## Project: My Savings Plan

In the project, students look forward 10-15 years and create a financial portfolio to help them achieve their future lifestyle and monetary goals while also learning about the importance of planning for unexpected adversities. They will create a variety of artifacts—physical and digital—and deliver presentations as they explore the steps required for a secure financial future.

**Students will:**
- Examine anticipated income and costs for each SMART financial goal.
- Develop a savings plan for each of their SMART financial goals.

### 1.1 The Basics of Earning

Income is money that an individual earns by working, making investments, and providing goods and services. Money functions as a medium of exchange, a unit of account, and a store of value. Any item used as money takes on those three essential functions.

**Students will:**
- Describe the functions of money.
- Evaluate personal requirements for income.
- Analyze how and where to earn money.
- Design a brochure with possibilities for earning.

### 1.2 Careers and Pay

Individuals who set realistic financial goals are in more control of their money than those who do not. Although goals are set for short- and long-term periods, it is important to regularly track the progress of each goal.

**Students will:**
- Analyze and prioritize personal financial goals (current, 10-year, 25-year).
- Explain the relationship between finances, career choices, and personal financial goals.
- Identify career fields or options of interest that will lead to financial goals.

### Academic Standards

12-1.2.1 Analyze financial information for objectivity, accuracy, relevancy to given needs, and currency.
12-1.2.3 Summarize factors to consider when selecting a financial planning professional or tax adviser.
12-1.4.1 Set measurable short-term, medium-term, and long-term financial goals.
12-6.1.2 Compare the interest generated by simple and compound interest at various rates.
12-1.1.1 Explain how individuals demonstrate responsibility for financial well-being over a lifetime.
12-1.2.1 Analyze financial information for objectivity, accuracy, relevancy to given needs, and currency.
12-2.2.1 Define gift, rent, interest, dividend, capital gain, tip, commission, and business profit income.
12-1.1.2 Analyze ways financial responsibility is different for individuals with and without dependents.
12-2.1.1 Analyze ways economic, social, cultural, and political conditions can affect income and career potential.
## 1.3 Education and Careers
An investment in a career requires time, money, and resources that can open doors to opportunities. Studies show that employees with more than a high school education earn significantly more money throughout their lifetime than those without. The emphasis in this session is that the more education you have, the higher quality of life you will have.

**Students will:**
- Examine the cost of college.
- Evaluate the costs and/or benefits of post-secondary education (trade school, apprenticeships, etc.).
- Compare and contrast the costs and benefits of various postsecondary educational options.
- Evaluate personal decisions relating to career choice and education requirements and plans.
- Assess personal skills, abilities, and aptitudes and personal strengths and weaknesses as they relate to career exploration and development.

## 1.4 Taxes and Benefits
Taxes are collected by governments to pay for many public services such as highways, schools, police, and fire protection. The main goal of taxation is to provide revenue for a government to pay its bills. The two taxes most people pay are federal and state income taxes. Federal income tax goes to the U.S. government, and state income tax is paid to the state government. Income may also be offset by tax-free benefit packages provided by an employer.

**Students will:**
- Identify the difference between gross pay and net pay.
- Define taxes and explain their purpose and impact on income.
- Demonstrate an understanding of various taxes such as FICA and Medicare.
- Calculate net monthly income.
- Recognize employee benefits and apply knowledge to job opportunities.

## 12-2.1.1 Analyze ways economic, social, cultural, and political conditions can affect income and career potential.

## 12-2.3.1 Analyze typical employee benefits and explain why they are a form of compensation.

## 12-2.3.2 Describe benefits of employer sponsored savings plans and other options for shifting current income to the future.
# Theme 2: Money Management

## Project: My Budgeting Habit

Students review the critical concepts and vocabulary related to budgeting, examine the importance of SMART goals, and then create their own SMART financial goals for the future. They design a visual aid to depict their SMART financial goals.

**Students will:**
- Describe a budget and explain the purpose of budgeting.
- Explain SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound) goals and how the practice can be used for budgeting.
- Create personal SMART financial goals for the future: short term (1 year), medium term (5 years), and long term (10 years or beyond).
- Use graphics and multimedia—charts, videos, graphs, and so on to represent each SMART goal and the method by which it will be achieved.

