four 45-minute class periods)

*Unit 3: Budgeting*—Students create and evaluate personal budgets. They explain who uses a budget and why, evaluate the effectiveness of sample budgets, and practice budget decision-making. (two lessons over three 45-minute class periods)

*Unit 4: Preparing for Finance Park*—Students evaluate hypothetical life situations and prioritize budget items in preparation for the *JA Finance Park* experience. They create a personal budget, calculate net monthly income, conduct pricing research, and assess investments. (two lessons over five 45-minute class periods)

*Unit 5: The Visit*—Students make spending decisions to maintain a balanced budget while participating in the *JA Finance Park* experience. They create a typical family budget using hypothetical life situations, calculate spending allowances, and evaluate stock holdings. (one full-day experience at *JA Finance Park*)

*Unit 6: After the Visit*—Students assess their accomplishments from the *JA Finance Park* experience. They assess credit and investment decisions and reflect on the visit. (one lesson over one 45-minute class period)

*Unit 7: Career Goals*—Students consider their career goals and what steps they must take to achieve them. They differentiate among abilities, interests, work preferences, and values; identify their personal characteristics; rate their abilities, interests, and work preferences; identify their career interests; perform career choice research; and write a letter of application to a prospective employer. (two lessons over five 45-minute class periods)

Finance Park contains numerous lessons that will help teachers and students achieve the high school academic standards listed below.

<p><b>Pennsylvania High School Academic Standards</b></p> <p><i>Pennsylvania’s public schools shall teach, challenge and support every student to realize his or her maximum potential and to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to:</i></p>	<p><b>JA Finance Park Curriculum</b></p>
<p><b>CAREER EDUCATION AND WORK – Grade 11 Standards [2006]</b></p>	
<p><b>13.1.11 Career Awareness and Planning</b></p> <p>A. Relate careers to individual interests, abilities and aptitudes.</p> <p>B. Analyze career options based on personal interests, abilities, aptitudes, achievements and goals.</p> <p>D. Evaluate school-based opportunities for career awareness/preparation</p> <p>E. Justify the selection of a career.</p> <p>F. Analyze the relationship between career choices and career preparation opportunities.</p>	<p>Unit 7 – Career Goals Lesson 1: Personal Preferences Lesson 2: Occupation Research</p> <p>Unit 7 – Career Goals Lesson 1: Personal Preferences</p>
<p><b>13.2.11 Career Acquisition (Getting a Job)</b></p> <p>B. Apply research skills in searching for a job.</p> <p>C. Develop and assemble, for career portfolio placement, career acquisition documents.</p> <p>D. Analyze, revise and apply an individualized career portfolio to chosen career path.</p>	<p>Unit 7 – Career Goals Lesson 1: Personal Preferences</p> <p>Unit 7 – Career Goals Lesson 1: Personal Preferences Lesson 2: Occupation Research</p>
<p><b>13.3.11 Career Retention (Keeping a Job)</b></p> <p>A. Evaluate personal attitudes and work habits that support career retention and advancement.</p> <p>B. Evaluate team member roles to describe and illustrate active listening techniques.</p> <p>C. Evaluate conflict resolution skills as they relate to the workplace.</p> <p>D. Develop a personal budget based on career choice</p> <p>E. Evaluate time management strategies and their application to both personal and work situations.</p>	<p>Unit 7 – Career Goals Lesson 1: Personal Preference</p> <p>Unit 4 – Preparing for Finance Park Lesson 1: Completing a Budget</p> <p>Unit 5 – The Visit Lesson 1: Details of the Visit</p> <p>Unit 7 – Career Goals Lesson 1: Personal Preference</p>

**CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT – Grade 12 Standards [2003]**

**5.2.11 Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship**

A. Evaluate an individual’s civic rights, responsibilities and duties in various governments.

Unit 2 – Taxes and My Salary  
 Lesson 1: Taxes People Pay  
 Lesson 2: Payroll Taxes and NMI

**5.3.11 How Government Works**

I. Evaluate how and why government raises money to pay for its operations and services.

Unit 2 – Taxes and My Salary  
 Lesson 1: Taxes People Pay  
 Lesson 2: Payroll Taxes and NMI

