

## **Center for Economic Education at Lynchburg College In-Services Ideas**

### **Teaching the Essential Skill of Decision Making**

#### **Grades: (can be tailored to any grade level)**

This in-service focuses on engaging students in decision making to increase their understanding of the history and social sciences content, including historical, geographic, political, and economic events or trends. The development of effective decision making is important in order for students to become better-informed citizens. Interweaving teaching tools such as decision making charts not only makes learning fun, but also encourages students to be critical thinkers and problem solvers.

### **The Stock Market Game: Empowering Students to Invest in a Secure Financial Future**

#### **Grades: 4-12**

This interactive workshop features financial planning basics, the role of the stock market in the economy, and the research tools available for interdisciplinary instruction. Details for playing the game will be covered with special attention to students' research and portfolios. Support materials, refreshments and door prizes are included.

### **Dragons Decide**

#### **Grades: K-3**

This workshop will feature the popular story/coloring book, *Dragons Decide*, in which a family of dragons experience real-life economics as they build a castle for their new home. This instructional unit has proven successful in teaching the economics SOL in grades K-3, including concepts such as jobs, needs, wants, scarcity, choices, decision-making, opportunity cost, saving, producers, goods, services, resources, specialization, and interdependence. Each teacher will receive a complete teacher's guide, classroom set of disposable coloring books, and box of crayons for each student.

### **Do A Zoo**

#### **Grades: K-3**

Not enough time in the day to take your students on a field trip to the zoo? Then bring the zoo to your classroom! This collection of 12 lessons uses science, art, and language arts to plan and design a zoo for the classroom, with the option of opening for business. Students learn about animal classifications and animal habitats while actively learning about economic concepts including goods and services, resources, decision making, opportunity cost, work skills, and producers.

### **Teaching Economics Using Children's Literature**

#### **Grades: K-3**

You're already using children's literature books to grab your students' attention. Why not make the most of your precious classroom time and sprinkle economics into the mix? This perennial bestseller is being offered for the first time in central Virginia and is updated with a wealth of teacher-friendly resources including:

- Introduction – shares a handy “how to” guide for integrating economics into your children’s stories
- Student Glossary – includes unique “students language” definitions that boil each concept down to the bare basics
- Teaching Activities – gives you hands-on lessons and activities for popular children’s books such as *The Three Little Pigs*, *Ant Cities*, *The Giving Tree*, *Lunch Money*, & *Beetles Lightly Toasted*.
- Econ Book Report – allows you to use a versatile template to assign book reports
- Generic Handouts – extends the core economic principles to any children’s book
- Literature Connections – lists over 100 additional books used to teach economics and personal finance

Each lesson includes step-by-step procedures, key questions to test your students' knowledge, follow-up activities, and reproducible visuals, worksheets, and handouts. Storytelling...a perfect way to teach economic concepts!

### **Economics, Geography, & Children's Literature**

#### **Grades: K-6**

Economics, geography, and children's literature are combined in this dynamic unit of 36 activities which address the economic concepts in grades K-6. Students “book a trip around the world” as hands-on activities help them understand that people all over the world are buyers and sellers; that resources are combined to produce goods and services; and, that people have been trading to get the things they want for centuries. Students track their journey in a special student passport. Unit includes a thorough overview of economics for teachers.

## **Using Elementary Math to Teach Economics**

### **Grades: 3-5**

Designed for math and social studies teachers, this collection of 12 hands-on, engaging lessons gives teachers ammunition for the age-old question, “Why do we have to learn this?” Students creatively apply mathematical skills and thinking to solve economic and personal finance problems they are sure to face in life. Examples of activities include comparing income and expenses in a budget to make a choice necessitated by scarcity, calculating costs and revenues in a production process, and computing interest on savings. Economics explanations are provided for teachers who need a brush up; and, each lesson includes a web address for further connections to other disciplines, additional suggestions for math and economics activities, and links to interesting information and resources.

## **Steps to Financial Fitness**

### **Grades: 3-5**

Directly correlated with the English, math, and social studies SOL’s, this collection of 15 action-oriented lessons engage students in making strategic decisions about earning an income, saving and spending money, using credit, and budgeting. Sample activities include role playing the buying of goods and services with different methods of payment and analyzing a fable to determine the opportunity cost of not saving.

## **Economics & U.S. History (Volume I: Colonial America)**

### **Grades: 4-8**

This publication contains 15 hands-on lessons, using games, children’s literature, and simulations to assist in teaching the new social studies and U.S. history SOLs. Economic concepts such as scarcity, resources, opportunity cost, barter, investing, saving, credit, types of economies, roles of government, trade, specialization, interdependence, and economic freedoms are cleverly taught through colonial American history. History topics include New World travel/trade, colonial occupations/marketplace, eighteenth-century technology/industrialization, Jamestown, King James, Indians, etc.

## **Economics & U.S. History (Volume II: A Young Nation 1765-1877)**

### **Grades: 4-8**

Workshop participants will receive a brand new publication containing active, hands-on lesson plans that use games, children’s literature, and simulations to assist in teaching the social studies and U.S. history SOLs. Economic concepts such as opportunity cost, scarcity, resources, trade, taxes, role of government, supply and demand, U.S. economic freedoms, and investment are cleverly taught through American historical events (i.e., Declaration of Independence, Lewis and Clark expedition, Civil War, Gettysburg Address, American Revolution, U.S. Constitution, slavery, cotton industry, etc.).