**Academic Standards**
- 12-1.4.2 Evaluate the results of financial decisions.
- 12-1.4.3 Apply systematic decision making to long-term goals.
- 12-3.1.1 Create a budget a basic budget with categories for income, taxes, planned savings, and fixed and variable expenses.
- 12-3.1.2 Demonstrate budgeting to manage spending and achieve financial goals.
- 12-3.6.1 Analyze ways to modify spending practices to achieve financial goals.
- 12-3.6.2 Develop a personal financial plan that shows allocation of income, spending, saving/investing, and sharing/giving over a year-long time span.

## 2.1 Banking

Consumers use financial institutions to help them save and complete transactions safely, quickly, and conveniently and to hold and transfer money in different ways—all while being insured and safe from theft. It is important, therefore, to find a financial institution that meets your needs.

**Students will:**
- Investigate the use of different payment methods.
- Compare financial institutions and the types of accounts and services they provide.

**Academic Standards**
- 12-3.2.2 Demonstrate recordkeeping that utilizes a financial institutions online account management system.
- 12-3.3.1 Demonstrate skill in executing different payment methods, including cash, checks, stored-value cards, debit cards, credit cards, and electronic or online payment systems.

## 2.2 Spending and Saving

Many competing claims are made on a person's money that impede the ability to save. By prioritizing saving, consumers will be able to achieve short-and long-term goals and set aside money for emergencies and the future.

**Students will:**
- Recognize the importance of paying yourself first.
- Identify the opportunity costs of savings.
- Compare simple and compound interest and their impact on savings, including the Rule of 72.

**Academic Standards**
- 12-3.4.1 Evaluate impact of external factors on spending decisions.
- 12-3.6.1 Analyze ways to modify spending practices to achieve financial goals.
- 12-6.1.1 Compare saving strategies, including “pay yourself first,” payroll deduction, and comparison shopping to spend less.
- 12-6.1.2 Compare the interest generated by simple and compound interest at various rates.
## JA Financial Literacy

### 2.3 Think Before You Spend

Every individual is responsible for keeping track of his or her own money. Using a transaction register and careful consumer practices and staying informed all help in maintaining a positive cash flow and increasing net worth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students will:</th>
<th>12-3.2.1 Demonstrate use of a system to record income and spending for purchases, services, and taxes.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Record purchases in a transaction register.</td>
<td>12-3.4.2 Apply knowledge of external factors to justify a consumer buying decision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Determine which practices demonstrate careful consumer skills.</td>
<td>12-3.6.1 Analyze ways to modify spending practices to achieve financial goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Apply consumer skills to spending and saving decisions.</td>
<td>12-6.1.1 Compare saving strategies, including &quot;pay yourself first,&quot; payroll deduction, and comparison shopping to spend less.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12-4.1.3. Apply systematic decision making to identify the most cost-effective option for making a major purchase.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 2.4 Budgeting

