

The Franklin Initiative Reality Store

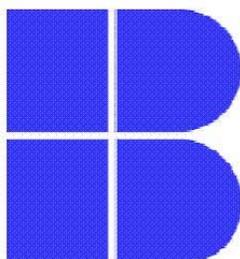
Final Report 2008-2009 School Year

Life's Unexpected **Transportation** **Child Care** **Insurance** **Bank** **Travel & Recreation**

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"I never knew what Grade Point Average was before Reality Store, but now I know grades are important for earning more money and getting a good job."

- 7th grade student at Edgewood Junior High School

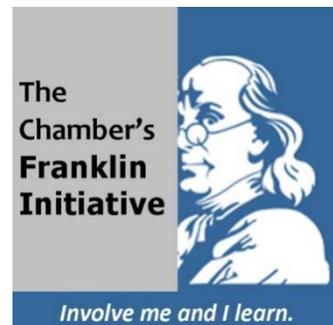


The Chamber

The Greater Bloomington
Chamber of Commerce

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THE CHAMBER'S FRANKLIN INITIATIVE

The Franklin Initiative is a program of the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce. For more than a decade, the Chamber's Franklin Initiative (FI) has facilitated career awareness while helping students develop the skills necessary to succeed in employment or in continuing education. FI programs such as Speakers Bureau, Reality Store, Job Shadowing, National Career Readiness assessment and certification, Internships, Service Learning, and Employment Fairs all increase student engagement through real-world connections and provide a critical link between education and the world of work. The Franklin Initiative's Stay In School Partnership provides individualized counseling and career preparation for struggling students to increase the graduation rate in Monroe County students.

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The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit membership organization serving as our community's leading advocate for business. We offer unique leadership opportunities, meaningful volunteer activities, and exclusive business-building programs focused on critical economic, civic, and social priorities. Chamber members support each other and community initiatives, sharing information and resources to help create economic opportunity and community well-being. At the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, we believe that better business leads to a better community.

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2008-2009 Reality Store Final Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Reality Store is a program of the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce Franklin Initiative. It is a fun simulation that helps 7th and 8th graders connect academic achievement with the kind of lifestyle they envision for themselves as an adult. The 2008-2009 Reality Store Final Report is intended primarily for school officials and volunteers, but is also available to community members interested in the outcomes of this high-impact program.

In the activity, students pretend to be a 28-year-old just starting out in their career. They are assigned salaries based on their actual GPA, and can decide if they are married or single and how many children they have, if any. Then, they proceed from table to table (staffed by Franklin Initiative volunteers) to buy housing, transportation, food, insurance, child care, etc. Leftover money can be used at the pets, electronics, and vacations tables.

During the 2008-2009 school year, Reality Stores were organized at all four local middle schools: Batchelor, Edgewood, Jackson Creek, and Tri-North, reaching a total of almost 1,000 7th and 8th graders. Students are surveyed before and after the Reality Store. An analysis of these survey results shows the following positive outcomes from the activity following the Reality Store:

- Overall, 88% of students reported that they enjoyed participating in the Reality Store.
- The number of students who plan to complete some kind of postsecondary education increased from 87% to 92%.
- The number of students who plan to complete at least a four year college degree increased from 76% to 82%, and the number of students who plan to complete a graduate degree increased from 41% to 54%
- The number of students who say they “have no idea” what level of education they will achieve decreased from 9% to 5%.
- Students’ written feedback shows that the activity reinforces the following important realizations:
 - Life as an adult is complicated and involves sacrifices and difficult choices
 - Getting good grades now is important to their future career and standard of living.
 - Continuing education after high school is probably necessary for the lifestyle they expect.
- The activity helps students determine how much education they will need in their life.
- During the activity, students practice budgeting and decision making skills
- Volunteers have a positive, meaningful experience.

It is worthwhile to review student written comments about their experiences during the Reality Store, all of which are included in the appendix to the final report. In addition to their entertainment value, these comments show that the Reality Store stimulates a great deal of reflection and learning in the participants.

Below is a list of improvements to the Reality Store that are suggested by student, volunteer, and teacher evaluations. Some of these suggestions will be implemented by Franklin Initiative staff in 2010, while others require changes by school officials.

- All schools except Jackson Creek need to provide more time so that all students can complete the activity.
- There need to be more low-priced options, such as used goods.
- The in-class materials for students and teachers need to be improved and updated.
- Schools should continue having the same teachers prep the students year after year.
- Greater efforts are needed to ensure teacher evaluations are returned.

About the Franklin Initiative Reality Store

The Franklin Initiative (FI) Reality Store is a fun, realistic simulation that helps middle school students connect academic achievement with the kind of lifestyle they envision for themselves after graduation. The Franklin Initiative has three major goals for the Reality Store:

- Help students realize the connection between their academics and the kind of lifestyle or standard of living they want to have as an adult.
- Help students appreciate the need for continuing their education after graduation in order to attain the kind of career necessary to realize the lifestyle they desire.
- Provide students a chance to practice budgeting and decision making skills as they experience the many complexities, difficulties, and expenses that adults face in real life.

During an in-class prep session conducted by their teacher prior to the event, students are assigned an education level and salary based on their actual GPA.

A higher GPA means they have a higher education level (the options are, in order: no diploma, high school diploma, 2 year degree or certificate, undergraduate degree, or graduate degree). They must develop a monthly budget in class, and then on the day of the event they go from table to table (staffed by Franklin Initiative volunteers) to spend their salary on housing, transportation, food, insurance, child care, utilities, student loans, home furnishings, clothing, etc. They must stay within their budget or they need to get a second job, or sell back expensive items. Leftover money can be used at the pets, electronics, and vacations tables. For most consumer goods, students can choose from a wide variety of items and/or a range of prices. Volunteers present and explain the choices at



each table to students, and also provide advice when students are uncertain or are running out of money. All students must visit a "Life's Unexpected" table, where an unplanned-for event that either helps or hurts their financial situation happens to them, such as a car accident, DUI arrest or winning lottery ticket. After the simulation, students do a follow up in their class to debrief about their experiences and process the lessons they

learned.

During the 2008-2009 school year, FI organized Reality Stores at all four local middle schools: Edgewood, Tri-North, Jackson Creek, and Batchelor, to reach a total of nearly 1,000 seventh and eighth graders. The Franklin Initiative would like to thank all of the over 150 volunteers who donate their time and enthusiasm to make Reality Stores so successful, as well as the many local businesses who encourage their employees to participate during the work day. In addition, the success of each Reality Store depends on the enthusiastic participation and commitment of the teachers and guidance counselors who dedicate class time to preparing students for the event and debriefing them afterwards.

The Reality Store Surveys

Both before and after the Reality Store event, all students are surveyed in class about their attitudes pertaining to their Reality Store experience, as well as regarding the connections they perceive between their academic achievement and future lifestyle and career. Volunteers are also asked to complete a survey after their Reality Store service.



The purpose of this report is to summarize the results of these surveys, as well as to suggest best practices for making the Reality Store even more impactful in each school and to identify ways to improve or enhance the experience for participants.

It is important to note that schools vary their implementation of the Reality Store.

- Students at Edgewood do not choose a specific career, but rather are simply assigned an education level and corresponding salary. In contrast, students at all three MCCSC schools choose from a list of possible careers, grouped into six different education levels, and each career has a different salary level based on actual average starting salaries provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Edgewood students participate in the Reality Store in 7th grade, unlike MCCSC schools where students participate in 8th grade.

- Some teachers allow students to decide whether and how many children they have, while others make students roll dice to see whether they have children and, if so, how many. Other teachers allow their students to decide if they want children, but then make them roll dice to determine how many children they have (up to 3 children)

Detailed summaries of all student and volunteer survey data, including comparisons across schools and with previous years, are included in the appendices.

Written Survey Comments

Also included in the appendices are students' narrative responses to the open-ended items on the post survey. These written comments are a joy to read and provide a fascinating glimpse into students' experiences during the Reality Store. They are also a valuable source of ideas for improvement and feedback about what the students find most enjoyable or enlightening about the event, and what could be improved.



Overall Conclusions

The following conclusions are based on a detailed analysis of all the information gathered through the Reality Store evaluation process.

- Students at all four schools were excited to participate in the Reality Store and overwhelmingly found it to be an enjoyable, beneficial experience. 88% reported that they enjoyed participating in the Reality Store.
- After the Reality Store, the number of students who say they plan to complete at least a four year college degree increased from 76% to 82%, and the number of students who plan to complete some kind of postsecondary education increased from 87% to 92%.
- After the Reality Store, the number of students who say they "have no idea" what level of education they will achieve decreased from 9% to 5%.
- Survey responses show that the Reality store reinforces many important realizations for students about the



relationship between academics and future success, including the following:

- Getting good grades now is important to their future career and standard of living.
- Life as an adult involves sacrifices and difficult choices
- The Reality Store prompts students to engage in a great deal of reflection about their future and what life will be like for them as an adult. They generally report having a greater appreciation for the complexity of life as an independent adult, with or without a family. Many students say they have a greater appreciation of what their parents go through.
- Students feel they are learning valuable budgeting and decision making skills as they make ends meet for their household during the Reality Store.
- Volunteers have a positive, fun, and meaningful experience with the Reality Store and feel they are providing an important service for youth.
- Students at the two schools that had the same teachers prep the students year after year (Edgewood and Tri North) were best prepared for the simulation, according to survey responses.
- Students, teachers, and volunteers at schools that offer less than one hour or less to complete the Reality Store complain that there is not enough time to adequately complete the activity. This complaint does not surface at Jackson Creek, where students have more than one hour to complete the activity.

Suggestions for Future Reality Stores

Below is a list of major improvements suggested by student, volunteer, and teacher evaluations.

- By far the biggest improvement would be for schools that offer less than an hour for the Reality Store (Edgewood, Tri-North, and Batchelor) to provide students with more time for the simulation, even if only 10-15 more minutes.
- Many suggestions about ways to make the Reality Store more realistic were implemented in the 2008-2009 school year. However, comments from students, volunteers, and teachers indicate the need for numerous minor content tweaks, which will be implemented in 2010.
- Students and volunteers suggest offering more options for students who do not have enough money. These would include low-cost alternatives such as a food pantry, second-hand clothing, living with their parents, and camping trips for vacations. Some of these will be included in upcoming Reality Stores.



- The in-class materials for students and teachers need to be improved and updated, particularly the budgeting sheet students use to estimate their expenses in various categories.
- Schools should continue to assign the same teachers/classes for the in-class components of the Reality Store. Schools should also continue to maintain a single point of contact with FI that annually oversees the Reality Store in his or her school, such as a teacher, counselor, or assistant principal.
- Greater efforts are needed in order to ensure all teachers complete their teacher evaluations and turn them in, along with all student surveys.

Analysis of Results from the 2008-2009 Surveys

The 2008-2009 school year was the first year in which certain questions in the pre-event survey were worded identically to questions in the post-event survey. This allows for a comparison of pre- and post-event survey responses in order to determine changes in students' attitudes, if any, as a result of participation in the Reality Store. In other words, the surveys are valuable as a means of determining the impact of the Reality Store simulation. Additionally, the original open-ended question to the post-survey was expanded into three more specific questions. The table below compares the pre survey with the post survey, with items that are identical in the pre and post survey in italics.

PRE-EVENT SURVEY ITEMS

1.	<i>What education level do you plan to attain during your lifetime?</i>
2.	I am excited to participate in the Reality Store.

3.	<i>I know what I want to be when I grow up.</i>
4.	<i>Getting good grades isn't as important as everyone thinks.</i>
5.	<i>You don't necessarily need a good job to have a good life.</i>
6.	<i>My grades are good enough to get the lifestyle I want for myself as an adult.</i>
7.	<i>When I'm an adult, as long as I have a job I will be fine money-wise.</i>

POST-EVENT SURVEY ITEMS

1.	<i>What education level do you plan to attain during your lifetime?</i>
2.	I enjoyed participating in the Reality Store.
3.	I was well-prepared for going in to the Reality Store.
4.	<i>I know what I want to be when I grow up.</i>
5.	<i>Getting good grades isn't as important as everyone thinks.</i>
6.	<i>You don't necessarily need a good job to have a good life.</i>
7.	<i>My grades are good enough to get the lifestyle I want for myself as an adult.</i>
8.	<i>When I'm an adult, as long as I have a job I will be fine money-wise.</i>
9.	(open-ended) What did you enjoy most about the Reality Store?
10.	(open-ended) What suggestions do you have to improve the Reality Store?
11.	(open-ended) What did you learn from the Reality Store?

← [SAME] →

In 2008-2009, a total of 829 students completed the pre survey (182 at Edgewood, 252 at Tri-North, 212 at Jackson Creek, and 183 at Batchelor), down from a total of 913 students in 2007-2008. However, only 745 students completed the post survey (173 at Edgewood, 235 at Tri-North, 228 at Jackson Creek, and 111 at Batchelor). It is common for the number of post survey responses to be higher or lower due to natural day-to-day fluctuations in attendance; for instance, a flu epidemic may mean that 10% of students who were in class to take the pre survey were out sick on the day of the post survey, and vice versa. However, the number of students who took the post survey at Batchelor was down from 183 to 111, a drop of 72 students. This indicates that the teacher for at least one whole class of students, probably two classes, either did not have his or her class complete the survey, or neglected to return the completed surveys.

In the analysis that follows, each survey item will be taken individually. Survey items that are identical in the pre and post surveys will be compared to determine what changes in students' attitudes, if any, are attributable to their Realty Store experience.

SURVEY ITEM: "What education level do you realistically believe you will attain during your lifetime?" (Pre and Post)

	Edgewood		Tri-North		Jackson Creek		Batchelor		TOTALS	
	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post*	Pre	Post
1. I have no idea	34	12	15	11	12	6	13	4	74	33
2. I do not see myself graduating from High School	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	1
3. High School Diploma or GED	9	7	12	10	3	2	4	2	28	21
4. Certificate/Apprenticeship Program	4	6	5	2	3	5	3	3	15	16
5. Associate or Technical Degree	19	22	20	18	20	17	18	4	77	61
6. Undergraduate Degree	56	44	99	72	72	56	63	33	290	205
7. Graduate Degree	59	82	101	120	102	128	81	63	343	393
Total	182	173	252	234	212	214	183	109	829	730
Average Response (excluding #1)	6.01	6.17	6.15	6.29	6.34	6.46	6.24	6.45	6.19	6.33
2007-2008 Average Response (excluding #1)	5.85	N/A	6.10	N/A	6.28	N/A	5.71	N/A	5.98	N/A

OVERALL CHANGES	Pre	Post
Percent of students who plan to complete some kind of postsecondary education	87%	92%
Percent of students who plan to complete at least a 4 year college degree	76%	82%
Percent of students who plan to complete a graduate degree	41%	54%
Percent of students who "have no idea" what level of education they will attain	9%	5%

At all schools, the Reality Store moves students' attitudes in the right direction, teaching them that they will need more education than they thought they needed before the simulation. Given the critical importance of postsecondary education in the contemporary economy, this is obviously a positive change. Average pre and post responses consistently increase at each school, and the overall average response is up from the previous year, from 5.98 to 6.19. After the Reality Store, the number of students who say they plan to complete at least a four year college degree increases from 76% to 82%, and the number of students who plan to complete some kind of postsecondary education increases from 87% to 92%. The greatest jump is in the number of students who plan to complete a graduate degree, which increases from 41% to 54%.

Since most students are already planning on some kind of post-secondary education, most of the change in average responses is due to students changing their preference to a graduate degree instead of just an undergraduate degree. The number of students who say they will attain an undergraduate degree goes down considerably at every school, and the number who say they will attain a graduate degree goes up by a proportionate amount. This indicates that, after the Reality Store, students who already plan to get an undergraduate degree realize that they will probably also need to continue on with a graduate degree to get the kind of job and standard of living they desire. This is an important realization, the most obvious explanation for which is that students can clearly see during the simulation that students who have graduate degrees have considerably more income to work with. Another possible explanation is that when they choose a specific career in each education level category during the prep session, they see that the highest paying careers (such as doctors, attorneys, etc.) require a graduate degree. However, this latter explanation must be tempered by the fact that the pre survey is administered at the end of their prep class, after they have already chosen their career and learn what their salary will be, and so this shift in attitude would already be captured at least in part by the pre survey. Also, students at Edgewood do not choose specific careers, yet they show the same trend to the same degree.

Another encouraging trend is the post-event drop in the number of students who "have no idea" what educational level they will attain. The number of students who say they "have no idea" what level of education they will achieve decreases from 9% to 5%. It can be concluded that the Reality Store helped them sort out what educational level they need to succeed, another important realization that also happens to be a main goal of the program.

Finally, the number of students who originally said they only expected to graduate from high school went down at each school. Since the number of students who said they did not plan to graduate did not change appreciably, these students must have changed their response to at least a certificate/apprenticeship program (or higher) in the

post survey. Again, this indicates that the Reality Store experience reinforces the belief that attaining a higher education level is essential to future success.

SURVEY ITEM: "I am excited to participate in the Reality Store." (Pre only)

	1. Strongly Disagree	2. Disagree	3. Neither Agree nor Disagree	4. Agree	5. Strongly Agree	08-09 Average Response	07-08 Average Response
Edgewood	3%	2%	23%	31%	40%	4.03	3.85
Tri-North	2%	3%	22%	39%	35%	4.02	3.87
Jackson Creek	4%	4%	30%	38%	23%	3.72	3.57
Batchelor	4%	6%	33%	28%	30%	3.73	3.54
TOTAL	3%	4%	27%	34%	32%	3.88	3.71

Compared to 2007-2008, average responses to this item went up considerably across the board. Overall, students are excited about participating in the Reality Store. The majority of students (66%) stated that they strongly agree or agree with this statement, while only 7% overall stated that they disagree or strongly disagree. The average response for Edgewood and Tri-North was 4.03 and 4.02, respectively, while for Jackson Creek and Batchelor the average was 3.72 and 3.73, respectively. One possible explanation for these differences is that the same teachers who prepare students for the Reality Store at Edgewood and Tri-North have been doing it consistently for a number of years, and therefore may be more invested, more familiar, and therefore more enthusiastic in their presentation of the activity in class. For example, one of the assigned teachers at Tri-North developed a homework assignment for students prior to the day of the Reality Store in which the students must interview their parents about their career, education, salary expectations, etc.