**ECONOMICS – Grade 12 Standards [2003]**

**6.2.12 Markets and the Functions of Governments**

A. Analyze the flows of products, resources and money in a mixed economy.

Unit 1 – Financial Institutions  
 Lessons 1-5  
 Unit 2 – Taxes and My Salary  
 Lessons 1-2  
 Unit 4 – Preparing for Finance Park  
 Lesson 1: Completing a Budget  
 Unit 5 – The Visit  
 Lesson 1: Details of the Visit

E. Predict how changes in supply and demand affect equilibrium price and quantity sold.

Unit 1 – Financial Institutions  
 Lesson 5: Saving and Investing

F. Identify and analyze forces that can change price.

G. Evaluate types of tax systems.

H. Evaluate the economic roles of governments.

I. Evaluate government decisions to provide public goods.

Unit 2 – Taxes and My Salary  
 Lesson 1: Taxes People Pay  
 Lesson 2: Payroll Taxes and NMI

**6.3.12 Scarcity and Choice**

B. Evaluate the economic reasoning behind a choice.

E. Analyze the opportunity cost of decisions by individuals, businesses, communities and nations.

Unit 1 – Financial Institutions  
 Lesson 3: Credit Cards  
 Lesson 4: Credit Pros and Cons  
 Lesson 5: Saving and Investing  
 Unit 3 – Budgeting  
 Lesson 1: Budgets  
 Lesson 2: Categories and Decisions  
 Unit 4 – Preparing for Finance Park  
 Lesson 1: Completing a Budget  
 Unit 5 – The Visit  
 Lesson 1: Details of the Visit

**6.5.12 Work and Earnings**

A. Analyze the factors influencing wages.

G. Analyze the risks and returns of various investments.

H. Evaluate benefits and costs of changes in interest rates to individuals and society.

Unit 4 – Preparing for Finance Park  
Lesson 1: Completing a Budget  
Unit 5 – The Visit  
Lesson 1: Details of the Visit

Unit 1 – Financial Institutions  
Lesson 5: Saving and Investing  
Unit 4 – Preparing for Finance Park  
Lesson 1: Completing a Budget  
Unit 5 – The Visit  
Lesson 1: Details of the Visit

Unit 1 – Financial Institutions  
Lesson 4: Credit Pros and Cons  
Lesson 5: Saving and Investing  
Lesson 6: Stock Quotations

**MATHEMATICS – Grade 11 Standards [1999]**

**2.2.11 Computation and Estimation**

A. Develop and use computation concepts, operations and procedures on real numbers in problem solving situations.  
B. Use estimation to solve problems for which exact answer is not needed.  
E. Recognize that the degree of precision needed in calculating a number depends on how the results will be used and the instruments used to generate the measure.

F. Demonstrate skills for using computer spreadsheets and scientific and graphing calculators.

Unit 1 – Financial Institutions  
Lesson 2: ATM/Debit Cards  
Lesson 3: Credit Cards  
Lesson 6: Stock Quotations  
Unit 3 – Budgeting  
Lesson 1: Budgets  
Lesson 2: Categories and Decisions  
Unit 4 – Preparing for Finance Park  
Lesson 1: Completing a Budget  
Unit 5 – The Visit  
Lesson 1: Details of the Visit  
  
Unit 1 – Financial Institutions  
Lesson 6: Stock Quotations

**2.4.11 Mathematical Reasoning and Connections**

E. Demonstrate mathematical solutions to problems.

Unit 1 – Financial Institutions  
Lesson 2: ATM/Debit Cards  
Lesson 3: Credit Cards  
Lesson 6: Stock Quotations  
Unit 3 – Budgeting  
Lesson 1: Budgets  
Lesson 2: Categories and Decisions  
Unit 4 – Preparing for Finance Park  
Lesson 1: Completing a Budget  
Unit 5 – The Visit  
Lesson 1: Details of the Visit

