

# JA Personal Finance<sup>®</sup> 2.0

*JA Personal Finance* introduces high school students to the interrelationship between today's financial decisions and future financial freedom. To achieve financial wellness, students learn about money-management strategies, including earning, employment and income, budgeting, savings, credit and debt, consumer protection, smart shopping, risk management, and investing. Students also explore how their decisions can affect other people with whom they have relationships and healthy behaviors to discuss and manage shared financial decisions. At the conclusion of this program, students will identify how their personal finances affect their quality of life. They will understand how their financial choices will be the basis for meeting their needs and wants.

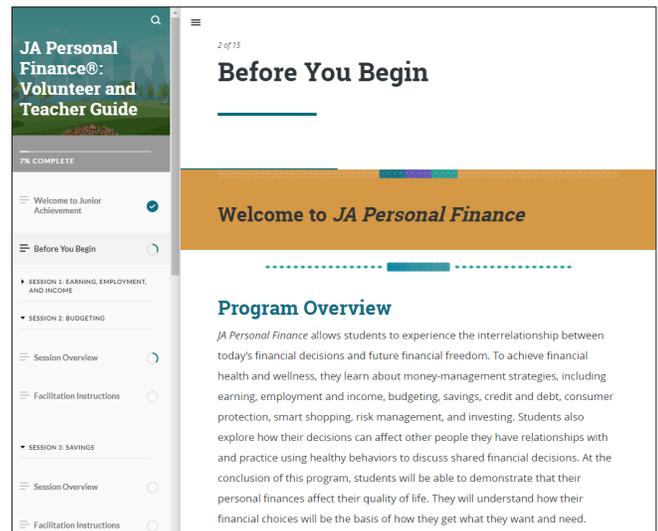
## PROGRAM CONCEPTS

- Earning money
- Budgeting money
- Healthy financial relationships
- Saving money for larger purchases and emergencies
- Managing credit and debt wisely
- Protecting finances
- Shopping smartly
- Managing potential risk to finances
- Investing to grow money

## PROGRAM GOALS

- Demonstrate that their personal finances affect their quality of life and will be the basis of how they get what they want and need.
- Understand the importance of personal financial decisions and the importance of money and their decisions as individuals and in relationships.

This program is part of the JA Financial Literacy Pathway and can be placed in Grades 9–12. The program may receive 5 or more ICH based on delivery of the optional content. The program is primarily volunteer-led with options for student self-guided sessions/activities.



## Curriculum Outline

Session	Overview	Objectives Students will ...	Activities
<p><b>Session One: Earning, Employment, and Income (Volunteer-led)</b></p>	<p>Students learn that healthy personal finances require planning and managing. They begin to analyze the financial implications of their educational and career choices as a basis for understanding the relationship between earnings and personal finance. Students also explore how their decisions can affect other people with whom they have relationships and practice using healthy behaviors to discuss shared financial decisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explain how values, priorities, and educational goals can affect career decisions.</li> <li>● Identify employment options that align with your priorities and values.</li> <li>● Recognize how your financial decisions can affect others.</li> <li>● Use healthy relationship behaviors to discuss shared financial decisions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Warm-Up (5 minutes)</b> Students are introduced to the term <i>personal finance</i> and discuss how making sound financial decisions is important for everyone.</p> <p><b>Explore: Earning Money (10–15 minutes)</b> Students learn how making choices about how to earn the income they need to pay for their needs and wants is the first step in managing their personal finances.</p> <p><b>Discuss: Healthy Financial Relationships (15–20 minutes)</b> Students discuss how their financial decisions can affect other people, and how taking responsibility for their financial decisions can affect their family, their friends, and even someone they may not even know yet.</p> <p><b>Wrap-Up (5 minutes)</b> Students review key concepts and terms from the session.</p>
<p><b>Session Two: Budgeting (Volunteer-led)</b></p>	<p>Students investigate the importance of budgeting and how to plan for staying within a budget. They review characteristics of a healthy relationship and explore how shared budgeting creates opportunities to talk about equality, independence, and respect.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recognize the importance of making and keeping a budget or spending plan.</li> <li>● Identify categories of expenses on a budget.</li> <li>● Explain how to use a budget to clarify shared financial decisions with another person.</li> <li>● Prioritize expense categories on a budget.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Warm-Up (5 minutes)</b> Students are introduced to the concept of budgeting and its importance.</p> <p><b>Explore: Budget Basics (10–15 minutes)</b> Students learn budgeting terms (<i>income, expense, budget, fixed expenses, variable expenses, periodic expenses</i>), categories, and healthy budgeting behaviors.</p> <p><b>Get Together: Budget Choices (15–20 minutes)</b> In this activity, students play a game that requires making budgeting decisions.</p> <p><b>Wrap-Up (5 minutes)</b> Students review key concepts and terms from the session.</p>