SURVEY ITEM: "I enjoyed participating in the Reality Store." (Post only)

	Edgewood	Tri-North	Jackson Creek	Batchelor	Total
1. Strongly Disagree	1%	1%	4%	2%	2%
2. Somewhat Disagree	2%	2%	5%	3%	3%
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree	3%	3%	9%	8%	6%
4. Somewhat Agree	37%	37%	39%	30%	34%
5. Strongly Agree	57%	57%	43%	58%	54%
Average Response	4.46	4.46	4.11	4.39	4.34

Students overwhelmingly report that they enjoy the Reality Store, with 88% stating that they strongly agreed or agreed somewhat with this statement. In the Reality Store, students are provided a lot of choices and opportunities

for self-expression, and get to go through the experience with their friends. The fact that they themselves are the subject of the lesson also contributes to their interest level.

SURVEY ITEM: "I know what I want to be when I grow up." (Pre and Post)

	Edgewood		Tri-North		Jackson Creek		Batchelor		Total	
	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post
1. Strongly Disagree	4%	6%	3%	4%	8%	9%	6%	8%	5%	6%
2. Somewhat Disagree	4%	1%	5%	6%	5%	8%	5%	6%	5%	5%
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree	25%	33%	20%	26%	22%	26%	28%	30%	23%	28%
4. Somewhat Agree	25%	23%	39%	32%	34%	26%	26%	26%	32%	27%
5. Strongly Agree	43%	38%	32%	32%	32%	31%	36%	30%	35%	33%
Average Response	3.99	3.85	3.91	3.84	3.91	3.63	3.80	3.63	3.87	3.74

This survey item is intended to assess the extent to which the Reality Store simulation changes students ideas about what they want to be when they grow up. From the survey responses, it can be seen that students are somewhat less sure about their future career after they complete the Reality Store than they were to start with. There are many possible explanations for this trend. One is that, during the Reality Store, students discover that the careers in which they were initially interested may not offer enough income to satisfy their standard of living.

Edgewood students agree with this item more strongly than MCCSC students. This is probably just due to the fact that Edgewood students are not asked to choose a specific career prior to the Reality Store, whereas MCCSC students select from a long list of possible careers in their education category, which may make them less confident about their career plans.

About two-thirds of students report that they know, to a greater or lesser extent, what they want to be when they grow up. At first glance this appears to be a positive trait for students of this age. However, since the survey does not ask *what* they want to be, there is no way to verify whether those expectations are realistic, and therefore it is not a good indicator of career or aptitude awareness. For instance, it would not necessarily be a positive thing if many of the students expected to become professional athletes. A better way to get at this information would be something like "I know what I will be when I grow up," or, "I want to be an _____ when I grow up."

SURVEY ITEM: "I was well-prepared for going in to the Reality Store." (Post only)

	Edgewood	Tri-North	Jackson Creek	Batchelor	Total
1. Strongly Disagree	3%	2%	7%	4%	4%
2. Somewhat Disagree	6%	4%	8%	5%	6%
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree	12%	10%	18%	14%	13%
4. Somewhat Agree	42%	45%	35%	40%	41%
5. Strongly Agree	37%	38%	31%	38%	36%
Average Response	4.02	4.14	3.75	4.03	3.98

Students feel well-prepared for the Reality Store, with only about 10% overall saying that they weren't prepared to some degree. The highest marks are at Tri-North, where the same small number of teachers have been preparing students in their classes for numerous years, and these same teachers are preparing almost all of the students in their class throughout seven periods of the day. The lower marks at Jackson Creek may reflect the fact that a greater number of teachers are needed to prepare students due to the unique scheduling arrangement at that school. Additionally, when one or more teachers are out during the prep day, substitute teachers who are not at all familiar with the simulation cannot be reasonably expected to do as well as a teacher who has been through the simulation before; this may have been a factor at Jackson Creek. Overall, however, student preparation for the event is excellent and not a problem, helped by the fact that all four schools now have the same teachers do the prep sessions from year to year, and all four allow adequate preparation time (one whole class period).

SURVEY ITEM: "Getting good grades isn't as important as everyone thinks." (Pre and Post)

	Edgewood		Tri-North		Jackson Creek		Batchelor		Total	
	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post
1. Strongly Disagree	55%	69%	58%	64%	54%	59%	59%	65%	57%	64%
2. Somewhat Disagree	19%	14%	25%	20%	26%	22%	25%	23%	24%	19%
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree	8%	10%	7%	6%	8%	12%	5%	5%	7%	8%
4. Somewhat Agree	11%	6%	8%	6%	8%	4%	8%	8%	9%	6%
5. Strongly Agree	6%	2%	2%	4%	4%	4%	2%	0%	3%	3%
Average Response	1.93	1.58	1.70	1.66	1.83	1.72	1.70	1.56	1.78	1.64

This item is designed as a somewhat tricky way to find out how much students value academics. It is worded in a way that invites them to state more honestly what they actually believe, rather than just a socially appropriate response one would expect if the survey instead asked, for instance, "It is important to get good grades in school."

Regardless of whether this wording gets a more honest response or not, a comparison of students' pre and post responses indicates a positive change in attitude following the Reality Store experience, as the average response

goes from 1.78 down to 1.64. Clearly, the great majority of students already believe that academics are important. However, the strength with which they disagree increases markedly after the Reality Store, with the change in the number of students who “Strongly Disagree” accounting for virtually all of this improvement. 57% of students disagree strongly in the pre survey, but in the post survey this jumps up to 64%. Additionally, it appears that students who previously said they “somewhat disagree” changed their answer to “strongly disagree” in the post survey, because the number of students who somewhat disagree goes down from pre to post by about the same amount as the increase in students who strongly disagree.

All this indicates that the Reality Store is satisfying another key program goal, which is to emphasize the importance of academics and the relevance of getting good grades to the kind of lifestyle students want to live as an adult.

SURVEY ITEM: “You don't necessarily need a good job to have a good life.” (Pre and Post)

	Edgewood		Tri-North		Jackson Creek		Batchelor		Total	
	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post
1. Strongly Disagree	14%	15%	14%	13%	19%	22%	17%	15%	16%	17%
2. Somewhat Disagree	20%	23%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	31%	24%	25%
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree	21%	26%	18%	18%	19%	23%	19%	19%	19%	21%
4. Somewhat Agree	26%	28%	28%	28%	22%	18%	31%	30%	27%	25%
5. Strongly Agree	13%	9%	16%	15%	14%	11%	9%	5%	13%	11%
Average Response	3.04	2.94	3.06	3.07	2.87	2.71	2.90	2.81	2.97	2.89

This is another item stated as a negative in order to solicit a more honest response. Insofar as it asks for the perceived relationship between one’s job and happiness or the meaning of life, it is probably the most reflective question of the survey. Also, there is not necessarily a more or less desirable response to this item. For some, having a good job making lots of money is of prime importance. For others, it may be preferable to live with less but to have more personal or family time.

There is little pre/post change in student attitudes, although overall students place a slightly greater emphasis on the importance of having a good job after the Reality Store. What is more interesting is the fairly even distribution of responses, indicating that many students perceive a separation between happiness and work, even after the Reality Store where not having a “good job” often means making sacrifices in one’s standard of living.

SURVEY ITEM: “My grades are good enough to get the lifestyle I want for myself as an adult.” (Pre and Post)

	Edgewood		Tri-North		Jackson Creek		Batchelor		Total	
	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post
1. Strongly Disagree	3%	4%	4%	6%	7%	6%	9%	9%	6%	6%
2. Somewhat Disagree	8%	12%	9%	12%	7%	5%	12%	9%	9%	9%
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree	28%	22%	29%	19%	17%	17%	21%	13%	24%	18%
4. Somewhat Agree	31%	31%	31%	32%	35%	33%	37%	41%	33%	34%
5. Strongly Agree	30%	30%	27%	31%	33%	39%	20%	29%	28%	33%
Average Response	3.77	3.72	3.67	3.70	3.78	3.93	3.47	3.71	3.68	3.77

This item shows the opposite trend from what one might expect. On the whole, students actually felt slightly better about their grades after the Reality Store than they did going into it. This indicates that the Reality Store may have a tendency to increase confidence among students with good grades. However, even before the Reality Store, most students already feel that their grades are good enough, despite the fact that many students who participate have GPA’s below a B average.

It is noteworthy that there is a substantial *decrease in uncertainty* as to whether their grades are good enough after participating in the Reality Store. 24% neither agreed nor disagreed in the pre survey, but in the post survey this number dropped to 18%, apparently in favor of agreement with the statement since disagreement does not change from pre to post. This could mean that, by presenting them with a detailed simulation of adult life, students get a better a idea of the actual consequences their grades can have on the lifestyle they expect to live as an adult, again indicating achievement of a primary Reality Store program goal.

SURVEY ITEM: “When I’m an adult, as long as I have a job I will be fine money-wise.” (Pre and Post)

	Edgewood		Tri-North		Jackson Creek		Batchelor		Total	
	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post	Pre	Post
1. Strongly Disagree	5%	10%	19%	22%	13%	13%	16%	19%	14%	16%
2. Somewhat Disagree	14%	11%	23%	24%	16%	19%	27%	28%	20%	20%
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree	37%	35%	31%	23%	35%	30%	32%	30%	34%	29%
4. Somewhat Agree	32%	29%	18%	22%	26%	22%	19%	15%	23%	23%
5. Strongly Agree	10%	15%	9%	10%	9%	15%	6%	8%	9%	12%
Average Response	3.27	3.27	2.77	2.74	3.01	3.06	2.70	2.66	2.93	2.95

This item is intended to assess the extent to which students realize that just having a job doesn’t necessarily mean earning enough money to live on. There is little overall change in the pre and post responses. The most popular

response is “Neither Agree nor Disagree,” although the number of students who gave this response dropped from 34% to 29%. Also, across the board, more students “Strongly Agree” or “Strongly Disagree” with this statement after the Reality Store than they did before. As with the previous question (“My grades are good enough...”), students appear to have greater clarity about the importance of having a good job after the Reality Store.

Volunteer Evaluations

Reality Store volunteers complete a four item survey after their service. There is little variation across schools and little change in volunteers’ responses in 2008-2009 compared to 2007-2008, with a few exceptions:

	Edgewood 2008-2009	Tri-North 2008-2009	Jackson Creek 2008-2009	Batchelor 2008-2009	Overall 2008-2009	Overall 2007-2008
1. I was well prepared to be a Reality Store Volunteer.	3.97	4.22	4.34	4.41	4.24	4.28
2. The information contained within the Reality Store accurately portrayed 'real-world' situations faced by adults.	4.31	4.19	4.34	4.28	4.28	4.15
3. After participating in the Reality Store, students have a better understanding as to the importance of education in respect to achieving their professional goals.	4.31	4.05	4.32	4.25	4.23	4.17
4. During the Reality Store, there were instances in which I referred to my personal experiences as a means of helping students better understand an exercise.	3.97	3.80	4.32	4.03	4.03	4.03

Volunteers continue to feel they are well-prepared for the event. There are many seasoned Reality Store volunteers. About 75% have volunteered at least one time before, and many of those have volunteered many times, at different tables. First-time volunteers receive basic information about the simulation, but time usually does not permit a formal orientation. However, a full orientation is not necessary for most because they figure out their role quickly after the first wave of students arrives. Detailed instructions are laid out at each table, and experienced volunteers are happy to explain program details and specific table instructions and asked to orient new volunteers and bring them up-to-speed before the first class so they would feel prepared.

Overall, evaluations clearly indicate that volunteers feel the simulation is realistic and effective. There was a notable increase in how strongly volunteers believe the simulation is realistic. This is likely due to recent updates to prices and salaries, as well as the addition of child support, child care vouchers, and the price of gas to the simulation, which were new additions in 2008-2009.

In their response to the final item, the positive response signifies that volunteers feel valued not only for their time but also for their life experiences, and that the Reality Store provides an opportunity for them to interact with youths in a meaningful way.

In their written comments, volunteers report having a fun, meaningful experience, and many enjoyed opportunities to relate their own personal experience to students. The most common suggestions are for ways to make certain tables more realistic or prices more accurate. These comments from volunteers were crucial in recent updates to tables and prices, and will continue to guide improvements on an ongoing basis.

Teacher Evaluations

It is difficult to draw conclusions about teacher’s opinions, because so few of them return the teacher surveys. This is unfortunate because teachers are so integral to the Reality Store activity, and of all the participants, they are by far the most informed about effective teaching tools and curriculum and ways to improve our program. This is critical information that we need to have in order to make the Reality Store as effective as possible. Nonetheless, several teachers did return their surveys. Because only two teachers at each school (and no teachers at Jackson Creek) returned their surveys, all schools are aggregated because otherwise it would be possible to identify individual teachers.

ALL SCHOOLS	Strongly Disagree	Disagree Somewhat	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree Somewhat	Strongly Agree
1. Students were generally excited about participating in the Reality Store.	0	0	0	5	1
2. The pre-Reality Store materials adequately prepared students for the actual activity.	0	1	0	5	0
3. After participating in the Reality Store, students have a better understanding as to the importance of education in respect to achieving their professional goals.	0	0	0	5	1
4. The Reality Store is a worthwhile enhancement to the 'careers' class curriculum.	0	0	0	2	4

Although their responses are generally positive, teachers are hesitant to give a strong response to all of the questions. One teacher feels that the in-class materials are not adequately preparing students. All in all, these results indicates room for improvement.

Teachers’ written comments are included below rather than in an appendix. The survey item is worded as follows: *Additional Comments - please tell us about your experiences administering pre and post Reality Store classroom exercises, suggestions for future improvement, any exercises you think we should add/remove, your observations about the participating students, etc.* Most of the teachers’ comments fall into one of two categories, as follows:

Category 1: Not enough time.

- Students felt rushed and had trouble getting done. They probably could use more time.
- Should be more time at both ends. Second hour to reflect after the store – maybe a week in one class.
- Need more time: Double periods, classes 1/2 go one day, classes 5/6 go another day. Do reality store reflection all in one day. Make periods 1 hour long for more time down there.
- Would like to have more time to talk/discuss those connections. More could be made post reality store.
- Reality Store needs more time! Students don't get enough time to see all tables. A schedule change would be good in the future (i.e. double periods). Also, Reality store days should be sequential to keep interest. Four days between Reality Store day and "post" day loses "meaningfulness" for the kids.
- More volunteers at the housing and transportation table. Even though you already have more, there were still some lines

Category 2: Need to improve realism.

- Students need a better idea of what things cost while setting up their budget
- 35% is too high for housing, even though banks tell you that's what you can afford. I told my students to make sure they spent less than this
- Student with IEP had graduate degree – modified grades.
- A few kids didn't understand why an iPod was only \$10. I explained it was per month which was followed by a great discussion on being real about credit.
- One thing I got from conversations with students was that some of the prices could have been more realistic...like for housing and cell phones. Otherwise, I enjoy taking students to the reality store. It's a good experience for them. Good job!

Other comments that don't fall into either of those categories appear below:

- The Reality Store activity is a great learning platform. The reflection time/post-activity gives thinking students a chance to begin planning for their futures. I hope this program continues to evolve and be a part of the seventh grade program for career ed.
- It would be nice to have the post discussion right after the actual reality store day.
- Overall, very good and well-organized
- Add in 10th grade option-perhaps in more depth
- Great use of resources and time...thanks for the support!
- I love reality store! Thank you so much for your efforts. The after-activity discussion is always fantastic. The kids learn so much—and I tell them to go home and thank their parents!
- I like the continuing changes to improve Reality Store year after year.
- You may want to tell teachers it would be best to do the pre-activities over a couple of days. A LOT for one period.

Based on teacher feedback, it is apparent that the in-class worksheets, instructions, and other materials need to be improved. This includes updating and re-formatting the look of many of the materials so that they are easier to read, make more sense, and more visually appealing. Additionally, some of the materials, such as the Reality Store budget and planning sheet, need to be updated to reflect reality and tie in more closely with the way the simulation plays out during the actual event.

Finally, it is worth mentioning again that students need more time for the simulation, and perhaps more time in class. Teachers feel rushed and are saying year after year that students are not getting as much as they could out of this activity because they don't have time to visit all the tables and complete the activity.