Examining and monitoring cash flow is an ongoing and critical step in the budgeting process. Having and using a budget, and knowing the types of categories in a budget, helps people maintain positive cash flow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students will:</th>
<th>12-1.1.1 Explain how individuals demonstrate responsibility for financial well-being over a lifetime.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Explain cash flow.</td>
<td>12-1.1.2 Analyze ways financial responsibility is different for individuals with and without dependents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Follow a step-by-step guide for creating a budget.</td>
<td>12-1.4.1 Set measurable short-term, medium-term, and long-term financial goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Identify a short-term financial goal.</td>
<td>12-3.1.1 Create a budget a basic budget with categories for income, taxes, planned savings, and fixed and variable expenses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Arrange income, fixed expenses, and variable expenses in appropriate columns to be equal.</td>
<td>12-3.1.2 Demonstrate budgeting to manage spending and achieve financial goals.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# JA Financial Literacy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Descriptions</th>
<th>Student Objectives</th>
<th>Academic Standards</th>
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</table>
| **Theme 3: Credit, Debt, and Keeping Your Finances Safe** | **Project: My Credit Score**  
Students learn about the importance of a credit score and how to maintain a healthy score that will allow access to the credit they will need to make major purchases.  
**Students will:**  
• Examine anticipated income and costs for each SMART financial goal.  
• Develop a savings plan for each of their SMART financial goals.  
• High credit score in the short, medium, and long term.  
• Create an original reality show concept that demonstrates awareness of concepts related to improving credit scores. | 12-4.1.2 Explain how grace periods, methods of calculating interest, and fees affect borrowing costs.  
12-4.2.1 Explain how a credit report affects creditworthiness and the cost of credit.  
12-4.2.2 Describe ways a negative credit report affect a consumer’s financial future and steps to take to improve it. |
|                                                          | **3.1 What Is Credit?**  
Credit is the amount of money a borrower receives and agrees to pay back with interest to the lender. The lender relies on a report of the borrower’s credit history to determine whether to extend a loan. The report includes a record of the borrower’s ability to repay debt.  
**Students will:**  
• Explain the concept of credit.  
• Distinguish the pros and cons of credit.  
• Develop techniques for building a strong credit history.  
• Summarize major consumer credit laws. | 12-1.2.2 Investigate current types of consumer fraud, including online scams.  
12-1.3.2 Analyze consumer protection laws for the issues they address and the safeguards they provide. |
|                                                          | **3.2 Types of Credit**  
Building a strong credit history requires using credit wisely. Credit cards, loans, and nontraditional credit options, such as rent-to-own plans and payday loans, are expensive ways to manage money. Often the results of poor credit choices will require debt management plans and credit counseling.  
**Students will:**  
• Explain the types and sources of credit.  
• Compute interest amounts on a loan.  
• Develop an action plan for fixing bad credit. | 12-1.3.3. Demonstrate steps for resolving a consumer complaint.  
12-4.1.1. Calculate the cost of borrowing a set amount of money using various types of credit.  
12-4.1.2. Explain how grace periods, methods of calculating interest, and fees affect borrowing costs.  
12-4.1.3. Apply systematic decision making to identify the most cost-effective option for making a major purchase. |
### 3.3 Protect Your Credit

Lenders evaluate a person's creditworthiness based on the Five C's—capacity, capital, conditions, collateral, and character—as well as the person's credit report and credit score. Maintaining good credit is pivotal in acquiring future credit. Consumers need to monitor their credit accounts and reports and keep their personal and financial information safe to maintain their good credit.

**Students will:**
- Explain the impact credit scores and credit reports have on obtaining credit.
- Evaluate the process of the Five C's of credit.
- Explain what a credit score indicates and how it affects a person's financial history.
- Identify strategies for protecting personal financial information and resources.

12-1.2.2 Investigate current types of consumer fraud, including online scams. Describe the actions a victim of identity theft needs to take to restore personal security.
12-4.2.1 Explain how a credit report affects creditworthiness and the cost of credit.
12-4.3.1 Describe debtors’ and creditors’ rights related to wage garnishing and repossession when an overdue debt is not paid.
12-4.4.1 Analyze online and printed resources for up-to-date information about consumer credit rights.

### 3.4 Debt Management

Repaying debt is a legal and ethical matter. People who run into financial trouble can often improve their financial situation with some effort. When consumers are not able to manage debt on their own, they can work with a credit counselor to develop a debt management plan. Bankruptcy is a legal action used to remove the debts of businesses and individuals who are unable to pay their bills, but it has severe credit consequences.

**Students will:**
- Compare and contrast debt management plans.
- Examine two types of bankruptcy: Chapter 7 and Chapter 13.
- Explain why bankruptcy might not be the best choice in a given situation.
- Interpret complex data and analyze the services of DMP agencies and whether to file bankruptcy in a given situation.

