

Personal Finance – Syllabus 2015/2016 School Year

Omaha Northwest Magnet High School

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Personal Finance Course Rationale/Overview

Financial literacy is essential in meeting the financial challenge of the 21st Century. The competencies, which form the basis for this semester course, enable students to analyze their personal financial decisions, evaluate the costs and benefits of their decisions, recognize their rights and responsibilities as consumers, and apply the knowledge learned in school to financial situations encountered later in life.

Personal Finance Course Description

Understanding and managing personal finances are key to one's future financial success. This one-semester course is based on the National Business Education standards for Personal Finance, Nebraska's Career Education knowledge and skill statements, Nebraska Career Ready Standards, Nebraska Essential Learnings, National Standards for Economic Education and the National Standards in Personal Finance Education created by the Jump\$Start Coalition® for Personal Financial Literacy.

The course presents essential knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about real world financial issues. Students will learn how choices influence occupational options and future earning potential. Students will also learn to apply decision-making skills to evaluate career choices and set personal goals. The course content is designed to help the learner make wise spending, saving, and credit decisions and to make effective use of income to achieve personal financial success.

Personal Finance Course Objectives

At the completion of the course, the student will be able to do the following:

- Create a personal financial plan, understand the impacts of financial decision making, and be able to explain how budgets and balance sheets can be used as tools for financial success.
- Explore both career and education paths after high school, understanding the responsibility of paying taxes, and show how finances and assets can be protected and preserved through different insurances.
- Obtaining and protecting credit through discovery of purchasing decisions by using personal loans and credit cards, as well as the ability to explain how credit works, identifying both the positives and negatives of it.
- Comprehend the importance of saving and investing by learning about different banking procedures and products, various methods of saving, and will be familiar with different investment products that will allow them to build their wealth and plan for their future.

Personal Finance Content Standards

- * Please consult Personal Financial Literacy, 2nd edition, 2014 © textbook (Madura, Casey, Roberts) for the National Standards in Personal Finance Education
- * Please consult 2013 NBEA National Standards publication
- * Please consult Nebraska Business Education Standards standards
<http://cestandards.education.ne.gov/> OR
http://cestandards.education.ne.gov/Subject_Link.aspx?Sub=Mk

Personal Finance Course Topics and Timeline:

Week 1:	Unit 1—Careers	(Chapter 5)
Week 2:	Unit 2—Financial Plan & Decision Making	(Chapters 2,3)
Week 3:	Unit 3—Budgets & Balance Sheets	(Chapter 4)
Week 4:	Unit 4—Paying Taxes & Insurance	(Chapter 6,7)
Week 5:	Unit 4—Paying Taxes & Insurance	(Chapter 6,7)
Week 6:	Unit 5—Credit Management	(Chapter 9,11)
Week 7:	Unit 5—Credit Management	(Chapter 9,11)
Week 8:	Unit 6—Loans & Purchasing	(Chapter 10)
Week 9:	Unit 7—Banking Procedures	(Chapter 12)
Week 10:	Unit 8—Methods of Saving	(Chapter 13)
Week 11:	Unit 9—Investing	(Chapter 14)
Week 12:	Unit 9—Investing	(Chapter 14)
Week 13:	Unit 10—Planning for the Future	(Chapter 15)

Personal Finance Course Projects and Activities:

- We will do a stock market game during Unit 9
- We will do a budgeting/real-life project during unit 3
- We will tour the Omaha Federal Reserve building during unit 7

Course Guidelines and Expectations

Textbook(s) and Resources

- Personal Financial Literacy, Pearson Education, Inc./Prentice-Hall Publishing, 2nd edition, 2014 ©. Jeff Madura, Mike Casey, Sherry J. Roberts, authors.

Required Materials

- Notebook
- USB Flash Drive (minimum 4GB)
- PC/MAC

Classroom Behavior/Course Expectations

- Be on time with all materials each day
- Work quietly to allow for minimal class interruptions
- Complete all bookwork, homework, and activities within the allotted timeframe

Academic Dishonesty Policy

- Cheating on any assignment, project, or assessment will result in a ZERO and further disciplinary action could be taken
- Copying another person's work will be considered cheating, unless you have been assigned together as a group

Course Grading Scale

OPS Standards Based Grading

Number Value	Grade	GPA Value
3.51 - 4.00	A	4.0
3.01 - 3.50	A-	4.0
2.51 - 3.00	B	3.0
2.01 - 2.50	B-	3.0
1.51 - 2.00	C	2.0
.76 - 1.50	D	1.0
0 -.75	F	0

Course Assessment

Students will be evaluated based upon a compilation of Formative and Summative assessments. Formative assessments will be daily work, exercises and homework assignments. Summative assessments will consist of projects, tests, and quizzes.

- Summative grades will carry a weight of 65%.
- Formative grades will carry a weight of 35%.

Student Contract - Personal Finance

I have read and had explained in detail the guidelines and expectations set forth for Personal Finance. I understand that successful completion of this course will be based largely upon my following these guidelines and expectations. As it is my intention to successfully complete this course with a passing grade and credit granted, I agree to follow all of the guidelines given.



Name

Date

Grade I will work to earn in Personal Finance: _____