POST-REALITY STORE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Appendix A

1. What education level do you realistically believe you will attain during your lifetime?	Edgewood	Tri-North	Jackson creek	Batchelor	Total	Overall %
1. I have no idea	34	15	12	13	74	9%
2. I do not see myself graduating from High School	1	0	0	1	2	0%
3. High School Diploma or GED	9	12	3	4	28	3%
4. Certificate/Apprenticeship Program	4	5	3	3	15	2%
5. Associate or Technical Degree	19	20	20	18	77	9%
6. Undergraduate Degree	56	99	72	63	290	35%
7. Graduate Degree	59	101	102	81	343	41%
Total	182	252	212	183	829	100%
Average Response (excluding response #1)	6.01	6.15	6.34	6.24	6.19	

EDGEWOOD	1. Strongly Disagree	2. Disagree	3. Neither Agree nor Disagree	4. Agree	5. Strongly Agree	Average Response
2. I am excited to participate in the Reality Store	3.3%	2.2%	23.5%	30.6%	40.4%	4.03
3. I know what I want to be when I grow up.	3.8%	3.8%	24.6%	24.6%	43.2%	3.99
4. Getting good grades isn't as important as everyone thinks.	55.2%	18.6%	8.2%	10.9%	6.0%	1.93
5. You don't necessarily need a good job to have a good life.	13.7%	19.7%	20.8%	25.7%	12.6%	3.04
6. My grades are good enough to get the lifestyle I want for myself as an adult.	3.3%	7.7%	27.9%	31.1%	30.1%	3.77
7. When I'm an adult, as long as I have a job I will be fine money-wise.	5.5%	14.2%	36.6%	32.2%	9.8%	3.27

TRI-NORTH	1. Strongly Disagree	2. Disagree	3. Neither Agree nor Disagree	4. Agree	5. Strongly Agree	Average Response
2. I am excited to participate in the Reality Store	1.6%	3.1%	21.8%	38.5%	35.0%	4.02
3. I know what I want to be when I grow up.	3.1%	5.4%	20.2%	39.3%	31.9%	3.91
4. Getting good grades isn't as important as everyone thinks.	58.2%	25.0%	7.0%	8.2%	1.6%	1.70
5. You don't necessarily need a good job to have a good life.	13.7%	25.4%	17.6%	27.7%	15.6%	3.06
6. My grades are good enough to get the lifestyle I want for myself as an adult.	3.9%	9.4%	29.3%	30.9%	26.6%	3.67
7. When I'm an adult, as long as I have a job I will be fine money-wise.	18.7%	22.6%	31.1%	18.3%	9.3%	2.77

Appendix A (cont.)

JACKSON CREEK	1. Strongly Disagree	2. Disagree	3. Neither Agree nor Disagree	4. Agree	5. Strongly Agree	Average Response
2. I am excited to participate in the Reality Store	4.2%	4.2%	30.2%	38.1%	23.3%	3.72
3. I know what I want to be when I grow up.	7.8%	4.6%	21.7%	34.1%	31.8%	3.77
4. Getting good grades isn't as important as everyone thinks.	53.7%	25.7%	8.4%	8.4%	3.7%	1.83
5. You don't necessarily need a good job to have a good life.	19.2%	25.2%	19.2%	22.4%	14.0%	2.87
6. My grades are good enough to get the lifestyle I want for myself as an adult.	7.5%	7.5%	17.3%	35.0%	32.7%	3.78
7. When I'm an adult, as long as I have a job I will be fine money-wise.	13.5%	16.3%	34.9%	26.0%	9.3%	3.01

BACHELOR	1. Strongly Disagree	2. Disagree	3. Neither Agree nor Disagree	4. Agree	5. Strongly Agree	Average Response
2. I am excited to participate in the Reality Store	3.8%	6.0%	32.8%	27.9%	29.5%	3.73
3. I know what I want to be when I grow up.	6.0%	4.9%	27.9%	25.7%	35.5%	3.80
4. Getting good grades isn't as important as everyone thinks.	58.8%	25.3%	5.5%	8.2%	2.2%	1.70
5. You don't necessarily need a good job to have a good life.	16.9%	24.6%	18.6%	31.1%	8.7%	2.90
6. My grades are good enough to get the lifestyle I want for myself as an adult.	9.3%	12.1%	21.4%	36.8%	20.3%	3.47
7. When I'm an adult, as long as I have a job I will be fine money-wise.	16.4%	27.3%	31.7%	18.6%	6.0%	2.70

OVERALL -- ALL SCHOOLS	1. Strongly Disagree	2. Disagree	3. Neither Agree nor Disagree	4. Agree	5. Strongly Agree	Average Response
2. I am excited to participate in the Reality Store	3.1%	3.8%	26.7%	34.4%	32.0%	3.88
3. I know what I want to be when I grow up.	5.1%	4.8%	23.2%	31.8%	35.1%	3.87
4. Getting good grades isn't as important as everyone thinks.	56.7%	23.9%	7.3%	8.9%	3.2%	1.78
5. You don't necessarily need a good job to have a good life.	16.1%	24.3%	19.2%	27.1%	13.3%	2.97
6. My grades are good enough to get the lifestyle I want for myself as an adult.	5.9%	9.1%	24.2%	33.3%	27.5%	3.68
7. When I'm an adult, as long as I have a job I will be fine money-wise.	14.0%	20.2%	33.5%	23.5%	8.7%	2.93

POST-REALITY STORE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Appendix B

1. What education level do you plan to attain during your lifetime?	Edgewood	Tri-North	Jackson creek	Batchelor	Total	Overall %
1. I have no idea	12	11	6	4	33	5%
2. I do not see myself graduating High School	0	1	0	0	1	0%
3. High School Diploma or GED	7	10	2	2	21	3%
4. Certificate/Apprenticeship Program	6	2	5	3	16	2%
5. Associate or Technical Degree	22	18	17	4	61	8%
6. Undergraduate Degree	44	72	56	33	205	28%
7. Graduate Degree	82	120	128	63	393	54%
Total	173	234	214	109	730	100%
Average Response (excluding response #1)	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.3	

EDGEWOOD	1. Strongly Disagree	2. Disagree	3. Neither Agree nor Disagree	4. Agree	5. Strongly Agree	Average Response
2. I enjoyed participating in the Reality Store.	1.2%	2.9%	7.0%	25.7%	63.2%	4.47
3. I was well-prepared for going in to the Reality Store.	3.5%	6.4%	11.6%	41.9%	36.6%	4.02
4. I know what I want to be when I grow up.	5.8%	1.2%	32.9%	22.5%	37.6%	3.85
5. Getting good grades isn't as important as everyone thinks.	68.8%	13.9%	9.8%	5.8%	1.7%	1.58
6. You don't necessarily need a good job to have a good life.	14.5%	22.7%	26.2%	27.9%	8.7%	2.94
7. My grades are good enough to get the lifestyle I want for myself as an adult.	4.1%	12.2%	22.1%	31.4%	30.2%	3.72
8. When I'm an adult, as long as I have a job I will be fine money-wise.	9.9%	11.0%	35.5%	29.1%	14.5%	3.27

TRI-NORTH	1. Strongly Disagree	2. Disagree	3. Neither Agree nor Disagree	4. Agree	5. Strongly Agree	Average Response
2. I enjoyed participating in the Reality Store.	1.3%	2.1%	2.6%	37.0%	57.0%	4.46
3. I was well-prepared for going in to the Reality Store.	2.1%	4.3%	9.8%	45.3%	38.5%	4.14
4. I know what I want to be when I grow up.	3.9%	5.6%	25.9%	32.3%	32.3%	3.84
5. Getting good grades isn't as important as everyone thinks.	64.2%	19.8%	6.0%	6.0%	3.9%	1.66
6. You don't necessarily need a good job to have a good life.	13.3%	25.3%	17.6%	28.3%	15.5%	3.07
7. My grades are good enough to get the lifestyle I want for myself as an adult.	6.5%	11.6%	18.5%	32.3%	31.0%	3.70
8. When I'm an adult, as long as I have a job I will be fine money-wise.	21.8%	23.5%	23.1%	21.8%	9.8%	2.74

Appendix B (cont.)

JACKSON CREEK	1. Strongly Disagree	2. Disagree	3. Neither Agree nor Disagree	4. Agree	5. Strongly Agree	Average Response
2. I enjoyed participating in the Reality Store.	4.4%	4.8%	8.8%	39.5%	42.5%	4.11
3. I was well-prepared for going in to the Reality Store.	7.0%	8.4%	18.1%	35.2%	31.3%	3.75
4. I know what I want to be when I grow up.	8.8%	7.9%	26.3%	25.9%	31.1%	3.63
5. Getting good grades isn't as important as everyone thinks.	59.1%	21.8%	11.6%	3.6%	4.0%	1.72
6. You don't necessarily need a good job to have a good life.	22.4%	25.1%	22.9%	18.4%	11.2%	2.71
7. My grades are good enough to get the lifestyle I want for myself as an adult.	6.2%	5.3%	16.7%	33.0%	38.8%	3.93
8. When I'm an adult, as long as I have a job I will be fine money-wise.	13.2%	19.4%	30.4%	22.0%	15.0%	3.06

BACHELOR	1. Strongly Disagree	2. Disagree	3. Neither Agree nor Disagree	4. Agree	5. Strongly Agree	Average Response
2. I enjoyed participating in the Reality Store.	1.8%	2.7%	8.1%	29.7%	57.7%	4.39
3. I was well-prepared for going in to the Reality Store.	3.6%	5.4%	13.5%	39.6%	37.8%	4.03
4. I know what I want to be when I grow up.	8.1%	6.3%	29.7%	26.1%	29.7%	3.63
5. Getting good grades isn't as important as everyone thinks.	64.9%	22.5%	4.5%	8.1%	0.0%	1.56
6. You don't necessarily need a good job to have a good life.	14.5%	30.9%	19.1%	30.0%	5.5%	2.81
7. My grades are good enough to get the lifestyle I want for myself as an adult.	9.0%	9.0%	12.6%	40.5%	28.8%	3.71
8. When I'm an adult, as long as I have a job I will be fine money-wise.	18.9%	27.9%	29.7%	15.3%	8.1%	2.66

OVERALL -- ALL SCHOOLS	1. Strongly Disagree	2. Disagree	3. Neither Agree nor Disagree	4. Agree	5. Strongly Agree	Average Response
2. I enjoyed participating in the Reality Store.	2.3%	3.2%	6.3%	34.1%	54.1%	4.34
3. I was well-prepared for going in to the Reality Store.	4.2%	6.2%	13.3%	40.6%	35.8%	3.98
4. I know what I want to be when I grow up.	6.5%	5.4%	28.2%	27.2%	32.8%	3.74
5. Getting good grades isn't as important as everyone thinks.	63.8%	19.4%	8.4%	5.5%	2.8%	1.64
6. You don't necessarily need a good job to have a good life.	16.5%	25.5%	21.4%	25.5%	11.1%	2.89
7. My grades are good enough to get the lifestyle I want for myself as an adult.	6.2%	9.4%	17.9%	33.6%	32.9%	3.77
8. When I'm an adult, as long as I have a job I will be fine money-wise.	16.0%	20.0%	29.2%	22.6%	12.2%	2.95

REALITY STORE VOLUNTEER SURVEY RESULTS

Appendix C

2008-2009 Results	Edgewood	Tri-North	Jackson Creek	Batchelor	Overall
I was well prepared to be a Reality Store Volunteer.	3.97	4.22	4.34	4.41	4.24
The information contained within the Reality Store accurately portrayed 'real-world' situations faced by adults.	4.31	4.19	4.34	4.28	4.28
After participating in the Reality Store, students have a better understanding as to the importance of education in respect to achieving their professional goals.	4.31	4.05	4.32	4.25	4.23
During the Reality Store, there were instances in which I referred to my personal experiences as a means of helping students better understand an exercise.	3.97	3.80	4.32	4.03	4.03

2007-2008 Results (for comparison)	Edgewood	Tri-North	Jackson Creek	Batchelor	Overall
I was well prepared to be a Reality Store Volunteer.	4.22	4.30	4.31	4.30	4.28
The information contained within the Reality Store accurately portrayed 'real-world' situations faced by adults.	4.06	4.18	4.20	4.18	4.15
After participating in the Reality Store, students have a better understanding as to the importance of education in respect to achieving their professional goals.	4.09	4.22	4.19	4.22	4.17
During the Reality Store, there were instances in which I referred to my personal experiences as a means of helping students better understand an exercise.	4.07	4.08	3.93	4.08	4.03

POST-REALITY STORE WRITTEN SURVEY RESPONSES

Edgewood Junior High Student Feedback

What did you enjoy most?

- That I got to see how an adult may struggle.
- That you actually have to think about what your money is going to get you and what is the most important.
- Hanging out with friends.
- How it was like real life.
- Having the choices of a working spouse.
- Hard to choose.
- What I enjoyed most was the concept of life.
- Well there were many things.
- Everything!!!
- It was really cool to see all the choices you will have to make when you become an adult.
- That you get to make decisions you would have to make if you were an adult.
- Life's unexpected.
- The diversity.
- That we got to pick what we want from each store and see what it is like.
- Life's Unexpected.
- Spending money.
- Having the experience first hand.
- The life's unexpected booth.
- I enjoyed that you got to feel like you were all grown up and could make important decisions.
- It wasn't so hard.
- How good it felt to be treated like an adult. And have actually (fake) stuff to work with, like the unexpected.
- Everything.
- Figuring out how to spend my money wisely.
- I was super rich.
- I enjoyed getting out of the classroom and being able to see how life will be.
- Being able to do what I want and choose what I want to do in life.
- I never knew what Grade Point Average was before Reality Store, but now I know grades are important for earning more money and getting a good job. I also never know there were so many things you had to pay for.
- It was sort of realistic.
- Life's unexpected.
- Being like an adult!
- It felt like real life.
- Getting to see what it would be like when you are the one paying the bills (and expenses).
- I enjoyed getting to act like an adult.
- I enjoyed having an idea of what my life will be like when I grow up.
- It seemed to be real.
- The realness to it.
- I liked the life's unexpected.
- Doing the money account and seeing what you could buy.
- Just getting to see a little bit about being an adult.
- I liked the housing one.
- I'm not really sure. I just liked it all.
- Going from place to place!
- Life's unexpected. I wasn't sure about going there because of what happened to people and even though I had to get glasses it was funny hearing other people's.
- I liked how most of the people talked to you like you're an adult.

- It felt real.
- The people were friendly.
- Knowing that it obtained to real life.
- I don't really have a favorite. I liked everything.
- I liked it because you got to go around and do stuff instead of sitting in class the whole period.
- I wasn't here but if I was I'd choose child care.
- The endless possibilities.
- I enjoyed that I know how to keep up with money now and that the job you have really takes a big part in your life.
- Just going to it and then buying stuff.
- Get to see what it's like to be an adult!
- Picking the house I wanted and all the choices I had.
- My \$800 401K.
- I enjoyed spending money.
- Seeing how it is going to be like when I grow up and how hard reality is.
- Seeing how much money I can get when I grow up.
- Making my own choices.
- I enjoyed making decisions.
- How we got treated like adults.
- How it gave you an opportunity to choose your house, career and if you have kids or not.
- Probably buying a car.
- I didn't enjoy anything really.
- Going around and seeing that life is hard when you don't go to college.
- I enjoyed seeing how it is for my parents. Getting to make your own decisions.
- Getting out of class.
- I felt like I was a grown up.
- Having options on what we wanted to choose from.
- Getting to get a car and a bunch of things.
- I enjoyed getting to act like an adult.
- Life's unexpected. It was nice to see what could happen.
- Buying different things and seeing what my friends bought. Buying a 3 bedroom 2.5 bath 2 story house.
- All the varieties.
- Life's unexpected.
- Be able to spend money.
- Getting to pick little things I wanted in my "life".
- Getting to buy TVs, vacations, pets and all the luxury items.
- Buying all my stuff.
- Getting a car and getting a job.
- Having to be an adult!
- Running my life and spending money as I please.
- I really liked all the different choices and I liked life's unexpected table.
- The unexpected things in life.
- Finding out what it would be like when I grow up.
- Buying stuff.
- Having money to spend on items I wanted. And different items I can get.
- Going to the bank because the man there was really nice and funny.
- Going to different stores.
- Having to control what I buy.
- Seeing if I had enough money for the things I need.
- It's cool how it worked.
- Life's unexpected.
- I liked having my own choices.
- When we go to walk around and see what stores there were.
- Feeling like you're an adult and you make the decisions.
- Getting a \$600 bonuses in "Life's Unexpected".

- Spending time out of class.
- Getting to know how it'll feel like to be a parent.
- Life's unexpected.
- Going to life's unexpected.
- Checkout.
- Getting to buy your own stuff.
- Getting an iPhone.
- Just seeing how it will be when you grow up.
- Buying housing and cars.
- I enjoyed learning that you can't just to around wasting your money.
- Life's unexpected because you never know what was going to happen.
- I enjoyed Reality Store because it felt real.
- Getting to manage the money.
- Being able to buy things and feel like I am a real adult.
- Able to buy what I want.
- Going around and talking to people.
- The different stations.
- Spending money.
- Life's unexpected.
- I do not.
- Going to the different stores.
- Actually buying the stuff and making decisions.
- I enjoyed going to all of the places and getting ½ off because my spouse worked.
- I liked going around to the different stores and seeing what was there.
- I got to see what it is like to be a grown up.
- I liked being able to choose what my life was like and just being able to buy a bunch of stuff.
- The different things I got to buy.
- Planning my life.
- Getting a car and a house.
- Everything.
- Actually seeing what life might be.
- I enjoyed making my own choices for once.
- I wasn't here so I have no idea.
- Going around to all the tables and seeing how much life will cost you.
- The life's unexpected stand because some people were happy about it and some were ticked.
- It was fun getting to somewhat learn how life will be.
- I enjoyed choosing what I wanted.
- Buying cars.
- The pet store.
- The volunteers.
- Going around to most of the stores and buying stuff.
- That all of the main stores in real life were there.
- That when I went to the bank I could get 3 jobs.
- I enjoyed what I really wanted because I had enough money.
- I think it was fun just seeing what kind of house I bought and just things like that.
- I enjoyed buying the stuff at each store.
- I enjoyed going to each store and getting to have the choice of what I need in life.
- How we got to manage our money and spend it wisely.
- I did not go but it was probably fun.
- Buying stuff.
- Buying a car.
- Seeing how it is in the real world.
- Buying cars and houses. It makes it feel somewhat real.
- I was not here.

- Figuring out how money works and spending it.
- Buying the cars, houses, pets, etc.
- Getting to do stuff I'll do in the future.
- I enjoyed going around and experiencing the fun and not so fun parts of life.
- The experience, parent treat us like little kids and Reality Store made us aware of real life.
- All of it.
- I liked mostly everything.
- Getting a pet.
- Everything.
- Going table to table and trying to finish up so you can be done.
- Learning how to spend your money wisely.
- Nothing really.
- I don't know.
- I enjoyed just like having to do it. My favorite part is having to choose a car and home.
- Getting the electronics.

