

## Course Description:

Economics explores principles that allow students to make informed decisions about personal finance. In this course, students develop a broader understanding of national and international economic decisions and policies. These principles will help students understand why economics impacts history, the distribution of wealth, and the quality of life for all members of society.

Unit 1 begins with an overview of personal finance topics. Students begin with an analysis of basic everyday activities such as creating a budget and using debit and credit cards. They will also tackle more complex choices such as discussing taxes and saving and investing for the future.

Next, students learn a general overview of economics, including information on scarcity, economic systems around the world, and how simple choices interact with and alter the economy locally, nationally, and globally.

The next unit examines microeconomics. Microeconomics examines the choices and decisions made by businesses and consumers and how these choices affect the economy. This unit also explores important economic principles such as the laws of supply and demand, the way prices are determined in a marketplace, and the role of unions.

Finally, macroeconomics (the study of the big picture, such as governments) will be the focus of the last two units. These units explore how the government determines tax policies, overall spending, and the handling of debt. Additionally, the role of the Federal Reserve and international trade in the global economy will be explored.

Throughout the course, students examine and analyze readings, biographies, videos and other materials that paint a picture of economic topics. Discussions with peers will help students to think creatively and critically about topics. The projects that span the course are designed to develop and sharpen the students' writing skills.

## Course Objectives:

- Demonstrate money management by creating and maintaining a budget.
- Determine the relationship between variables by interpreting graphs.
- Explain how bank failure is a critical link to the FDIC.
- Explain how individuals' finances impact the economy.
- Use economic concepts to determine real and current GDP, GNP, CPI, inflation, and taxation.

## Required Materials:

All Graphic Organizers can be found in the Graphic Organizer Library, as well as each specific activity plan.

\*Additional materials will be listed in the course.

## Course Overview:

This economics course is made up of six units, and each unit has five lessons. Each lesson presents many different ways to learn the information. Students are encouraged to check with their teacher for further information about course guidelines and grading policies.

At the beginning of each unit is a brief description of that particular unit. Each lesson begins with a list of learning objectives that describes what students should know by the end of that lesson and the topics on

which they will be tested. Most of the lessons have the same format, but some activities vary or may be omitted if necessary. A typical lesson has the following activities:

- **Reading Activities** — These are required reading assignments exploring the lesson topics. Reading Activities include important vocabulary terms and other interactive elements, such as annotated maps or biographies of important people in history. Following each reading assignment are workbook questions to test knowledge.
- **Visual Concepts** — Visual Concepts may be lectures or animated videos. These activities review a visual concept that helps students determine how well they understand the topics that were covered.
- **Discussion Board** — This is a graded activity that allows students to interact and communicate with classmates and the teacher. During this course, students will encounter multiple discussion boards and will be asked to explore content for a deeper understanding of the material.
- **Checkpoint** — This graded activity uses 10 questions to assess what students have learned in the lesson.
- **Project** — This is a graded activity that allows students to practice investigating, experimenting, and researching. This may or may not be directly related to a lesson, and it may or may not span the entire unit.
- **Unit Exam** — (Lessons 5, 10, 15, 20, 25) – This graded activity uses 30 questions to assess mastery of unit objectives.
- **Vocabulary Exam** — (Lesson 29) – This graded activity uses 30 questions to assess mastery of key terms found throughout the course.
- **Final Exam** — (Lesson 30) – This graded activity uses 50 questions to assess mastery of course curriculum.

## Schedule of Work

### Unit 1 Personal Finance

- Lesson 1: Personal Finance and Advertising
- Lesson 2: Budgets and Goal Setting
- Lesson 3: Banking
- Lesson 4: Credit
- Lesson 5: Building and Protecting

### Unit 2 Foundations of Economics

- Lesson 6: Economics
- Lesson 7: Economic Systems
- Lesson 8: American Economy: A Mixed Market

- Lesson 9: Economic Functions of Government
- Lesson 10: Business Organizations

### Unit 3 Microeconomics

- Lesson 11: Demand
- Lesson 12: Supply
- Lesson 13: The Price System
- Lesson 14: Competition and Market Structures
- Lesson 15: Labor

### Unit 4 Macroeconomics Institutions

- Lesson 16: Taxation
- Lesson 17: Government Spending
- Lesson 18: Deficit
- Lesson 19: Evolution of Money
- Lesson 20: Financial System

### Unit 5 Macroeconomics Policies

- Lesson 21: Measuring the Nation's Output
- Lesson 22: Business Cycles, Inflation, and Unemployment
- Lesson 23: Federal Reserve
- Lesson 24: Trade
- Lesson 25: Foreign Economic Development

### Unit 6 Review and Final Exam

- Lesson 26: Unit 1 Review
- Lesson 27: Unit 2 Review
- Lesson 28: Unit 3 Review, Vocabulary Review
- Lesson 29: Unit 4 Review, Vocabulary Exam
- Lesson 30: Unit 5 Review, Final Exam