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Session	Overview	Objectives Students will ...	Activities
<b>Session Three: Savings (Volunteer-led)</b>	Students analyze the role that saving plays in their personal finances. They explore how having a healthy savings plan is necessary in all phases of life but is especially critical for big-ticket items and emergencies. Students learn how to apply communication strategies when discussing financial issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recognize reasons for saving.</li> <li>● Explain how saving can help you earn interest instead of paying interest.</li> <li>● Use strategies to achieve a saving goal.</li> <li>● Recognize unhealthy relationship behaviors related to saving.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Warm-Up (5 minutes)</b> Students are introduced to key terms for the session.</p> <p><b>Explore: Why Save? (10–15 minutes)</b> Students learn why saving is important and strategies for achieving savings goals.</p> <p><b>Discuss: Healthy Financial Relationships (15–20 minutes)</b> Students learn how to use a budget to reduce expenses to allow for saving. They explore how their savings choices can affect people with whom they have relationships.</p> <p><b>Wrap-Up (5 minutes)</b> Students review key concepts and terms from the session.</p>
<b>Session Four: Credit and Debt (Volunteer-led)</b>	Students analyze the importance of credit and the outcomes of wise and poor use of credit. They examine the potential consequences of sharing credit or cosigning for loans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Differentiate between credit and debt.</li> <li>● Recognize the factors that affect an individual's credit score and credit history.</li> <li>● Recognize the consequences of a low credit score.</li> <li>● Recognize the impact of sharing credit cards or cosigning for loans.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Warm-Up (5 minutes)</b> Students are introduced to key terms for the session.</p> <p><b>Discuss: Credit Basics (20–25 minutes)</b> Students learn the difference between credit and debt and explore how people's behaviors with credit can affect their credit score.</p> <p><b>Get Together: Sharing Credit Decisions (15–20 minutes)</b> Students examine the potential consequences of sharing credit or cosigning for loans.</p> <p><b>Wrap-Up (5 minutes)</b> Students review key concepts and terms from the session.</p>
<b>Session Five: Consumer Protection (Volunteer-led)</b>	Students explore consumer protection basics, including how to avoid scams, manage their money, use credit and loans carefully, and protect their personal information. They learn some of the risks associated with sharing finances with others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● List ways to protect online information.</li> <li>● Recognize how a credit report can help identify suspicious activity related to your finances.</li> <li>● Recognize risks involved with sharing finances.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Warm-Up (5 minutes)</b> Students are introduced to key terms for the session.</p> <p><b>Discuss: Securing Your Online Information (10–15 minutes)</b> Students learn how to identify suspicious online behavior as well as strategies for protecting their online information.</p> <p><b>Get Together: Sharing Finances (15–20 minutes)</b> Students learn some of the risks associated with sharing finances with other people and develop a tip sheet to help people who are trying to decide whether to share an account, a credit card, or a loan with another person.</p> <p><b>Wrap-Up (5 minutes)</b> Students review key concepts and terms from the session.</p>

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<b>Session Six: Smart Shopping</b>	This optional, student self-guided activity focuses on making informed purchasing decisions to maximize buying power. Students learn about comparison shopping and participate in a simulated shopping experience. They explore communicating with other people about consumer behaviors and shared shopping. A volunteer or the teacher can introduce and wrap up the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify the factors necessary for making an informed purchase.</li> <li>● Compare and contrast prices and data when making a purchase decision.</li> <li>● Calculate savings gained through smart shopping.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Optional Introduction (5 minutes)</b> The teacher or a volunteer introduces the session.</p> <p><b>Smart Shopping (20 minutes)</b> Students interact with and learn through the online session content. Activities include: What Would You Do? Scenarios; Comparison Shopping; and Shop ‘til You Drop.</p> <p><b>Optional Wrap-Up (5 minutes)</b> The teacher or a volunteer reviews the session’s key terms and leads a debrief discussion with students.</p>
<b>Session Seven: Risk Management</b>	This optional, student self-guided activity focuses on risks that can lead to financial loss. Students practice applying appropriate risk management strategies in scenarios and learn how to discuss risk management and manage the risks associated with shared financial choices. A volunteer or the teacher can introduce and wrap up the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recognize risk of financial loss as an everyday reality for everyone.</li> <li>● Recognize risk management strategies and apply them appropriately.</li> <li>● Understand the role of personal responsibility in preventing financial loss.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Optional Introduction (5 minutes)</b> The teacher or a volunteer introduces the session.</p> <p><b>Risk Management (20 minutes)</b> Students interact with and learn through the online session. Activities include: Risk Management Scenarios; Strategy Quick Sort; and Risky Trivia.</p> <p><b>Optional Wrap-Up (5 minutes)</b> The teacher or a volunteer reviews the session’s key terms and leads a debrief discussion with students.</p>
<b>Session Eight: Investing</b>	This optional, student self-guided activity explores the difference between saving and investing, the advantages and potential returns of investing, and common types of investment products. Students also learn about various types of investment risks and self-assess their personal investment risk tolerance and communication with others about shared investments. A volunteer or the teacher can introduce and wrap up the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Evaluate investments with different levels of risk and reward.</li> <li>● Describe the role that compound interest plays in wealth over time.</li> <li>● Recognize that investment options carry different levels of risk and reward.</li> <li>● Analyze the risk tolerances for different investment strategies.</li> <li>● Recognize the importance of practicing healthy relationship behaviors in shared investment decisions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Optional Introduction (5 minutes)</b> The teacher or a volunteer introduces the session.</p> <p><b>Investing (20 minutes)</b> Students interact with and learn through the online session. Activities include: How the Penny Grows; Savings vs. Investing; and Investment Advisor.</p> <p><b>Optional Wrap-Up (5 minutes)</b> The teacher or a volunteer reviews the session’s key terms and leads a debrief discussion with students.</p>