What suggestions do you have?

- Have a video on what it's about.
- More money should be given to us.
- More time to do stuff.
- Uh nothing but more money.
- Have some more good things in life unexpected.
- Cheaper things.
- Make the prices right. The prices were just not right.
- A little longer time.
- Makes life's unexpected more good things than bad.
- I think we should have some more time.
- Raise the prices a little bit.
- Make it more fun by involving it with specific jobs.
- I don't know.
- More time and you should give us choices but not the money. Have one that has one for single parents with no kids and one that is for people with kids.
- Have more time. You could earn more/less depending on your job so let us choose from jobs from our level (degree). The prices are off.
- Not really anything.
- It's perfect.
- None. I liked Reality Store.
- More time.
- For a longer time we should do it.
- Nothing. I like it a lot!
- More time. Make the prices realistic.
- More workers.
- I have no clue?
- Letting us have more time and better pricing on things.
- Make it like real life.
- I think it should be more realistic prices, more time.
- I would like people who are working there to look at your money and try to help you if they think you are going to run out.
- Nothing really. It was fun.
- It's okay but you could pair up boys.
- Give us real money.
- None.
- To make the peoples' lives less of choice and more realistic.
- My suggestion is to make the reality store longer because some people had to rush through big decisions.
- It needs to give you more time.

- I think you should add more stuff like movies and hair salon to really see how people would use their money.
- More stores.
- Get better helpers.
- More time.
- To have the signs bigger on where you are going.
- Give more time.
- Explaining how to do it a little more because at first I didn't know where to go or what to do but I got used to it after a while. Also, we need more time to finish.
- To make it longer than one day.
- Have more cars to choose from.
- More time and if you're married pair up boy and girl!
- Nothing.
- That we would have more time to do the booths.
- Nothing.
- I think your spouse should be able to get a second job.
- Maybe have more people at each table so the line won't be as long. More time to be down there.
- People to recommend.
- None.
- I think it should be a little bit longer than 45 minutes.
- Give us a longer time to do it.
- Nothing.
- We should have more time and we should do it more than once a year.
- Nothing! It was good!
- I think you should choose certain people to be married and have kids. Have them draw it out of like a hat or something because kids were being like rude and said like single with three kids with disabilities just to be funny and treated it like a game!
- I think it's good as it is!
- Nothing really.
- Do it once a month.
- Not any.
- I think having more of a choice of where to live would be better. To have more time. To do it more than once. Life's Unexpected needs to have more good things because life brings good things too.
- We should choose everything – kids, spouse, work, etc. but draw if your kids are disabled because you can't change that.
- None.
- Nothing. It was all good. But it needs to have more time.
- Nothing really.
- I like the way it is.
- I think we need more time participating in it.
- None, because it was really cool seeing what reality is like.
- I think everything was perfect when I went.
- Get to pick your own jobs.
- I suggest that we have more time to do it.
- More time.
- Give us more time to prepare.
- I think it was fine as it was but if we could pick a career out that would be cool and if we could have it in 6th and 8th grade.
- I'm not sure.
- Give us more time.
- We should do it more like in 8th grade instead of 7th and give more time.
- Make it be longer.
- Have more than two people at one table.
- Health and fitness needs more options.
- Maybe to let us get more things.
- Having a "school" where you pay book fees or for a loan.
- Nothing, it's all great.

- Nothing really. It was pretty good.
- Nothing, it was very good. I liked it the way it was. Should not change.
- To give you less money.
- I'd like to pick my job.
- More time!!
- More people at tables to help or less kids at a table. Have more tables. Have another in 8th grade.
- Put the stores in order in what you should do first
- Don't charge so much!
- Have more people at a booth so it's faster.
- Maybe add more time.
- Make better grades.
- Keep the serious stores in an area.
- Have better second jobs.
- Possibly more time to complete it and to have the career portion filled out.
- Put sports if your kids want to play.
- Out of six years of college I should be making more than \$40,000 a year. My dad makes that and only has a high school diploma. Also, \$700 in students loans is ridiculous. The sheet for budgeting didn't take into account a lot of things.
- Second job for spouse.
- To get a better health insurance.
- None.
- Pick our jobs.
- I think you should get choices for jobs for you degree level.
- That it look like some stores.
- Give us more money.
- Go cheap and you still have some left.
- Not spending money if I don't need something.
- I personally don't have any.
- Tell you how to put everything.
- Make more tables.
- We need more time.
- Nothing.
- To get the clerks or volunteers to explain better.
- Nothing. I liked it all.
- More choices.
- Not sure.
- Nothing besides we need more time.
- I do not have any.
- More time.
- It was pretty fun but I think kids need two periods to do it.
- I don't have any.
- Cheaper prices.
- More stations to go to.
- Get rid of Life's Unexpected.
- None.
- I do not.
- More time.
- More choices on some things.
- Put the kids in groups according to their GPA and then they all have to go to a certain thing so the adults don't get mixed up.
- Nothing!!
- Have more people at the S.O.S. table.
- On the sheet where the people approve that you've been there, put under the place a number to represent which order would be good to go in.
- Nothing.

- I do not have any suggestions.
- More desks of the same topic.
- None.
- Maybe tell us what we need to go to first.
- None.
- I don't know?
- That you might have more tables for the popular things so you don't have lines.
- None really, it seemed really well put together and fun.
- Maybe there needs to be more adults helping and more time.
- You could make the signs more noticeable.
- MORE TIME.
- When a student is married he/she has to pair up with a different he/she.
- To get a good car.
- Let us choose our jobs. Add more time. There was too many bad things in life's unexpected – add more good.
- To go to all the important stores first.
- Give more advice while at each store.
- I don't have any suggestions – it was good.
- I have no suggestions for the Reality Store.
- More time.
- You should double the money if spouse works, but make things more expensive.
- I don't have any suggestions, it was all pretty good.
- Maybe the prices can be a little bit lower at places.
- Only one class at a time to the Reality Store.
- More stores.
- I don't know – it's pretty good.
- More places to go to.
- Get good grades and you'll have opportunities.
- More fun- like round 2 of Life's Unexpected.
- I was not here.
- Have an idea of what you want to be when your grow up.
- Having to make that choice.
- I don't know.

What did you learn?

- Be wise where your money goes.
- That you have to think about what's most important to buy.
- Life can be challenging.
- To spend wisely.
- To not spend all your money at once.
- Use your money wisely.
- I learned what you *need* in life is better than what you *want*.
- You won't always have the money to get everything you want.
- Money can go fast.
- I learned that my parents don't have a limitless amount of money.
- That you need to have a good education level.
- Nothing.
- You have to spend your money carefully.
- That good grades help you in real life.
- How to balance my money
- Just what lifes gonna be when I grow up
- Don't just get the biggest stuff you can
- That life is tough
- How life will be in the furter and what it will feel like when you are adult
- That you don't need a big house or anything fancy to make you look good

- Nothing
- To go to the stuff you need first before anything else
- That you have to use your money very wisely
- Don't spend money on one thing
- Handaling money
- Nothing
- To spend money wisely
- To spend money wisely
- I learned to manage your money wisely and get important things done first
- You need to be careful with your money
- That my education really does matter
- And I need to follow throw to suceed
- Math and what life is about
- Gas mileage of a car
- That having good grades will help you
- Having the money that I had will get me a good life, but I need to save more also
- You should conserve your money
- I learned that sometimes things you don't expect can happen to you in life and your grades are a lot more important than I thought
- How important grades are
- Spend money wisely
- Life is never fair
- Life isn't as easy as it looks
- That money is very important in life. I am glad we got an oportunity to see what life is like
- That life as an adult is not that easy
- I learned that grades are important
- You have to save and spend your money wisely
- If its expencive, than buy something you can afford
- To stay within your limits
- What life could be like and how hard it might be in real life
- You really do need an education and a good job to live a nice lifestyle
- It is hard in real life with money
- I learned a lot of things one thing I learned was that anything can happen in your life
- It is not as easy as everyone thinks
- That I need to pay attention more & get better grades so I can get a graduates degree not an under graduates degree
- I saw how hard it is for my parents
- I don't know
- Second jobs are sometimes needed
- That you need to budget your money
- I learned that you can get by without having the best of everything
- Grades do matter also I think wisely about were you put your money and how many kids you have
- Again, I wasn't here
- That if you we wise with a bunch of money, you are happy
- That grades take a big part in your life and job
- Don't spend your money on stuff you don't really need
- To get good grades at school and go to collage
- To spend money wisely
- How to spend money
- Being an adult is not easy
- Having a good job can really help
- I learned that you cant spend your money on everythings
- Lower quality get 2 jobs
- You have to be organized when dealing with money
- To spend your money wisely

- How to manage money the smart way
- Im not sure
- That to have a good job & to go to collage depends on how much u can have where u can go
- I learned not to waste all of your money in one place you will need it later
- Never be single with 3 kids
- Life is hard on grownups and kids cost to much money
- Spend money whisely
- That it's tough being an adult and now I know how my parents feel about spending money wisely
- I have a better idea of what to expect when I grow up
- What life can really be like
- That you need to plan a budget for everything you buy
- How its going to be when I grow up and now to sp end money wisely
- Thank you need to manage your money
- Nothing
- I am good with money
- To spend my money wisely
- That grades matter
- That life isn't always easy
- That life would and might be hard
- That life isn't that easy as you think its actually complicated
- That I need to learn how to save and control my spending habits
- How 2 manage my money and what 2 spend it on
- To make better grads
- That you should get the things you need first
- Be carefull with your money
- That if you get good grades you achieve much more than having lower grades
- How to limit spending and when to get a second job or not
- Paying is a lot of work along with bills
- I learned that you should work in college and your spouse needs to work
- That you have to be careful what you buy
- That you need a good job to have a better lifestyle
- Use money wisely
- Life isn't easy
- I learned how to get the most expensive things everytime and not have kids
- That you should save your money better
- To bag what you got need not what you want
- That taking care of kid is expensive
- Life is hard if you don't have a good job
- That we need to get good grades no matter what
- How to manage money
- Money matters
- How to manage money and how grades control how much money you make
- I learned how to spend money wisely
- Not to buy things that aren't necessary
- How to manage money
- Even when you spend everything cheap, you still have to get a 2nd job (if you're single)
- I learn that when you are older you wont always have someone to direct you
- That you need to spend your money wisely
- I learned that it's good to have good grades because good grades can get you more money in years to come
- I'm not that good at managing my money
- That when you're older (adult) you really do have to manage your money and sometimes money is tight
- How to spend my money a little wiser
- How much parents are stressed
- How to manage money

- Having three kids is tough
- Don't buy things you don't need
- I do not
- I learned about some of the things we will have to buy when we grow up
- How to not spend all my money 8in one place and plan what I was going to do with it
- I learned that parents usually don't have all the money in the world to spend on their kids or themselves
- I should really think about my financial and not waste money
- Your grades do matter
- I learned that life takes good and bad turns and that you need to spend your money wisely
- The better the grades the better the job
- If you get good grades then you will probably have a good life
- Money is important
- To get good grades in school
- That I need to maintain a good job
- How to manage money as well as my life
- Nothing because I was not there to do part of it
- I learned on how my life may turn out and how its going to cost me
- Spend your money wisely
- I learned life is hard because you have to pay a lot
- I learned how to budget money
- Its not fun getting robbed
- That cars can be expensive
- Only use the money you need
- You need to spend your money wisely
- That you really have to budget your money
- That you will have to manage your money wisely in order to stay with money
- I learned that things cost a lot more than we think they do
- That I need to manage my money wisely because I only had \$118 left
- To watch your money and don't over spend
- I learned that what comes at you in life, some things you have to do it
- I learned to budget my money
- How life is important
- To get good grades
- You need good grades to get a good job
- Its important to get good grades and pay attention
- Nothing
- I was not here
- How you have to spread out your spending plans
- Being adults is hard work
- Not to spend a lot of money on stuff you don't need

Tri-North Middle School Student Feedback

What did you enjoy most?

- All of it
- The bank
- Got to learn about handling money
- That we got to see what real life is about
- The cars
- Missing math class
- Spending money
- Getting to experience it like it was real life
- The way it was based on our grades

- Knowing what I have to face in life
- Getting to imagine how my life might go in the future
- Being the person controlling the money
- Realizing how hard life really is
- I liked how we actually got to manage our money and it was real
- The people were really nice. I really liked the life's unexpected
- The life's unexpected table
- Getting electronics
- I enjoyed being able to see what it's like for adults
- That I could pick what would my life would be like
- Not sure
- I enjoyed planning my future, and the jobs I will have
- Walking around and getting to buy a car and a house
- I was somewhat real
- I have no idea
- Getting to know how much money means
- It was all pretty funny and entertaining
- Being able to see all the different challenges we will have to face in life
- Going around and seeing what all I got. I was imagining everything in the future
- Walking around and meeting new people
- Having money left at the end
- I enjoyed all the new challenges it imposed for us
- The life's unexpected
- Going around and "buying" things
- I liked buy things for my house
- Getting to act like an adult
- Nothing really, it was okay, but really boring and it didn't really tell me much
- Learning how much my parents pay on everything
- It was fun pretending to buy things and stuff
- Still having money left over. Hahaha!
- Just to see how much my parents spend every month
- That you got to be like a grown up and buy things
- Choosing the car and house you wanted
- I enjoyed buying fake stuff with fake money
- Getting to see how real life is
- To buy a car
- Purchasing expensive things that I wanted and needed
- I loved the fact that I was able to see how important my career will be in the future
- Having the job
- All of it
- I enjoyed how it is real life simulated
- The wake up call
- I enjoyed learning about being an adult
- Umm the house and furniture one
- Learning what things you can do
- That it was like real life
- Buying stuff
- What you learn and how you use your money
- How you really feel like you're the 28 year old
- Seeing what it's like to be an adult
- It was fun and seeing what really goes on
- Going to electronics
- The money and learning
- I enjoyed just simply getting the insight into what adults, especially parents, face financially every single day

- I enjoyed seeing what kind of things my life might have in store
- How nice and professional the people working the booths were. They actually acted like you really wanted to buy health insurance, or a house.
- I enjoyed the experience most. It will be helpful later on in life.
- I enjoyed the feeling of independence that went along with the decisions; I liked the choices I could make
- I enjoyed talking with the people on the tables. So thank you, they helped me out.
- Being able to do the program and get a preview of what's in store for me in life
- I enjoyed learning about all the things that you have to do when you have a job and you're on your own. I liked seeing the advantages and disadvantages of having a kid and being married/single. It gives me an idea what to look for when I'm on my own.
- Having to balance everything and being worried. I wouldn't make it
- I enjoyed looking at the actual products you could choose to buy from.
- I enjoyed the sense of having to make a decision
- That you were in control of your money decisions
- I liked how we were able to make choices
- I enjoyed buying all of my stuff, and managing my money
- I enjoyed being able to afford the choices that I wanted to make
- I liked that we were independent and could chose what we wanted
- I really enjoyed how everything was organized, making it easier to deal with
- I enjoyed being able to buy so many things and still learn to budget my money
- I actually enjoyed the struggle I had during reality store. It, the struggles, simulated the struggles I might have in the future
- I enjoyed imagining that I could buy things that I wanted
- I liked the experience of a real life situation where I had to plan a budget
- I really like out realistic everything was I also like how they were able to incorporate many aspects of daily life
- I enjoyed walking around, seeing my friends, and buying stuff
- Well just going from place to place and watching my money go down and then back up
- Everyone there was enthusiastic and it was good to see smiling faces
- How everything was so realistic and my dad always tells me don't go for the high price stuff
- I really enjoyed all of it
- I enjoyed walking around and trying to deal with my money and "kids"
- Going through and seeing how it was like to pay bills in real life
- How they used real life scenarios and made them into a game
- I enjoyed like learning about insurance and things that I didn't really know much about
- Learning how hard it is to keep money in my pocket and what it takes to live
- The realness of it all!
- Going around buying stuff
- People who were serving us were so nice and I love them all
- It really felt like stuff was happening to me
- I enjoyed going to the different tables, and making choices of what I wanted
- Getting money
- The reality part of it
- I enjoyed getting a house, a car, and pet
- It was fun and interactive
- The fact that I actually got to see a small part of an adults life
- I enjoyed that everything was set up very realistically and that people will try to pressure you in life
- I liked that we get a taste of what the money world is life
- Walking around to the different stations getting a "feel" of what your parents go through
- The helpers were very friendly! They gave good suggestions if you asked as well. You had many choices to choose from
- It made math seem like it had a little more use and we used it in a funner way
- Making my own decisions
- I enjoyed talking to the people that participated in the Reality Store
- I liked how we were offered so many choices such as what car, house, and furniture we wanted. The people who worked there were really nice
- Getting to learn how to do things, and kind of what things are about