## **Using Economics to Solve Everyday Mysteries**

### **Grades: 4-12**

Unsure what economics is all about? Unsure how to teach the economics in your content area? Then this workshop is for you! All teachers in grades K-12 who are required to teach any economics will learn how to think like an economist to “decipher” the economics SOL. This collection of 17 lessons uses short, engaging activities to build a logical framework in which to understand and analyze the economic impact of events. Student “sleuths” use clues and the economic-way-of-thinking to solve common “mysteries” including *Why Stay Up Late When You Know It Will Wipe You Out the Next Day?*, *Why Is the School Lunchroom Always Dirty?*, and *How Can You Have Seashells When You Don’t Live By the Sea?*

## **Mathematics & Economics: Connections for Life**

### **Grades: 6-8**

Participants will become better equipped to empower students as effective savers, investors, consumers, producers, and informed citizens while reinforcing the mathematics and social studies SOLs. Each lesson contains background information about economics content and ways in which it relates to mathematics. This hands-on, interdisciplinary approach to classroom instruction is sure to enhance student interest and comprehension.

## **Financial Fitness for Life**

### **Grades: 6-8**

Directly correlated with math and social studies SOLs, this collection of 17 action-oriented lessons engage students in applying economics and decision-making skills to real world personal finance topics including: correlation between education and income; cost of spending vs. saving; financial goal setting and budgeting; inflation and interest; and, effects of taxes on consumers. Each participant will receive a teacher’s guide, student workbook, parent’s guide, and CD-ROM.

## **Risky Business - What Every Teenager Needs to Know About Living Smart**

### **Grades: 6-12**

What are the skills your students need to confidently face challenges in their futures regarding higher education, credit, insurance, and healthy lifestyles? There are no easy answers, but *Risky Business* shows your students how sound economic decision-making can empower teenagers to enter their adult years with skills to be healthy, wealthy, and secure. This complete DVD teaching resource contains four 15-20 minute video segments that are complemented by 12 lessons and activities (3 for each video). Students enjoy a rich mix of audio, video, teacher instruction, and in-class activities. Each video segment takes an entertaining look at various challenges your students face on a regular basis. Then, the integrated lesson plans and activities help reinforce and extend these crucial concepts. Workshop participants receive the DVD which is also a wonderful resource for meeting several of the Economic Education & Personal Finance Literacy Objectives.

## **Economics Lessons for Middle & High School SOL**

### **Grades: 7-12**

This collection of lessons has been compiled to specifically address economics taught in middle and high school social studies courses. These hand-picked lessons turn abstract, often challenging economic concepts into active learning experiences for students. Participants will gain a better understanding of the economic concepts required by the SOL as well as innovative instructional strategies for teaching economics in the classroom.

## **Financial Fitness for Life**

### **Grades: 7-12**

Are you and your students financially fit? Get in shape with this hands-on curriculum which firms the financial footing students need to face tough decisions about paying for college, applying for auto loans, and investing their earnings. Fifty-two exercises focus on five major themes: the economic way of thinking, earning income, saving, spending and using credit, and money management. Workshop participants will receive curriculum materials valued at \$80-plus, including a teacher's guide, student workbook, parent guide, and a companion website from which handout copies can be legally made.

## **Values in the Marketplace: How Your Character Affects the Economy**

### **Grades: 7-12**

What do ethics and character have to do with a thriving market economy? Everything! Challenge your students to think critically about ethical dilemmas and explore their responses to a variety of real-world, thought-provoking scenarios. Because scandals in business, government, and nonprofit sectors capture the headlines today, students need guidelines for evaluating these headlines to formulate rational opinions and make informed choices. Critically important topics include:

- What is the difference between self-interest and greed?
- Do markets need ethical standards?
- What do we do about sweatshops?
- Should we allow a market for transplant organs?
- Do businesses have a social responsibility?

Your students will gain an appreciation of the moral code that every citizen should uphold in the economy as an employee, business owner, and consumer. Curriculum includes 10 lessons, valuable background information, test bank, and glossary.

## **Using World Geography to Teach Economics**

### **Grades: 8-12**

Teachers can meet the challenge of teaching more in the same amount of time by using these 9 integrated lessons that emphasize content in economics and geography while providing opportunities for critical thinking about real-world problems. Students today are faced to a greater degree than before when it comes to overpopulation, environmentalism, and global economies which require higher levels of competency in economics and geography to understand the world in which they live. This collection of active-learning lessons employ graphic organizers, data, charts, maps, and graphs while giving students opportunities to read, write, speak, and reason. Correlated with the geography and economics SOL, this workshop will benefit all social studies teachers with a clear connection between geography and economics – two social sciences that rely on critical thinking skills to analyze human behavior.

## **Globalization - Critical Knowledge & Skills for Middle and High School Students**

### **Grades: 6-12**

Your students have no choice: they will enter a globalized economy. How can you make sure your students not only survive, but thrive? The first step is to frame globalization issues in terms any middle or high school student can understand. This workshop will demonstrate mind-expanding lessons that explore key issues including trade, comparative advantage, protectionism, outsourcing, and immigration. Teachers will become equipped to pass onto students a firm understanding of how they can think and choose responsibly as consumers, employees, and citizens in a global economy. Links to supplemental materials and resources help you extend the activities and get more from each lesson. Plus, all lessons include key data (current statistics) and information sources, so you can cover this important topic quickly and efficiently.