<p><b>2.5.11 Mathematical Problem Solving and Communication</b></p> <p>A. Select and use appropriate mathematical concepts and techniques from different areas of mathematics and apply them to solving non-routine and multi-step problems.</p> <p>B. Use symbols, mathematical terminology, standard notation, mathematical rules, graphing and other types of mathematical representations to communicate observations, predictions, concepts, procedures, generalizations, ideas and results.</p> <p>C. Present mathematical procedures and results clearly, systematically, succinctly and correctly.</p> <p>D. Conclude a solution process with a summary of results and evaluate the degree to which the results obtained represent an acceptable response to the initial problem and why the reasoning is valid.</p>	<p>Unit 1 – Financial Institutions  Lesson 2: ATM/Debit Cards  Lesson 3: Credit Cards  Lesson 6: Stock Quotations</p> <p>Unit 3 – Budgeting  Lesson 1: Budgets  Lesson 2: Categories and Decisions</p> <p>Unit 4 – Preparing for Finance Park  Lesson 1: Completing a Budget</p> <p>Unit 5 – The Visit  Lesson 1: Details of the Visit</p>
<p><b>READING, WRITING, SPEAKING AND LISTENING – Grade 11 Standards [1999]</b></p>	
<p><b>1.1.11 Learning to Read Independently</b></p> <p>A. Locate various texts, media and traditional resources for assigned and independent projects before reading.</p> <p>C. Use knowledge of root words and words from literary works to recognize and understand the meaning of new words during reading. Use these words accurately in speaking and writing.</p> <p>D. Identify, describe, evaluate and synthesize the essential ideas in text. Assess those reading strategies that were most effective in learning from a variety of texts.</p> <p>E. Establish a reading vocabulary by identifying and correctly using new words acquired through the study of their relationships to other words. Use a dictionary or related reference.</p> <p>F. Understand the meaning of and apply key vocabulary across the various subject areas.</p> <p>G. Demonstrate after reading understanding and interpretation of both fiction and nonfiction text, including public documents.</p> <p>H. Demonstrate fluency and comprehension in reading.</p>	<p>Unit 4 – Preparing for Finance Park  Lesson 1: Completing a Budget</p> <p>Unit 7 – Career Goals  Lesson 1: Personal Preferences</p> <p><i>C-H apply to all units and lessons</i></p>
<p><b>1.2.11 Reading Critically in All Content Areas</b></p> <p>A. Read and understand essential content of informational texts and documents in all academic areas.</p>	<p><i>Applies to all units and lessons</i></p>
<p><b>1.4.11 Types of Writing</b></p> <p>D. Maintain a written record of activities, course work, experience, honors and interests.</p>	<p>Unit 6 – After the Visit  Lesson 1: After the Visit</p> <p>Unit 7 – Career Goals  Lesson 1: Personal Preferences</p>

<p><b>1.5.11 Quality of Writing</b></p> <p>A. Write with a sharp, distinct focus.  B. Write using well-developed content appropriate for the topic.  C. Write with controlled and/or subtle organization.  E. Revise writing to improve style, word choice, sentence variety and subtlety of meaning after rethinking how questions of purpose, audience and genre have been addressed.  F. Edit writing using the conventions of language.  G. Present and/or defend written work for publication when appropriate.</p> <p>D. Write with a command of the stylistic aspects of composition.</p>	<p>Unit 1 – Financial Institutions  Lesson 1: Financial Institutions  Lesson 5: Saving and Investing  Unit 6 – After the Visit  Lesson 1: After the Visit</p> <p>Unit 6 – After the Visit  Lesson 1: After the Visit</p>
<p><b>1.6.11 Speaking and Listening</b></p> <p>A. Listen to others.  C. Speak using skills appropriate to formal speech situations.  D. Contribute to discussions.  E. Participate in small and large group discussions and presentations.</p>	<p><i>A, C, D, E apply to all units and lessons</i></p>
<p><b>1.8.11 Research</b></p> <p>A. Select and refine a topic for research.  B. Locate information using appropriate sources and strategies.</p> <p>C. Organize, summarize and present the main ideas from research.</p>	<p>Unit 1 – Financial Institutions  Lesson 5: Saving and Investing  Unit 4 – Preparing for Finance Park  Lesson 1: Completing a Budget  Unit 7 – Career Goals  Lesson 1: Personal Preference</p> <p>Unit 1 – Financial Institutions  Lesson 5: Saving and Investing  Unit 7 – Career Goals  Lesson 1: Personal Preference</p>