- I enjoyed the Life's Unexpected table
- Us being able to experience what real adults have to deal with
- The realism of it all
- Learning all the hard decisions you have to make in life
- Having the choice of getting a taste of reality
- Seeing what life is all about, what we have to do to survive
- Showing you how hard your life can be on money
- I got to see what life is like after high school
- I enjoyed the way the reality store was set up and worked with
- I enjoyed going around to the different tables and doing the activities there
- I enjoyed going to the booths and talking to the people there while getting what I needed they were very friendly and polite
- I enjoyed going around and picking out what we won't to buy and what we had to buy to survive
- Well I like how the volunteers were like pressuring the teens to buy stuff
- Me doing what I wanted
- I liked how you had a lot of options, like if you ran out of money you could go back and get some thing cheaper
- Getting to experience all of the different tasks in life
- I enjoyed the fact that we were being shone what it is like to be an adult in a fun way
- I really enjoyed acting like an adult. It was really fun. I liked when we actually payed for things
- I liked how they had the pictures of what you were buying
- It really helped me realize that life is going to be hard, so every station helped me
- I liked how you didn't know what was going to happen next
- Housing, life's unexpected
- I enjoyed all the options and how life-like it was
- Seeing how life really is. It teaches you a lot about money
- I enjoyed looking at all of the pictures of the items you could buy and I really enjoyed talking to the people working at the stations
- I liked that there was pictures and people to help us constantly
- The life's unexpected because sometime in your life something's going to happen and you've got to be ready for it
- It was fun and it made me realize that you have to think about your choices before making them
- I enjoyed how the "cashiers" at the "stores" were really persistent in trying to have you buy a specific item. That's like real life
- I liked that they had pictures of the cars and stuff, I also like the life unexpected
- I enjoyed making my own decisions, it's just like your starting a life
- The people at the different stations were really friendly and everything was really organized
- That you didn't have to go to the tables in a certain order
- The fact that I got a PS3!! I liked how there were a lot of options as to electronics, cars, pets, etc. so you could choose what you would want and see if you would be able to afford it
- I enjoyed the entire experience, but mostly just getting some insight into how expensive life is, how much you have to plan, and a feel for what my parents go through
- The whole experience of reality store was enjoyable, and it was a helpful experience that allowed most students to gain insight on how you have to plan for the future and think ahead
- The people were great. They were all very nice and polite
- I enjoyed going around and look at options. It made me realize how expensive things were
- Getting to experience what'd it be like to be 28
- Getting a house to live in and getting a bus pass and meeting them
- How we had to go to every table and check it all out
- Seeing what it would be like to pay rent
- I enjoyed the fact that they left it up to us and let us go independently
- I liked that they acted like you had to pay it like a real place would
- I enjoyed buying a car and a house
- Going to life's unexpected and getting \$4,137 for working overtime
- I enjoyed the whole store. I thought it was fun and was good for us to know how to deal with money as an adult
- I enjoy having to think through like to know what I need and what I don't need
- The animals

- It opened my eyes about life
- How realistic it was, and how the people were so nice
- Being put in real life grown up situations
- Going to life's unexpected
- I enjoyed being able to see what people throw at you
- Going around and thinking I'm going to be doing this when I grow up
- Experiencing what it is like to have a job and pay with money
- I enjoyed the choices you got to choose from
- All of it really because it was just like real life
- What we did in the reality store
- Getting to see what my parents do every day
- That you learned that your grades do matter
- I liked how it told me that you need good grades to have a good life
- Pretending to be adults and finding out how much money it takes in the real life
- I think I enjoyed everything except the job selections and kids because those two things are more options than requirements
- Getting no homework in math
- Getting to pretend I had a real job
- I enjoyed the fact that we actually got to choose what we wanted to do and buy. That there was actually items to get, rather than just paying expenses
- I liked seeing what it would be like for an adult. I also liked the cookies
- I liked being treated like an adult. Also, going to the stations and budgeting money
- All the decisions
- I enjoyed doing something different than just school work
- I liked how many options each person had such as houses, cars, and jobs
- I enjoyed the freedom we were given in terms of what we bought and which tables we went to
- The fact that it was teaching you how hard life can be
- I really liked the fact that the adults there acted like you were 28 years old and not children
- I liked the lesson it taught me
- I enjoyed learning about what it is like to have a real job so I can make good decisions later
- Many things were realistic
- I enjoyed going to each station and finding out how much it actually costs to live
- Getting to pick your house, pets, and cars
- I enjoyed figuring out what car and house I could afford and what one I wanted
- The fact that it made it seem as if I already were an adult, paying bill buying houses and cars
- The way that it was really like real life
- Being able to walk around and pretend I was trying to live my life
- I like the real life situations that they gave us
- It gives you a look into what your life might be like in 14 years
- It was fun going around and living as an adult
- I liked going to all the different stations and seeing what it's like to be an adult
- Acting like a different me
- I liked having a bit of a taste of what it would be like to be independent
- I liked that we had a lot of different places to go to and we didn't have to go a certain way for the most part
- I enjoyed seeing what my hard earned money could buy me in life
- Going to the different stores it was fun
- I enjoyed it because I could imagine my life after 14 years
- I enjoyed going to the different tables to "buy" things
- The reality of the situations
- I enjoyed being able to see how much money my parents actually spend
- Just the fact that it was a change from the stuff we usually do in class. It was fun and very informative
- I enjoyed the ability to pick what we wanted. There were many stations where there were many different choices that was especially helpful to me.
- I like how we were treated like adults

- I really liked the life's unexpected table, because you didn't know if it was going to be good or bad
- Getting to walk around and learn what it is like to pay the bills
- I liked getting to talk about what I want my life to be when I am older. I liked the whole thing, almost.
- I enjoyed everything
- I enjoyed that after a while it actually felt like real life
- That we got to make all the decisions
- I enjoyed walking around to the different stations and the interactive part. I liked buying a car and a house
- Be able to chose what to buy
- The extra stuff like electronics we get to buy
- It was fun. I've always loved simulation games
- The choices you could make
- I liked how we could look a real things that we might need a "buy" them
- I enjoyed experiencing what it's like being an adult and having to pay bills and other expenses
- Trying to figure out what was best, in both cost and necessities as I went from table to table

What suggestions do you have?

- A lot of stuff
- Make it more stores
- No suggestions
- Nothing, it is good as is
- To add more jobs
- Idk
- Give more instructions
- I'm not quite sure what to suggest because I thought it was fine how it was
- More of the daily life
- I think that it is fine as it is
- None
- None
- I don't have any
- More people, shorter lines and so it could go faster
- I would put more sites
- Make the housing table longer
- Give us back money
- Maybe people could have monster trucks
- The tables should be better labeled
- That the jobs we have got you more money
- Nothing
- I don't know
- Have more people working at transportation and housing when it starts
- None
- None
- Make it a little more interactive
- None
- I don't really have any suggestions
- Maybe have cardboard models of computers and use little cardboard models of furniture and house
- Making it funner for the students
- More job choices
- Instead of going to tables, you could go to cardboard houses (?)
- More time to do everything
- More things to chose from
- I have no suggestions
- Handle your money wisely or you will be in debt
- Make it more specific and detailed. People should explain things better so we know what we're dealing with
- I was a little confused so maybe give students a little bit of direction

- Nothing, it was cool
- None
- To have more careers to choose from
- Have it for more than one day
- Do it on a long period
- None
- None it really cool
- More time and less death
- None it was great!!
- Nothing
- To improve reality store maybe there could be explanation of what terms are and what they do like mortgage
- Some of the prices didn't seem right
- None
- Idk, I ran out of money
- Get a better degree
- To include gas in the transportation
- None
- Maybe make it more realistic
- Saving money
- Have tips for waiters or bartenders
- Nothing it is fine
- We need more time
- For electronics more phone options and game systems
- Idk
- I think it would be cool if we could continue it once a month for a couple more months just to see what it's like to continue like that on and on—to go through all the ups and downs financially
- Having 2 days to do it, or just more time. It seemed kind of rushed
- Have more time to do it. I barely finished
- I think that a few prices should be checked-or are we spending more than usual that month?
- It would be nice if there was a larger range of jobs to choose from
- I really don't have any suggestions. I really liked it
- It would be more realistic if ages could be assigned to children
- Perhaps have the people a little more informed. Most of them were fine but a few needed some time to figure out how to work the sheets
- They should have two life's unexpected because it really gives you the idea, that this could happen
- Maybe a little more time?
- Having the tables in a different order so we don't have to keep running across the gym
- I think that it works out well
- I would be better if we had more time and more tables
- I think students should choose how many kids they have and if they have a husband
- I think that people should be able to know more about their job before choosing
- I think they should let you know all of the options at that station before you make a purchase
- I think maybe merging tables together may make it easier to visit all of the tables in time
- I would suggest that cars be worth more and have gas be more expensive. My car was only \$100 a month and gas was only \$9
- More time, other than that I thought it was pretty good
- There should be no unfair ideas during the game that the player might not like
- I think that we should have more time, then everyone can finish
- I would suggest that they let students know some of the prices ahead of time so they can plan if they want to
- Could share the food with the kids
- Some of the electronic prices seemed too low so maybe raise them \$10-\$20
- You could make sure to have more than one person at each table
- More hands on things like maybe a person with a police outfit watches people running gives them a ticket or something
- I have none, it was fine the way it was

- You might want more people for housing and transportation
- Maybe have more than one table so kids don't have to wait as long in line
- Have more people manning the Housing table
- Maybe like have every body do it all in a certain order
- More choices for different tables
- Our spouses should be represented as a card or something and we should be able to pick their job and money
- Get more people to help
- I think they could have more housing tables
- Make what your job is affect you more
- I think that it is fine the way it is, because you got to go where you wanted
- More people at a table
- Maybe have two more booths
- Have more people at the housing department because it was really crowded
- Leave it as is, it's great
- If you have kids they should be tax deductions
- You could possibly get more people to work the stations. You could have some sort of salesmen trying to persuade you more
- I think that you should explain things a little bit more
- Give more time
- From what my mother told me, the prices were kind of off but other than that I think the program is awesome and can't think of anything to change!
- Have some of the things that happen and the whole thing explained in class (401K rollover, student loans, etc)
- More job options, being able to have more than 1 job
- For the booths I'd suggest put the sign of the department on the front of the so we don't get lost
- Maybe continue to add more career possibilities
- More choices (jobs...)
- I think you need more people because some of the booths were empty. Another thing: add more choices (I wanted a ferret! ☺)
- Don't make some unimportant things cost so much. Don't make it hard to get another job
- I'd say there's no real way to improve it without reworking the system
- Try to ease us into buying something
- Make the signs closer to the tables
- NONE! Was good.
- None
- Need to make more stations
- To improve the reality store, you could make more jobs, and get positive money in unexpected places
- I would suggest to make some of the net pay for jobs higher
- The only suggestion I have is that maybe they would want to have a few more people at the most important booths because there was a pretty long line
- I don't really have any improvements, I think it's good
- You should maybe tell the teens where to go so they don't mess up
- Have more chosses
- I don't have any
- I think that they don't really need to do anything with it
- Make the prices more realistic
- I really think you should try to be more persuasive
- Let them do it in the order they want because in real life people don't always have insurentns when they need it
- I think it is just fine the way it is
- Nothing really, it was a great experience
- I think you could add more recreation like archery, hunting, fishing, hiking and stuff like that
- Have it on the 2 days that are longe so the people that have more trouble than others will be able to finish
- Give us more time to be there
- Maybe some pictures of pets. For example, instead of buying a cat and dog you could pick a specific breed
- I think that they should have signs of the tables

- No suggestions! Reality store is an excellent exercise!
- I think they need more pictures of stuff
- Maybe have everyone take a basket and when you go to each store you have to pick up an item there
- I wish that they had more jobs to pick from
- I think you should have 2 tables for housing and life's unexpected so the lines aren't so long
- Not much, it's pretty good as it is
- You should get a prize if you end up with positive money
- More time would be nice. Actually, I think it was fine the way it was set up. The only thing would be more career choices
- Some of the purchases are not things you would encounter every month. And you might not buy them all in the same month either. In order to make reality store more realistic, it would help to have a longer period of time, and go through more than one month
- I don't have any suggestions
- Make things more of a reality
- I think there should be more time. Perhaps we could do it in extended periods or two days. Also some of the salaries seem incorrect that should be updated
- None, it was fine
- Have a lot lower prices
- More places you have to go to. More time
- I don't have any
- I suggest that they have the program go longer than just a period
- There should have been more stations and more money....
- Let people only have 2 jobs
- Give us more time
- I think that they shouldn't take away the money that you have at the end
- I thought it was perfect and no changes are needed to be done
- None it was great and I had a fun time
- More people
- None
- More time and places
- More tables for more choices
- Let people more money to begin with
- The reality store is fine, it taught me a lot
- Uh...that you should get and do more things
- None
- I don't think you should be able to get a second job
- It was just right
- Picking a better job
- I do not have any
- None
- Tell us how much money each job makes before we pick a job
- I think reality store needs a wider choice of jobs and a possibility for 0 kids if the student sees that in their future
- I'm just going to tell ya straight up it was extremely boring. I mean it was so boring that I could've fallen asleep while standing up
- We should be able to write out fake checks for the things we buy
- I don't really have suggestions, overall I think it was pretty good
- More choices of cars
- It would be easier if we had more choices or fake money
- More options for stuff like legal, and maybe even a choice to sue if you pick the rear-ending thing in Life's Unexpected like I did
- Make it more than one period
- I think students need a longer amount of time in the reality store
- I don't have any suggestions
- None
- Put in a charity/church stations

- I think the figures were not accurate...\$77,000 for a doctor is very low
- My only suggestion is to add more time to this activity
- Not very many
- None
- None
- Give us more time to finish up or let there be less tables
- I guess put a bigger variety of things to choose from; like pets and electronics
- None at all
- Give us more time to finish
- Fine the way it is
- Make it more realistic such as assign the spouse a job, more options would be nice in the child care and insurance
- The booths need to have more people and be in a more sensible order
- I think that the salaries for jobs should've been more accurate. We also needed more time
- I think we should be allowed to choose how many kids we have
- We need a longer time so we can get around to each station and we need more money
- I don't have any, I think it was fine the way it was. 😊
- No suggestions
- I think explanation before that game wasn't enough because I freaked out when I saw all the money bills that I had
- I think we should choose how many children we pretend we have, because in real life it would be our decision to make
- More time
- Make another table for housing and other places you have to do first, because it's hard to get done
- Give some examples of how to fill out the "reality store reactions" sheet
- I think we should have more time to do this activity
- Have more people at a table so that you don't have to wait in line
- You should be able to know your husband's job and salary
- I think that we should have more time so that we can be sure to finish
- Don't make people with glasses pay for their children's glasses. There is a 50% chance that they will not if their father doesn't
- I think we need more time
- None
- We should have more time
- I think the shopping period should be longer
- More second jobs to choose from
- Give us more time to complete—it will be more enjoyable
- I have no suggestions
- More time to do it
- The part where there were many stores for the extra stuff was deceiving because I thought I had a budget for each store
- More choices to buy

What did you learn?

- Do not have kids when you are young
- That it was hard to live a good life
- Be careful of what you buy because even the tiniest things may come back to get you
- That real life is a lot of money
- Never spend too much money
- How to be successful
- Spend money wisely
- How to manage money for the future
- That everything counts
- I learned that you should use your money wisely
- How much you spend on a regular basis
- How to control money
- That grades really do matter
- Life isn't always easy

- A lot
- Money is really important
- It is hard to manage money
- It takes a lot of money to live
- Nothing, really
- That your future is important
- Spend your money wisely
- I learned what I would have to do in my future life
- How fast money is spent
- Money goes away fast
- Money isn't to go to waste
- That money, and your grades rule what you can do in life
- That speeding tickets cost around \$200
- I learned the challenges and some hard decisions we will have to make
- That life is a bit tougher than I thought
- That life is harder than I thought
- Kids cost money
- I got a better estimate of what I should earn when I grow up
- That it is hard to be a grown up
- I learned that life is actually very hard
- That when you're an adult, life can be hard
- Take good care of your money
- N/A
- That life is expensive and my parents pay a lot for everything
- I learned a lot of things need to be paid
- Umm, nothing. I knew life is hard. I don't need to be told over and over again. This taught ME nothing, but it probably taught someone else something
- Take care of your money
- To manage my money very well
- Money isn't easy to save
- You need good grades for a good life
- How to manage your money
- That I should try to get a cheap car that isn't damaged and is in my budget
- How to survive in the real world
- I learned that there are a lot of important things that you have to worry about in the future
- That don't blow your money right away
- That money is nothing to spend on what you want
- I learned what we do now pays off later
- Pay attention to your money
- How to control my money
- A bunch
- You can never be too cheap
- That you need to be wise with your money
- Money is important
- No a lot
- Don't spend what you want its what you need
- I need to get my grades up
- Life is hard when you are an adult
- How tough life is when you are grown up
- How hard life really is
- Life sucks
- I learned just how hard it is to stay within your monthly and live comfortably. I learned why my parents make the decisions they do. It gave me a new appreciation.
- I learned a lot about the little things that you have to pay for in life. Thanks for your time!