12-4.3.2 Describe possible consequences of excessive debt.
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<tr>
<td><strong>Theme 4: Planning for the Future</strong></td>
<td><strong>Students will:</strong></td>
<td><strong>12-1.2.1</strong> Analyze financial information for objectivity, accuracy, relevancy to given needs, and currency. <strong>12-1.2.3</strong> Summarize factors to consider when selecting a financial planning professional or tax adviser. <strong>12-1.4.1</strong> Set measurable short-term, medium-term, and long-term financial goals. <strong>12-3.6.3</strong> Analyze a plan to secure funding for a financial goal. <strong>12-6.2.1</strong> Compare various investing strategies for their potential to build wealth. <strong>12-6.2.2</strong> Analyze an investment utilizing the principles of time value of money. <strong>12-6.4.2</strong> Compare the investment objectives and historical rates of return of various stocks and mutual funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project: My Investment Plan</strong> Students review basic information about stocks and the stock market and then conduct research to select at least ten stocks in which to invest for a financial portfolio.</td>
<td>• Explain stock and the stock market. • Describe low-risk, medium-risk, and high-risk investments. • Develop a diversified stock portfolio. • Predict factors that would positively or negatively affect the stock prices within the next 10 years.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4.1 Investing Versus Saving</strong> People save to have money to use in the future. People invest to increase the value of their money. Because a savings account is generally insured by the financial institution, it carries less risk but has a lower rate of return. Stocks, bonds, and mutual funds are common investments which involve some risk, but investors are generally willing to accept more risk in exchange for higher returns.</td>
<td><strong>Students will</strong></td>
<td><strong>12-1.2.1</strong> Analyze financial information for objectivity, accuracy, relevancy to given needs, and currency. <strong>12-1.2.3</strong> Summarize factors to consider when selecting a financial planning professional or tax adviser. <strong>12-6.3.1</strong> Analyze the benefits of various investments options in the current economy. <strong>12-6.4.2</strong> Compare the investment objectives and historical rates of return of various stocks and mutual funds. <strong>12-6.6.1</strong> Analyze risk to various deposits base on deposit insurance.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Differentiate between saving and investing. • Describe types of investment vehicles. • Compare the relationship of risks and rewards. • Create a pyramid of investments, placing them in a range from low risk to high risk. • Identify the risk-return tradeoffs for saving and investing.</td>
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</tbody>
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### 4.2 Investing for the Long Term

Various types of risk should be considered when making retirement plans and investment decisions. Many types of investment plans, such as 401(k)s and IRAs, should be considered as well. It is never too early to think about financial planning. Planning should begin as soon as a person enters the workforce.

**Students will:**
- Identify the key elements of financial planning.
- Explain the risks associated with long-term financial planning.
- Examine investment needs in different financial situations and explore long-term financial investments.
- Apply risk criteria when choosing and developing a financial plan.

12-3.6.1 Analyze ways to modify spending practices to achieve financial goals.
12-6.2.1 Compare various investing strategies for their potential to build wealth.
12-6.2.2 Analyze an investment utilizing the principles of time value of money.
12-6.2.3 Calculate the end value of lump sum and periodic investments.
12-6.4.1 Compare advantages and disadvantages of buying and selling investments through various channels, including financial advisors, investment clubs, and online brokers.

### 4.3 Risks and Responsibilities

Risk is exposure to something potentially dangerous or harmful. It is important to recognize risks and learn how to manage or mitigate them. People purchase insurance to reduce the risk of loss and receive compensation for losses or damage caused by events beyond their control.

**Students will:**
- Identify risks in life and how to protect against the consequences of risk.
- Investigate categories of specific risks they may face.
- Examine ways to mitigate those risks.
- Calculate the probability of those risks occurring.

12-5.1.1 Describe ways people can manage risk through avoidance, reduction, retention, and transfer.
12-5.2.3 Analyze factors that can reduce or increase insurance costs.

### 4.4 Types of Insurance

Insurance coverage is provided in exchange for the payment of a premium. There are five common types of insurance. Some coverage, such as auto insurance, is required by law, while other coverage is optional. Consumers need to choose the right kind and amount of insurance during different stages in their lives.

**Students will:**
- Define basic insurance terms.
- Examine five types of insurance and the purpose of each.
- Evaluate the coverage for each of the five types.
- Create a portfolio with the types of insurance they imagine themselves purchasing within the next 10 years.

12-5.1.2 Analyze various insurance policies according to their deductibles.
12-5.3.1 Compare various programs that provide financial assistance for income loss due to illness, disability, or premature death.
12-5.3.2 Recommend insurance that protects one from the risks a young adult might face.

### Case Study: Solving Problems and Managing Risk

Students examine a process for making decisions and managing risk. They consider a scenario in which a business owner must make a difficult decision. Students use a decision tree to analyze options and consequences and recommend a course of action.

**Students will:**
- Explain why ethics are important to uphold when making a decision.
- Use a decision tree as part of the decision-making process.
- Explain risk management as part of decision making.
- Analyze a business crisis and explore options.
- Explore the importance of crisis management and crisis communications.

12-1.1.1 Explain how individuals demonstrate responsibility for financial well-being over a lifetime.
12-1.4.1 Set measurable short-term, medium-term, and long-term financial goals.
12-1.4.2 Evaluate the results of financial decisions.
12-3.6.1 Analyze ways to modify spending practices to achieve financial goals.