JA Finance Park helps students build a foundation upon which they can make intelligent financial decisions that last a lifetime, including decisions related to income, expenses, savings, and credit. The program comprises several teacher-led, in-class lessons and a variety of optional, extension activities. The experience culminates in a hands-on, online budgeting simulation that is supported by volunteers. The JA Finance Park Virtual simulation has been fully redeveloped, with a brand-new experience geared towards middle school students.

ENTRY LEVEL VIRTUAL SIMULATION HIGHLIGHTS

- Be introduced to the concept of “adulting,” laying the groundwork for their future.
- Create a monthly budget based on a randomly assigned life persona.

The Entry Level program has a primary focus of the JA Financial Literacy Pathway and a secondary focus of the Work and Career Readiness Pathway and can be used in Grades 7–8. The program may receive 18 or more ICH based on delivery of the optional content; the program is primarily teacher-led but requires volunteers.

SAMPLE SIMULATION ACTIVITIES

In the new Entry Level Virtual simulation, students will:

- Select their own avatar and interests.
- Review personal information about their job, income, and family status.
- Research, shop, and pay for various categories.
- Make financial decisions within a young adult’s life stage.
- View a summary and report of their budgeting, spending, and saving at the end of the simulation.

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

- Flexible options to participate virtually:
  ○ Deliver activities using tailored volunteer guides, or assist with curriculum sessions.
  ○ Assist and support students during the simulation.
- Minimum of 3 hours required

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Program is in Initial Release. Feedback will inform program updates; content is subject to change.