- You have to conserve money to stay out of debt, and having children is expensive.
- I learned a lot on managing my money and life from reality store
- I learned the importance of making smart decisions
- I learned that children are really expensive and that as an adult, you have to really think about what your decision and that sometimes you have to save money on luxuries
- Life is expensive. Spend money wisely and really take thought and consider the consequences of your choices
- How to budget my money and that sometimes you can't afford to lavish yourself and others with expensive gifts
- It's going to be hard. Very hard, and its going to e tough when I first start. So I need to be prepared
- I learned just how much you have to balance in order to stay within a budget and how kids are very expensive!
- Be money wise and that being a grown up isn't easy
- I learned that organizing money is a lot harder than people think
- I like how much a child would cost you!
- I learned that kids cost a lot of money to their parents and that things don't always go as you planned
- I learned that being married to someone with a full time job helps a lot
- I learned that it is highly important to penny-pinch until you are financially secure
- I learned that it is very easy to fall into debt without proper planning
- I learned that being able to budget money is very important for living as an adult
- That life or adulthood is very challenging. Also that you must be prepared for the future
- Everything you can afford has to be with money and for emergencies, you should save money instead of buying things that you like
- I learned about the importance of a good job and education, and how important it is to be frugal
- I learned just how much money you have to spend every month on necessities alone. It makes me realize how hard my parents are working to give me a good lifestyle
- It is good to have insurance
- That life doesn't always go the way you plan it to. Also that you need a pretty good job to survive
- Life can be hard sometimes. Use money wisely
- That life can be difficult and sometimes you can't get a lot of help from people
- That life is hard
- I learned that it is very important to keep track of our money and only use it on important things
- That it's not as easy to pay for expenses as it looks when you're a kid
- That it's hard to get the things you want without paying for them
- I learned that life is actually a lot harder than I thought
- How to survive without being in too much debt
- Life is rough!!
- Spend money well
- I have learned that you need to set a goal and start to work on it a very second you think about it. When you get a job be very wise with it
- That there are ups and downs and sometimes in between
- I learned that the stuff that happened in reality store, it happens in real life
- Management of money
- That you need money management
- I learned how tough my life will be if I don't make the right choices
- I learned a lot of how to spend the money that I earn carefully
- That life can take unexpected turns
- I learned that you have to be very wise about your money, and that even with a high paying job you don't have much money left over
- I learned a little bit of what I got to do in the future
- Stop taking advantage of your parents money because they have to go through a lot money wise
- I learned making decisions is harder than you think it is and it's difficult to manage your money when there is not a lot to work with
- Most stuff your parents pay for is very expensive and should not be looked over
- There is a lot to think about when you grow up
- I learn that when you grow up life is rougher and bills are not fun
- I learned about insurance and deductibles as well as the things I should be prepared for in the future

- How to learn how to do things when becoming an adult
- I learned that you have to work hard to get anywhere in life
- To spend your money wisely on important things
- Spend money wisely
- To spend your money wisely
- Life is unexpected
- How being an adult and having kids will be like. What and how our future will be like
- Watch what you buy and the cost of it
- Yes not to buy really expensive things
- I learned that you can't just buy anything that you like every time, and that \$2,000 isn't that much when you're an adult
- I learned that you have to be careful on how you spend your money
- I learned to be careful with your money and that if you do you will most likely be fine, I also learned not to stress myself so much about it because if you're careful it's usually alright
- I learned what happens I life, how much money it takes to survive (around)
- That if you don't get good grades, you won't make it so far in life
- How to spend my money
- Work hard in the beginning of your life so later on you can relax and retire
- I learned that life has many ups and downs
- Being an adult is no walk in the park
- I learned that you need to be careful for what you buy
- The value of even the smallest things
- That I can accomplish anything I want
- You can't take your earnings for granted
- Everything costs more than you think
- I learned that you can't always have everything you want
- I learned a lot more about money. It doesn't always go a long way so you need to spend wisely
- You have to manage your money well and make sure you're always prepared for the unexpected
- I learned how to budget my money
- That life isn't easy. For example, if you bought a 3 bedroom house and you have no kids you probably want to keep that money and do something important with it
- I learned many things
- Money is a little harder to manage with kids, but everyone (almost) goes through it
- I learned that life is about choices, and picking those choices to fit you best
- Don't buy the most expensive things
- I learned that if you have a high paying job, it's so much easier to buy good things, and you don't have to get a 2nd job
- That if you don't get a good job you can't live how you want
- I learned that if you're an engineer with no children and a working spouse, you are really well-off. I learned about practical spending, then making sure that you have enough money before you use it on non-necessities
- I learned a lot about how much you have to plan ahead. Also that, even if you think you are doing fine one thing might come along and ruin your financial situation
- I learned how important it is to plan ahead
- There are many things you have to do as an adult. Also, that you have many responsibilities
- I learned how unexpected life can be and how much fees you have to pay
- That grades do matter to get a good job
- On getting a will, health insurance
- That you need good grades to survive
- How to pay bills, child support, etc
- I learned that its better to pay less than your budget if possible
- How to have a good life and how to use bills and taxes
- I learned that you have to save money
- Having kids is not fun
- That life is gonna be hard, and that money doesn't last long at all
- I learned how to deal with money better and pick the cheapest way to go
- I learned that life is not going to be hard for some people unless you have a good education

- I need better grades
- How hard life really is when you're older
- That how my grades are now are not going to work
- It was a fun way to learn about adulthood
- That life is expensive!
- I learned that if I'm going to be successful in life, I really need to start caring about my grades
- That growing up is not what I really want
- That life is always unexpected! 😊
- That in order to be successful, you need good grades
- That you have to know how to work your money
- What can happen if you don't get a good job
- As long as you study are eventually it will pay off
- That if you want something you have to work for it
- I learned that I need to get my grades up to have a good life
- That it takes a lot of money to make it in the real world
- I learned that you do get nicked and dined to death
- Not much. It was just like one of our electives in 7th grade. Actually I don't think I learned anything at all I actually think I got dumber.
- That grades do matter a lot
- I learned that our parents have a really hard time paying everything and they have to try and ration things out
- LIFE
- I learned that it is nice to treat yourself sometimes, but make sure you can afford the important things
- Always pay your student loans first!!! Especially before going to the Bahamas
- I learned the cost of monthly expenses
- I learned that it's very important to plan how many children you want because childcare is expensive!
- I learned that getting good grades is very important if you want to have a good job and a good life
- Parents have stressful lives
- All of the prices are out of date
- I should keep my grades up in order to achieve the lifestyle I want
- I learned that as an adult I must organize my priorities so I can be prepared for what life has in store
- Life might be harder than I thought
- That when you get older to get married and have a working spouse
- What life is going to be like
- I learned that you need to always look for bargains and only buy what you need and/or can afford
- Most importantly I learned to be wise or you could actually go bankrupt
- That you do not always get what you want
- Life is harder than it seems
- I learned not to have 3 children at age 28
- That I need a high paying job or a wealthy wife to live the life I'm living now
- Life is really hard and you can't always buy what you want if you don't have what you need
- I learned that making decisions about money takes some thinking through
- Being a kid is best
- I learned that even if you have a good job, paying for everything is challenging
- I learned to be responsible with my money and to spread out my money
- I learned that getting good grades is just as important as breathing
- Just do the best I can in the future
- I could realize the economic difficulties of adults.
- I learned things you might take for granted like pets and clothes can cost more than you think
- Grades do matter, and what things are like for parents
- I learned how we really need to go to college and save money
- Life sucks if you run out of money
- Life can be very tough if you don't have enough money
- I learned that it isn't easy being an adult. It takes a lot of work
- I learned that having three kids takes ALL your money! It's expensive!!!

- I learnt that you have to spend your money wisely
- I learned that life may get tough, but you have to struggle through to find that bit of light in the dark of a sad life
- I learned that things cost more than what I thought
- That you should go around wasting your money, you need to buy what you need
- That money can be tight even with a decent job
- I learned that grades really do count
- That the real world is hard
- That even sometimes with a big income kids are expensive
- Not much
- That I need better grades
- That you have to be wise with your money
- I learned that journalists don't make very much money. I also learned how expensive just basic needs are like groceries
- How hard it is to keep above debt

Jackson Creek Middle School Student Feedback

What did you enjoy most?

- All of it
- The bank
- Got to learn about handling money
- That we got to see what real life is about
- The cars
- Missing math class
- Spending money
- Getting to experience it like it was real life
- The way it was based on our grades
- Knowing what I have to face in life
- Getting to imagine how my life might go in the future
- Being the person controlling the money
- Realizing how hard life really is
- I liked how we actually got to manage our money and it was real
- The people were really nice. I really liked the life's unexpected
- The life's unexpected table
- Getting electronics
- I enjoyed being able to see what it's like for adults
- That I could pick what would my life would be like
- Not sure
- I enjoyed planning my future, and the jobs I will have
- Walking around and getting to buy a car and a house
- I was somewhat real
- I have no idea
- Getting to know how much money means
- It was all pretty funny and entertaining
- Being able to see all the different challenges we will have to face in life
- Going around and seeing what all I got. I was imagining everything in the future
- Walking around and meeting new people
- Having money left at the end
- I enjoyed all the new challenges it imposed for us
- The life's unexpected
- Going around and "buying" things
- I liked buy things for my house
- Getting to act like an adult
- Nothing really, it was okay, but really boring and it didn't really tell me much

- Learning how much my parents pay on everything
- It was fun pretending to buy things and stuff
- Still having money left over. Hahaha!
- Just to see how much my parents spend every month
- That you got to be like a grown up and buy things
- Choosing the car and house you wanted
- I enjoyed buying fake stuff with fake money
- Getting to see how real life is
- To buy a car
- Purchasing expensive things that I wanted and needed
- I loved the fact that I was able to see how important my career will be in the future
- Having the job
- All of it
- I enjoyed how it is real life simulated
- The wake up call
- I enjoyed learning about being an adult
- Umm the house and furniture one
- Learning what things you can do
- That it was like real life
- Buying stuff
- What you learn and how you use your money
- How you really feel like you're the 28 year old
- Seeing what it's like to be an adult
- It was fun and seeing what really goes on
- Going to electronics
- The money and learning
- I enjoyed just simply getting the insight into what adults, especially parents, face financially every single day
- I enjoyed seeing what kind of things my life might have in store
- How nice and professional the people working the booths were. They actually acted like you really wanted to buy health insurance, or a house.
- I enjoyed the experience most. It will be helpful later on in life.
- I enjoyed the feeling of independence that went along with the decisions; I liked the choices I could make
- I enjoyed talking with the people on the tables. So thank you, they helped me out.
- Being able to do the program and get a preview of what's in store for me in life
- I enjoyed learning about all the things that you have to do when you have a job and you're on your own. I liked seeing the advantages and disadvantages of having a kid and being married/single. It gives me an idea what to look for when I'm on my own.
- Having to balance everything and being worried. I wouldn't make it
- I enjoyed looking at the actual products you could choose to buy from.
- I enjoyed the sense of having to make a decision
- That you were in control of your money decisions
- I liked how we were able to make choices
- I enjoyed buying all of my stuff, and managing my money
- I enjoyed being able to afford the choices that I wanted to make
- I liked that we were independent and could chose what we wanted
- I really enjoyed how everything was organized, making it easier to deal with
- I enjoyed being able to buy so many things and still learn to budget my money
- I actually enjoyed the struggle I had during reality store. It, the struggles, simulated the struggles I might have in the future
- I enjoyed imagining that I could buy things that I wanted
- I liked the experience of a real life situation where I had to plan a budget
- I really like out realistic everything was I also like how they were able to incorporate many aspects of daily life
- I enjoyed walking around, seeing my friends, and buying stuff
- Well just going from place to place and watching my money go down and then back up
- Everyone there was enthusiastic and it was good to see smiling faces

- How everything was so realistic and my dad always tells me don't go for the high price stuff
- I really enjoyed all of it
- I enjoyed walking around and trying to deal with my money and "kids"
- Going through and seeing how it was like to pay bills in real life
- How they used real life scenarios and made them into a game
- I enjoyed like learning about insurance and things that I didn't really know much about
- Learning how hard it is to keep money in my pocket and what it takes to live
- The realness of it all!
- Going around buying stuff
- People who were serving us were so nice and I love them all
- It really felt like stuff was happening to me
- I enjoyed going to the different tables, and making choices of what I wanted
- Getting money
- The reality part of it
- I enjoyed getting a house, a car, and pet
- It was fun and interactive
- The fact that I actually got to see a small part of an adults life
- I enjoyed that everything was set up very realistically and that people will try to pressure you in life
- I liked that we get a taste of what the money world is life
- Walking around to the different stations getting a "feel" of what your parents go through
- The helpers were very friendly! They gave good suggestions if you asked as well. You had many choices to choose from
- It made math seem like it had a little more use and we used it in a funner way
- Making my own decisions
- I enjoyed talking to the people that participated in the Reality Store
- I liked how we were offered so many choices such as what car, house, and furniture we wanted. The people who worked there were really nice
- Getting to learn how to do things, and kind of what things are about
- I enjoyed the Life's Unexpected table
- Us being able to experience what real adults have to deal with
- The realism of it all
- Learning all the hard decisions you have to make in life
- Having the choice of getting a taste of reality
- Seeing what life is all about, what we have to do to survive
- Showing you how hard your life can be on money
- I got to see what life is like after high school
- I enjoyed the way the reality store was set up and worked with
- I enjoyed going around to the different tables and doing the activities there
- I enjoyed going to the booths and talking to the people there while getting what I needed they were very friendly and polite
- I enjoyed going around and picking out what we won't to buy and what we had to buy to survive
- Well I like how the volunteers were like pressuring the teens to buy stuff
- Me doing what I wanted
- I liked how you had a lot of options, like if you ran out of money you could go back and get some thing cheaper
- Getting to experience all of the different tasks in life
- I enjoyed the fact that we were being shone what it is like to be an adult in a fun way
- I really enjoyed acting like an adult. It was really fun. I liked when we actually payed for things
- I liked how they had the pictures of what you were buying
- It really helped me realize that life is going to be hard, so every station helped me
- I liked how you didn't know what was going to happen next
- Housing, life's unexpected
- I enjoyed all the options and how life-like it was
- Seeing how life really is. It teaches you a lot about money
- I enjoyed looking at all of the pictures of the items you could buy and I really enjoyed talking to the people working at the stations
- I liked that there was pictures and people to help us constantly

- The life's unexpected because sometime in your life something's going to happen and you've got to be ready for it
- It was fun and it made me realize that you have to think about your choices before making them
- I enjoyed how the "cashiers" at the "stores" were really persistent in trying to have you buy a specific item. That's like real life
- I liked that they had pictures of the cars and stuff, I also like the life unexpected
- I enjoyed making my own decisions, it's just like your starting a life
- The people at the different stations were really friendly and everything was really organized
- That you didn't have to go to the tables in a certain order
- The fact that I got a PS3!! I liked how there were a lot of options as to electronics, cars, pets, etc. so you could choose what you would want and see if you would be able to afford it
- I enjoyed the entire experience, but mostly just getting some insight into how expensive life is, how much you have to plan, and a feel for what my parents go through
- The whole experience of reality store was enjoyable, and it was a helpful experience that allowed most students to gain insight on how you have to plan for the future and think ahead
- The people were great. They were all very nice and polite
- I enjoyed going around and look at options. It made me realize how expensive things were
- Getting to experience what'd it be like to be 28
- Getting a house to live in and getting a bus pass and meeting them
- How we had to go to every table and check it all out
- Seeing what it would be like to pay rent
- I enjoyed the fact that they left it up to us and let us go independently
- I liked that they acted like you had to pay it like a real place would
- I enjoyed buying a car and a house
- Going to life's unexpected and getting \$4,137 for working overtime
- I enjoyed the whole store. I thought it was fun and was good for us to know how to deal with money as an adult
- I enjoy having to think through like to know what I need and what I don't need
- The animals
- It opened my eyes about life
- How realistic it was, and how the people were so nice
- Being put in real life grown up situations
- Going to life's unexpected
- I enjoyed being able to see what people throw at you
- Going around and thinking I'm going to be doing this when I grow up
- Experiencing what it is like to have a job and pay with money
- I enjoyed the choices you got to choose from
- All of it really because it was just like real life
- What we did in the reality store
- Getting to see what my parents do every day
- That you learned that your grades do matter
- I liked how it told me that you need good grades to have a good life
- Pretending to be adults and finding out how much money it takes in the real life
- I think I enjoyed everything except the job selections and kids because those two things are more options that requirements
- Getting no homework in math
- Getting to pretend I had a real job
- I enjoyed the fact that we actually got to choose what we wanted to do and buy. That there was actually items to get, rather than just paying expenses
- I liked seeing what it would be like for an adult. I also liked the cookies
- I liked being treated like an adult. Also, going to the stations and budgeting money
- All the decisions
- I enjoyed doing something different than just school work
- I liked how many options each person had such as houses, cars, and jobs
- I enjoyed the freedom we were given in terms of what we bought and which tables we went to
- The fact that it was teaching you how hard life can be

- I really liked the fact that the adults there acted like you were 28 years old and not children
- I liked the lesson it taught me
- I enjoyed learning about what it is like to have a real job so I can make good decisions later
- Many things were realistic
- I enjoyed going to each stations and finding out how much it actually costs to live
- Getting to pick your house, pets, and cars
- I enjoyed figuring out what car and house I could afford and what one I wanted
- The fact that it made it seem as if I already were an adult, paying bill buying houses and cars
- The way that it was really like real life
- Being able to walk around and pretend I was trying to live my life
- I like the real life situations that they gave us
- It gives you a look into what your life might be like in 14 years
- It was fun going around and living as an adult
- I liked going to all the different stations and seeing what its like to be an adult
- Acting like a different me
- I liked having a bit of a taste of what it would be like to be independent
- I liked that we had a lot of different places to go to and we didn't have to go a certain way for the most part
- I enjoyed seeing what my hard earned money could buy me in life
- Going to the different stores it was fun
- I enjoyed it because I could imagine my life after 14 years
- I enjoyed going to the different tables to "buy" things
- The reality of the situations
- I enjoyed being able to see how much money my parents actually spend
- Just the fact that it was a change from the stuff we usually do in class. It was fun and very informative
- I enjoyed the ability to pick what we wanted. There were many stations where there were many different choices that was especially helpful to me.
- I like how we were treated like adults
- I really liked the life's unexpected table, because you didn't know if it was going to be good or bad
- Getting to walk around and learn what it is like to pay the bills
- I liked getting to talk about what I want my life to be when I am older. I liked the whole thing, almost.
- I enjoyed everything
- I enjoyed that after a while it actually felt like real life
- That we got to make all the decisions
- I enjoyed walking around to the different stations and the interactive part. I liked buying a car and a house
- Be able to chose what to buy
- The extra stuff like electronics we get to buy
- It was fun. I've always loved simulation games
- The choices you could make
- I liked how we could look a real things that we might need a "buy" them
- I enjoyed experiencing what it's like being an adult and having to pay bills and other expenses
- Trying to figure out what was best, in both cost and necessities as I went from table to table

What suggestions do you have?

- A lot of stuff
- Make it more stores
- No suggestions
- Nothing, it is good as is
- To add more jobs
- Idk
- Give more instructions
- I'm not quite sure what to suggest because I thought it was fine how it was
- More of the daily life
- I think that it is fine as it is
- None

- None
- I don't have any
- More people, shorter lines and so it could go faster
- I would put more sites
- Make the housing table longer
- Give us back money
- Maybe people could have monster trucks
- The tables should be better labeled
- That the jobs we have got you more money
- Nothing
- I don't know
- Have more people working at transportation and housing when it starts
- None
- None
- Make it a little more interactive
- None
- I don't really have any suggestions
- Maybe have cardboard models of computers and use little cardboard models of furniture and house
- Making it funner for the students
- More job choices
- Instead of going to tables, you could go to cardboard houses (?)
- More time to do everything
- More things to chose from
- I have no suggestions
- Handle your money wisely or you will be in debt
- Make it more specific and detailed. People should explain things better so we know what we're dealing with
- I was a little confused so maybe give students a little bit of direction
- Nothing, it was cool
- None
- To have more careers to choose from
- Have it for more than one day
- Do it on a long period
- None
- None it really cool
- More time and less death
- None it was great!!
- Nothing
- To improve reality store maybe there could be explanation of what terms are and what they do like mortgage
- Some of the prices didn't seem right
- None
- Idk, I ran out of money
- Get a better degree
- To include gas in the transportation
- None
- Maybe make it more realistic
- Saving money
- Have tips for waiters or bartenders
- Nothing it is fine
- We need more time
- For electronics more phone options and game systems
- Idk
- I think it would be cool if we could continue it once a month for a couple more months just to see what it's like to continue like that on and on—to go through all the ups and downs financially
- Having 2 days to do it, or just more time. It seemed kind of rushed

- Have more time to do it. I barely finished
- I think that a few prices should be checked-or are we spending more than usual that month?
- It would be nice if there was a larger range of jobs to choose from
- I really don't have any suggestions. I really liked it
- It would be more realistic if ages could be assigned to children
- Perhaps have the people a little more informed. Most of them were fine but a few needed some time to figure out how to work the sheets
- They should have two life's unexpected because it really gives you the idea, that this could happen
- Maybe a little more time?
- Having the tables in a different order so we don't have to keep running across the gym
- I think that it works out well
- I would be better if we had more time and more tables
- I think students should choose how many kids they have and if they have a husband
- I think that people should be able to know more about their job before choosing
- I think they should let you know all of the options at that station before you make a purchase
- I think maybe merging tables together may make it easier to visit all of the tables in time
- I would suggest that cars be worth more and have gas be more expensive. My car was only \$100 a month and gas was only \$9
- More time, other than that I thought it was pretty good
- There should be no unfair ideas during the game that the player might not like
- I think that we should have more time, then everyone can finish
- I would suggest that they let students know some of the prices ahead of time so they can plan if they want to
- Could share the food with the kids
- Some of the electronic prices seemed too low so maybe raise them \$10-\$20
- You could make sure to have more than one person at each table
- More hands on things like maybe a person with a police outfit watches people running gives them a ticket or something
- I have none, it was fine the way it was
- You might want more people for housing and transportation
- Maybe have more than one table so kids don't have to wait as long in line
- Have more people manning the Housing table
- Maybe like have every body do it all in a certain order
- More choices for different tables
- Our spouses should be represented as a card or something and we should be able to pick their job and money
- Get more people to help
- I think they could have more housing tables
- Make what your job is affect you more
- I think that it is fine the way it is, because you got to go where you wanted
- More people at a table
- Maybe have two more booths
- Have more people at the housing department because it was really crowded
- Leave it as is, it's great
- If you have kids they should be tax deductions
- You could possibly get more people to work the stations. You could have some sort of salesmen trying to persuade you more
- I think that you should explain things a little bit more
- Give more time
- From what my mother told me, the prices were kind of off but other than that I think the program is awesome and can't think of anything to change!
- Have some of the things that happen and the whole thing explained in class (401K rollover, student loans, etc)
- More job options, being able to have more than 1 job
- For the booths I'd suggest put the sign of the department on the front of the so we don't get lost
- Maybe continue to add more career possibilities
- More choices (jobs...)

- I think you need more people because some of the booths were empty. Another thing: add more choices (I wanted a ferret! ☺)
- Don't make some unimportant things cost so much. Don't make it hard to get another job
- I'd say there's no real way to improve it without reworking the system
- Try to ease us into buying something
- Make the signs closer to the tables
- NONE! Was good.
- None
- Need to make more stations
- To improve the reality store, you could make more jobs, and get positive money in unexpected places
- I would suggest to make some of the net pay for jobs higher
- The only suggestion I have is that maybe they would want to have a few more people at the most important booths because there was a pretty long line
- I don't really have any improvements, I think it's good
- You should maybe tell the teens where to go so they don't mess up
- Have more chosses
- I don't have any
- I think that they don't really need to do anything with it
- Make the prices more realistic
- I really think you should try to be more persuasive
- Let them do it in the order they want because in real life people don't always have insurents when they need it
- I think it is just fine the way it is
- Nothing really, it was a great experience
- I think you could add more recreation like archery, hunting, fishing, hiking and stuff like that
- Have it on the 2 days that are longe so the people that have more trouble than others will be able to finish
- Give us more time to be there
- Maybe some pictures of pets. For example, instead of buying a cat and dog you could pick a specific breed
- I think that they should have signs of the tables
- No suggestions! Reality store is an excellent exercise!
- I think they need more pictures of stuff
- Maybe have everyone take a basket and when you go to each store you have to pick up an item there
- I wish that they had more jobs to pick from
- I think you should have 2 tables for housing and life's unexpected so the lines aren't so long
- Not much, it's pretty good as it is
- You should get a prize if you end up with positive money
- More time would be nice. Actually, I think it was fine the way it was set up. The only thing would be more career choices
- Some of the purchases are not things you would encounter every month. And you might not buy them all in the same month either. In order to make reality store more realistic, it would help to have a longer period of time, and go through more than one month
- I don't have any suggestions
- Make things more of a reality
- I think there should be more time. Perhaps we could do it in extended periods or two days. Also some of the saleries seem incorrect that should be updated
- None, it was fine
- Have a lot lower prices
- More places you have to go to. More time
- I don't have any
- I suggest that they have the program go longer than just a period
- There should have been more stations and more money....
- Let people only have 2 jobs
- Give us more time
- I think that they shouldn't take away the money that you have at the end
- I thought it was perfect and no changes are needed to be done
- None it was great and I had a fun time

- More people
- None
- More time and places
- More tables for more choices
- Let people more money to begin with
- The reality store is fine, it taught me a lot
- Uh...that you should get and do more things
- None
- I don't think you should be able to get a second job
- It was just right
- Picking a better job
- I do not have any
- None
- Tell us how much money each job makes before we pick a job
- I think reality store needs a wider choice of jobs and a possibility for 0 kids if the student sees that in their future
- I'm just going to tell ya straight up it was extremely boring. I mean it was so boring that I could've fallen asleep while standing up
- We should be able to write out fake checks for the things we buy
- I don't really have suggestions, overall I think it was pretty good
- More choices of cars
- It would be easier if we had more choices or fake money
- More options for stuff like legal, and maybe even a choice to sue if you pick the rear-ending thing in Life's Unexpected like I did
- Make it more than one period
- I think students need a longer amount of time in the reality store
- I don't have any suggestions
- None
- Put in a charity/church stations
- I think the figures were not accurate...\$77,000 for a doctor is very low
- My only suggestion is to add more time to this activity
- Not very many
- None
- None
- Give us more time to finish up or let there be less tables
- I guess put a bigger variety of things to choose from; like pets and electronics
- None at all
- Give us more time to finish
- Fine the way it is
- Make it more realistic such as assign the spouse a job, more options would be nice in the child care and insurance
- The booths need to have more people and be in a more sensible order
- I think that the salaries for jobs should've been more accurate. We also needed more time
- I think we should be allowed to choose how many kids we have
- We need a longer time so we can get around to each station and we need more money
- I don't have any, I think it was fine the way it was. ☺
- No suggestions
- I think explanation before that game wasn't enough because I freaked out when I saw all the money bills that I had
- I think we should choose how many children we pretend we have, because in real life it would be our decision to make
- More time
- Make another table for housing and other places you have to do first, because it's hard to get done
- Give some examples of how to fill out the "reality store reactions" sheet
- I think we should have more time to do this activity
- Have more people at a table so that you don't have to wait in line
- You should be able to know your husband's job and salary
- I think that we should have more time so that we can be sure to finish

- Don't make people with glasses pay for their children's glasses. There is a 50% chance that they will not if their father doesn't
- I think we need more time
- None
- We should have more time
- I think the shopping period should be longer
- More second jobs to choose from
- Give us more time to complete—it will be more enjoyable
- I have no suggestions
- More time to do it
- The part where there were many stores for the extra stuff was deceiving because I thought I had a budget for each store
- More choices to buy

What did you learn?

- Do not have kids when you are young
- That it was hard to live a good life
- Be careful of what you buy because even the tiniest things may come back to get you
- That real life is a lot of money
- Never spend too much money
- How to be successful
- Spend money wisely
- How to manage money for the future
- That everything counts
- I learned that you should use your money wisely
- How much you spend on a regular basis
- How to control money
- That grades really do matter
- Life isn't always easy
- A lot
- Money is really important
- It is hard to manage money
- It takes a lot of money to live
- Nothing, really
- That your future is important
- Spend your money wisely
- I learned what I would have to do in my future life
- How fast money is spent
- Money goes away fast
- Money isn't to go to waste
- That money, and your grades rule what you can do in life
- That speeding tickets cost around \$200
- I learned the challenges and some hard decisions we will have to make
- That life is a bit tougher than I thought
- That life is harder than I thought
- Kids cost money
- I got a better estimate of what I should earn when I grow up
- That it is hard to be a grown up
- I learned that life is actually very hard
- That when you're an adult, life can be hard
- Take good care of your money
- N/A
- That life is expensive and my parents pay a lot for everything
- I learned a lot of things need to be paid

- Umm, nothing. I knew life is hard. I don't need to be told over and over again. This taught ME nothing, but it probably taught someone else something
- Take care of your money
- To manage my money very well
- Money isn't easy to save
- You need good grades for a good life
- How to manage your money
- That I should try to get a cheap car that isn't damaged and is in my budget
- How to survive in the real world
- I learned that there are a lot of important things that you have to worry about in the future
- That don't blow your money right away
- That money is nothing to spend on what you want
- I learned what we do now pays off later
- Pay attention to your money
- How to control my money
- A bunch
- You can never be too cheap
- That you need to be wise with your money
- Money is important
- No a lot
- Don't spend what you want its what you need
- I need to get my grades up
- Life is hard when you are an adult
- How tough life is when you are grown up
- How hard life really is
- Life sucks
- I learned just how hard it is to stay within your monthly and live comfortably. I learned why my parents make the decisions they do. It gave me a new appreciation.
- I learned a lot about the little things that you have to pay for in life. Thanks for your time!
- You have to conserve money to stay out of debt, and having children is expensive.
- I learned a lot on managing my money and life from reality store
- I learned the importance of making smart decisions
- I learned that children are really expensive and that as an adult, you have to really think about what your decision and that sometimes you have to save money on luxuries
- Life is expensive. Spend money wisely and really take thought and consider the consequences of your choices
- How to budget my money and that sometimes you can't afford to lavish yourself and others with expensive gifts
- It's going to be hard. Very hard, and its going to e tough when I first start. So I need to be prepared
- I learned just how much you have to balance in order to stay within a budget and how kids are very expensive!
- Be money wise and that being a grown up isn't easy
- I learned that organizing money is a lot harder than people think
- I like how much a child would cost you!
- I learned that kids cost a lot of money to their parents and that things don't always go as you planned
- I learned that being married to someone with a full time job helps a lot
- I learned that it is highly important to penny-pinch until you are financially secure
- I learned that it is very easy to fall into debt without proper planning
- I learned that being able to budget money is very important for living as an adult
- That life or adulthood is very challenging. Also that you must be prepared for the future
- Everything you can afford has to be with money and for emergencies, you should save money instead of buying things that you like
- I learned about the importance of a good job and education, and how important it is to be frugal
- I learned just how much money you have to spend every month on necessities alone. It makes me realize how hard my parents are working to give me a good lifestyle
- It is good to have insurance
- That life doesn't always go the way you plan it to. Also that you need a pretty good job to survive

- Life can be hard sometimes. Use money wisely
- That life can be difficult and sometimes you can't get a lot of help from people
- That life is hard
- I learned that it is very important to keep track of our money and only use it on important things
- That it's not as easy to pay for expenses as it looks when you're a kid
- That it's hard to get the things you want without paying for them
- I learned that life is actually a lot harder than I thought
- How to survive without being in too much debt
- Life is rough!!
- Spend money well
- I have learned that you need to set a goal and start to work on it a very second you think about it. When you get a job be very wise with it
- That there are ups and downs and sometimes in between
- I learned that the stuff that happened in reality store, it happens in real life
- Management of money
- That you need money management
- I learned how tough my life will be if I don't make the right choices
- I learned a lot of how to spend the money that I earn carefully
- That life can take unexpected turns
- I learned that you have to be very wise about your money, and that even with a high paying job you don't have much money left over
- I learned a little bit of what I got to do in the future
- Stop taking advantage of your parents money because they have to go through a lot money wise
- I learned making decisions is harder than you think it is and it's difficult to manage your money when there is not a lot to work with
- Most stuff your parents pay for is very expensive and should not be looked over
- There is a lot to think about when you grow up
- I learn that when you grow up life is rougher and bills are not fun
- I learned about insurance and deductibles as well as the things I should be prepared for in the future
- How to learn how to do things when becoming an adult
- I learned that you have to work hard to get anywhere in life
- To spend your money wisely on important things
- Spend money wisely
- To spend your money wisely
- Life is unexpected
- How being an adult and having kids will be like. What and how our future will be like
- Watch what you buy and the cost of it
- Yes not to buy really expensive things
- I learned that you can't just buy anything that you like every time, and that \$2,000 isn't that much when you're an adult
- I learned that you have to be careful on how you spend your money
- I learned to be careful with your money and that if you do you will most likely be fine, I also learned not to stress myself so much about it because if you're careful it's usually alright
- I learned what happens I life, how much money it takes to survive (around)
- That if you don't get good grades, you won't make it so far in life
- How to spend my money
- Work hard in the beginning of your life so later on you can relax and retire
- I learned that life has many ups and downs
- Being an adult is no walk in the park
- I learned that you need to be careful for what you buy
- The value of even the smallest things
- That I can accomplish anything I want
- You can't take your earnings for granted
- Everything costs more than you think
- I learned that you can't always have everything you want

- I learned a lot more about money. It doesn't always go a long way so you need to spend wisely
- You have to manage your money well and make sure you're always prepared for the unexpected
- I learned how to budget my money
- That life isn't easy. For example, if you bought a 3 bedroom house and you have no kids you probably want to keep that money and do something important with it
- I learned many things
- Money is a little harder to manage with kids, but everyone (almost) goes through it
- I learned that life is about choices, and picking those choices to fit you best
- Don't buy the most expensive things
- I learned that if you have a high paying job, it's so much easier to buy good things, and you don't have to get a 2nd job
- That if you don't get a good job you can't live how you want
- I learned that if you're an engineer with no children and a working spouse, you are really well-off. I learned about practical spending, then making sure that you have enough money before you use it on non-necessities
- I learned a lot about how much you have to plan ahead. Also that, even if you think you are doing fine one thing might come along and ruin your financial situation
- I learned how important it is to plan ahead
- There are many things you have to do as an adult. Also, that you have many responsibilities
- I learned how unexpected life can be and how much fees you have to pay
- That grades do matter to get a good job
- On getting a will, health insurance
- That you need good grades to survive
- How to pay bills, child support, etc
- I learned that its better to pay less than your budget if possible
- How to have a good life and how to use bills and taxes
- I learned that you have to save money
- Having kids is not fun
- That life is gonna be hard, and that money doesn't last long at all
- I learned how to deal with money better and pick the cheapest way to go
- I learned that life is not going to be hard for some people unless you have a good education
- I need better grades
- How hard life really is when you're older
- That how my grades are now are not going to work
- It was a fun way to learn about adulthood
- That life is expensive!
- I learned that if I'm going to be successful in life, I really need to start caring about my grades
- That growing up is not what I really want
- That life is always unexpected! ☺
- That in order to be successful, you need good grades
- That you have to know how to work your money
- What can happen if you don't get a good job
- As long as you study are eventually it will pay off
- That if you want something you have to work for it
- I learned that I need to get my grades up to have a good life
- That it takes a lot of money to make it in the real world
- I learned that you do get nicked and dimed to death
- Not much. It was just like one of our electives in 7th grade. Actually I don't think I learned anything at all I actually think I got dumber.
- That grades do matter a lot
- I learned that our parents have a really hard time paying everything and they have to try and ration things out
- LIFE
- I learned that it is nice to treat yourself sometimes, but make sure you can afford the important things
- Always pay your student loans first!!! Especially before going to the Bahamas
- I learned the cost of monthly expenses
- I learned that it's very important to plan how many children you want because childcare is expensive!

- I learned that getting good grades is very important if you want to have a good job and a good life
- Parents have stressful lives
- All of the prices are out of date
- I should keep my grades up in order to achieve the lifestyle I want
- I learned that as an adult I must organize my priorities so I can be prepared for what life has in store
- Life might be harder than I thought
- That when you get older to get married and have a working spouse
- What life is going to be like
- I learned that you need to always look for bargains and only buy what you need and/or can afford
- Most importantly I learned to be wise or you could actually go bankrupt
- That you do not always get what you want
- Life is harder than it seems
- I learned not to have 3 children at age 28
- That I need a high paying job or a wealthy wife to live the life I'm living now
- Life is really hard and you can't always buy what you want if you don't have what you need
- I learned that making decisions about money takes some thinking through
- Being a kid is best
- I learned that even if you have a good job, paying for everything is challenging
- I learned to be responsible with my money and to spread out my money
- I learned that getting good grades is just as important as breathing
- Just do the best I can in the future
- I could realize the economic difficulties of adults.
- I learned things you might take for granted like pets and clothes can cost more than you think
- Grades do matter, and what things are like for parents
- I learned how we really need to go to college and save money
- Life sucks if you run out of money
- Life can be very tough if you don't have enough money
- I learned that it isn't easy being an adult. It takes a lot of work
- I learned that having three kids takes ALL your money! It's expensive!!!
- I learnt that you have to spend your money wisely
- I learned that life may get tough, but you have to struggle through to find that bit of light in the dark of a sad life
- I learned that things cost more than what I thought
- That you should go around wasting your money, you need to buy what you need
- That money can be tight even with a decent job
- I learned that grades really do count
- That the real world is hard
- That even sometimes with a big income kids are expensive
- Not much
- That I need better grades
- That you have to be wise with your money
- I learned that journalists don't make very much money. I also learned how expensive just basic needs are like groceries
- How hard it is to keep above debt

Batchelor Middle School Student Feedback

What did you enjoy most?

- Getting a home and choosing a car
- I thought it was fun going around and seeing how much things cost and just going to the booths
- I enjoyed knowing that what happened at reality store could be my future
- It was similar to most real life situations
- I enjoyed experiencing adulthood, and I loved going to every station
- I enjoyed having money
- I mostly enjoyed walking around and just taking chances

- Seeing how my life will come out
- All of it. It was a great learning experience
- Being able to go around and talk about financial stuff with adults who deal with that
- I enjoyed how it felt like your where grown up and had to manage your money and pay bills and such
- Acting like it was real life; the life unexpected table
- Getting an outlook on my future
- Getting to see what life was really like
- It was kind of hard
- Going around to all of the tables
- I didn't
- The life's unexpected booth
- Knowing what it's like in the real world
- Buying stuff
- The people at the stations. They were nice.
- I thought it was a good learning game and that the word reality was very real
- Choosing what I wanted
- How you could go back and fix things
- Choosing what I can have
- I enjoyed seeing how much things really cost
- Life's unexpected
- Thinking about what I want to be when I grow up and pretending to live that life
- Nothing
- Learning new things
- It's entertaining
- Going around to the different tables
- The different stations
- I had a lot of money so it was easy
- Kind of showed you the real world
- I got out of class
- Going to each station and making the choices they offered
- There were many options to choose from
- Getting the IRS tax credits
- Getting out of regular class
- Getting out of class
- Getting a TV
- Going from place to place, and experiencing what it may be like to have a job and expenses
- Hanging with friends
- I liked buying the things I really do want in real life
- The experience of looking into the future
- I enjoyed picking out a house and car and really experiencing how hard it is to manage your money as an adult
- That you got to sort of experience a working life
- I enjoyed planning how to spend my money
- Acting like it was real and buying stuff
- It made me realize everything that I have to be prepared for
- Learning about the process to live your life
- Not having class
- I like going around to the different booths and buying things
- The different possibilities available
- Meeting professional people
- I just thought it was fun
- Getting to see what life could be like
- Fun and I learned a lot!
- Hanging out with my friends
- Finding out what real-life situations will be like

- The actuality that this is going to happen to me
- Learning more about expenses and how everything works
- I enjoyed the interactiveness and flexibility
- Getting the life's unexpected
- Feeling like an adult and showing everyone my hat
- Buying a car
- Getting to make decisions like an adult
- Buying things you want
- The staff were friendly and it gave us a good idea of how to keep a budget
- I liked how we made our own decisions
- Getting a taste of the real world
- The life's unexpected
- I liked all the choices
- Just finding out what it would be like to buy certain things when you have your job
- Everything
- I can plan ahead of my life
- The options that they had there
- Noticing all the things I'm going to have to pay for when I get older
- I enjoyed the sense of reality: you can't throw money around and assume everything will work out
- Getting out of class
- Buying electronics like the iPhone
- Buying
- Buying stuff
- Seeing all the choices you have in life
- Going in the auxiliary gym and actually "buying" things
- How it related to real life
- It was fast paced and realistic
- Missing class
- Buying my house and car
- The whole experience
- I enjoyed seeing how many items I could get with my money
- I liked the "life's unexpected" table
- I enjoyed the separate booths, and the people working there
- Getting out of class
- Buying a house
- Finding out what it is to be an adult
- Pets
- Looking at financially, what it might be like for my family and I down the road
- I liked how real it felt
- Picking out things
- I enjoyed that it was different from regular class and it was hands-on
- Having control over my life
- It really helped me understand what my parents have to do
- Going around and trying to figure out how much money to spend on what
- Well I liked going around to the booths & seeing the real life cars & houses & things
- Getting my truck 😊
- Choosing my career and making purchases

What suggestions do you have?

- None
- Letting people be with husbands or wives
- More job choices
- We should do it more often
- Have more careers on the list to choose from

- None
- Get nice people to work the booths!
- Add more choice
- None it was great
- Have season tickets
- I thought it was really cool and it was fine the way it was
- Don't bring a dog in. I was terrified the whole time
- None
- Have a certain order
- Make the stuff cheaper
- None
- None
- None
- None
- To have more than 1 stations where we can earn money at
- Nothing, I liked it a lot
- Get more sports and luxury cars and more houses
- None
- Uh...on the job sheet, maybe list approximate or average salaries so we can choose which job from a degree
- You could have the starting costs
- None
- None 😊
- Make it more fun
- I don't have any
- --None—
- More time
- Make the salary for the jobs what the people really do earn
- Make it longer
- It needs to be a little longer so more people can finish
- Needs to be longer
- More time
- None
- Make the jobs have realistic income
- None
- Let people choose how many kids they want (having kids doesn't happen at random)
- I think it was perfect, you don't really need to change anything
- None
- I suggest that people are older than 28, it would make it more realistic because many of the careers took more than 28 years to get
- There was nothing about taxes and that when you pay for something monthly there is interest
- N/A
- Nothing, very good
- Nothing
- More job options
- Make it more realistic, like I would honestly walk everywhere but the store made you get transportation
- I would tell students what salary goes with what job BEFORE they choose their job
- The salaries seemed off, many of them were way too low for the job
- More varieties in the different places
- None
- More time
- Don't need to change
- Give us more money
- None
- None

- Be able to buy more
- Put some more options for all of the stations and more jobs
- Give us more time
- Maybe having this a little longer
- Better jobs
- Get more choices for booths and jobs
- Add text messaging to the cellular phone thing so when you buy it you have something many people use/need
- I think we need more time to fill out our transactions sheet
- I don't have any, I thought it was great
- None
- More career jobs
- Better pictures of food, clothes, houses, and cars
- Nothing
- None
- None it was good
- I don't really have any
- Add "box" to the housing table
- None
- Make it a longer time
- Not go to every booth
- Showing what tables are more important to go to than others
- N/A
- Give people a job that would be best suited for them
- Not sure
- Make it longer to miss more class
- More jobs and longer to do it
- Maybe newer stuff to get
- None
- None
- It should be longer, more time consuming, and much harder
- Don't force people to have kids
- None
- More realistic
- Visually enhancement
- Have more specific job choices
- It would be neat to see more car and housing options & extra curricular activities
- More time to do it
- Nothing
- Think about child schooling and taxes
- I think it was fine the way it was
- None it's really great
- Well to be more specific on the transaction sheet
- Let you get your husband get a 2nd job when they tell you you can't because your job takes up too much time

What did you learn?

- That you have to have a good job to afford everything
- Things cost a lot of money
- It's important to get good grades
- That I really need to bring my grades up
- It's not so easy living your dream, life is unexpected
- Being able to learn that life is hard (money wise)
- That life is gonna be real hard in a couple of years
- Grades mean everything
- That I need to get my grades up so I can get a good job

- That I need good grades to get the job that I want
- I learned that you need to keep your money budgeted well, or else your life will come apart
- Having kids is really expensive
- Take life and education serious and spend money wisely
- You have to know what you are doing to have a family
- Get my GPA up
- Get better grades
- You do need a good job to live a decent life
- The more kids you have the more money you spend on things
- That I need to work harder on grades
- Kids cost a lot of money
- That I really need to boost my grades up if I want to make it in the real world
- Be careful when you spend your money
- That you need good grades to be able to get the stuff that you want
- Maybe choose less expensive luxuries...
- Living is expensive
- To save
- Good grades really do matter!!
- I don't want to be an adult
- That life is serious and not a game
- How to budget your money
- That budgeting is important
- Grades are important
- Janitors don't make much money
- Longer you're in school the better chance you have of getting a good job
- Being a janitor sucks!!
- That its important to budget your money
- You need good grades so you can get a good job to support yourself or family
- That it is easy to go in debt if you're not careful
- Nothing
- Money can be used very quickly
- Acting isn't as glamorous as people think it is
- That I need to do my best and try hard when it comes to my future
- I learned that if I keep up my good grades I really could become a doctor and be able to buy the things I want and need
- That with a good salary, I could have a pretty good life
- I learned that it's harder than I thought to manage money—and that it's easy to over your budget
- That you really need to budget your money
- I learned it's important to spend money wisely
- Try best on grades and spend money wisely
- What things I need to buy
- What it's like to be an adult
- Life sucks
- I learned that there are a lot of stuff adults have to buy in order to survive
- To budget my money wisely
- That the future is going to be tough
- That life after school is just as tough
- To get good grades in high school to get into college and get a good job
- Grades matter and it's best to get a graduate degree so you can do anything you want to
- How good my grades have to be
- You have to be really careful while managing your money
- That I am a pretty good money manager
- That there are more expenses taken out than you think
- I learned that what I do now really affects my future
- You need to have good grades to get \$ and be able to afford what you want

- Life is harder than I thought
- That I need to get my grades up
- How to manage my income
- That I need to get good grades in high school
- I learned how to budget my money so I wouldn't run out
- That I need good grades to have a good life
- Money really helps
- That having good grades make a difference
- That if u make good money everything usually goes well
- My grades play a big role in determining what job I can get
- How to get good grades so you can have a good job
- What life as an adult is going to be like
- Life won't be easy once you're done with school
- Bankers are mean
- Kids are expensive
- Don't waste money
- I learned about how many decisions you need to make in life
- Nothing more than I did last year
- How my life may turn out
- The importance of financing
- I need to keep good grade
- Hard work does pay off
- Grades really do matter
- I learned it can be a challenge to balance a lifestyle
- It can be hard balancing a monthly salary out
- Grades are more important than people think
- I learned how the life of an adult is like
- To keep track of money
- That living with the things I have is a lot harder for my parents than I thought
- That grades and choices really do matter
- I'm doing good GPA-wise
- How much everything costs!
- I need to get a good paying job
- I learned about all the things an adult has to do
- How to spend money wisely
- That pets & clothes and other necessities are expensive
- Kids cost too much
- Use your money very wisely

VOLUNTEER WRITTEN SURVEY RESPONSES

Edgewood Junior High Volunteer Feedback

My favorite part of today was....

- Hearing the kids reactions.
- Knowing a lot of the kids.
- THE KIDS!! They are fun and seem eager to learn and participate.
- Interacting with the kids was the most fun.
- The young man with three kids and no wife.
- Student comments! They are funny.
- Student interaction.
- Interacting with kids.
- Those “ah-ha” moments.
- Interacting with the kids.
- Seeing the “oh really” on a kid’s face.
- The children.
- Seeing the kids.
- The conservative spenders.
- Interacting with the kids, helping them make smart choices.
- When students made choices because of cost and not impulse or simplicity.
- Watching kids learn.
- Working with the kids.
- Interacting with students.
- Interaction.
- Seeing the kids realize how fast the money is spent.
- Helping students learn values.
- Learning my job.

How can Reality Store be improved?

- Perhaps having first time volunteers go through it once.
- Give them a little more time.
- Was great today.
- Not so early in the morning!
- Offer to Seniors as a refresher for life.
- Working spouse income more realistic.
- Double salary for married – use same prices.
- First time!
- Give students options for jobs in their salary range. Their salaries were based off their grades but they didn’t choose an occupation.
- Make the students pay child support not receive or let them choose if they want custody (they receive \$) or they don’t receive custody and pay \$.

Additional comments or suggestions?

- Like the changes – make this closer to reality.
- If they have working spouses; full time or part time? This will impact housing and more.
- I liked the range of salaries and the prior worksheet the students used. I always enjoy the Reality Store! –Thanks!
- I think it is a great idea.
- I am not sure what info. precedes and follows the activity.
- Very good exercise for kids to learn about cost of living.
- Excellent job.

- Very nice exercise.

Tri-North Middle School Volunteer Feedback

My favorite part of today was....

- Working with students
- Helping students with the simulation and interacting with them. Having to ask 8th graders, are you married
- Interacting with the students – they're too funny
- The lawyer on food stamps
- Enjoying the reactions & enthusiasm of the students
- Love it
- Seeing how many kids love animals
- Talking with the kids
- Being surprised by students incomes
- Interacting with middle school students again after working in higher education
- The kids
- Interaction w/ kids, meeting new people
- Life's unexpected – the student reactions to these happening
- Interacting with the students
- Kids fun to work with
- Seeing the decisions the students make
- Having observe student give careful thought to how they budgeted their money
- Helping the students work out some problems with their scenarios
- Seeing the kids
- The kids
- Interacting with the children, providing guidance
- Kids
- Helping students
- Meeting other volunteers, watching the reality set in, terrific lunch!
- Seeing kids have to readjust how much they can afford to spend
- The students comments
- Meeting the students
- Interaction with students
- The kids! Enjoyed how they had to adjust when unexpected things happen and when they had to down size
- Seeing kids smile when they "get it"
- Interacting with students
- Seeing the kids make real life decisions

How can Reality Store be improved?

- Very few professional earning 4000+ had non-working spouses w/3 children while I had some very poor aids w/ little pay w/3 children now- working spouses are the condition assigned
- Nothing I can think of
- Doing good
- Knowing how much and what type of pre-reality store work students had done
- Needs a sign " must visit transportation insurance housing first"
- I'll think about it
- Not certain
- More up-to-date \$ info, like housing etc.
- Suggest the exercise be give n again to high school
- Maybe do a made reality for the volunteers so we can experience the similarities
- Use play money to actually transfer hands – instead of all on paper – Easier to spend on paper (i.e. credit card)
- Combine incomes for married couples, then deduct expenses (i.e. two cars, but only 1 house, etc)
- UNK

- Offer again senior year
- E-mail table info to participants after assignments are made – both name of table & info to be given to students
- Offer to seniors, so that they can use the info immediately
- Written guide lines for adults & students (30-35%) for housing. Remind students utilities, ins, need to follow
- N/A
- Would like to see some modeling for volunteers in the areas such as utilities or most basic areas of need.

Additional comments or suggestions?

- Many parents were single and could afford the 325.00 for the designer clothes. They didn't seem to have enough for obstacles – had \$ 2,000 in extra cash
- Love it
- High schools need this to
- Great job
- Without knowing how students are prepared for the reality store and what follow-up they experience, it is difficult to really judge whether it helps students understand the importance of education
- Fun
- I would love to know more about the program. Are students taught to save
- This would be great to have in the high schools – every year our students can benefit
- We need to this activity for adults (joke)
- This is an important life lesson. It should be broader & experienced yearly through high school
- Name tags for kids
- Would be good to have this program done again at 12th grade level
- Great job!

Jackson Creek Middle School Volunteer Feedback

My favorite part of today was....

- Working with students.
- Being around the kids.
- Visiting.
- Interacting with students and other volunteers.
- Watching the kids learn!
- Meeting all the kids.
- Seeing the kids realize how much living on your own costs.
- The kids are such characters!
- Being with kids.
- Student comments!
- Talking with the students.
- Working with the kids.
- Kids seeing what they need to do.
- Interacting with the kids and meeting new people.
- Working/interacting with the students.
- Kids.
- Interacting with younger students again.
- Working with the students to reevaluate budgets.
- Talking to teachers and students.
- The interaction with the kids.
- Networking.
- The whole experience – first time!
- Talking with the students.
- Students.
- Talking with the students.
- Talking to the kids.

How can Reality Store be improved?

- Limit number of students so there is enough time to handle transaction. I felt rushed with the first group.
- Well organized.
- More time, kids are too rushed.
- More inexpensive car options.
- Do it every year for all students!
- Breeder permit if no spay/neuter. \$100 in Monroe County.
- Students should be informed ahead of time that basics (housing, utilities) have to be considered before luxuries.
- I wish all schools had this much time for students to complete this.
- More realistic wages. Insurance rates seem low!
- Bank – better prepare us on how to deal with investments, need for third job.
- Give them a choice of three or four “see first” tables so it isn’t all bunched up.

Additional comments or suggestions?

- Housing was much better designed this year. Good work!!
- Fun!
- Keep it up!
- This group seemed to be into the project.
- Thanks for sharing the final report!
- Good job! Thanks for doing this with/for the kids.
- I started looking at the final report. Thank you for sharing it. It answered a lot of questions.
- Add motorcycle!
- Compact cars – add Honda Civic Hybrid. A wonderful compact car – excellent servicemen in Bloomington (not so sure about Ford!)

Batchelor Middle School Volunteer Feedback

My favorite part of today was....

- The kids.
- Working with the kids – seeing them have fun.
- Working with the kids.
- Interacting with the students.
- All.
- The students’ reaction to “reality”.
- See the students plan their strategy.
- Talking to students.
- Interacting with the students.
- Watching the reactions when they realize the costs.
- Speaking with the students.
- The whole thing!
- Student interaction.
- The contact with children and adults.
- Working with younger students again.
- Interacting with the students (and fellow volunteers).
- Hearing students’ responses.
- Watching the kids’ reactions.
- Interacting with the students.
- Meeting the students – they were great!
- Helping the students.
- Just the experience. I really enjoy the reality store.
- The kids.
- Interacting with the kids.
- The kids.
- Loved the life’s Unexpected booth.

- Kids!
- Helping the students.

How can Reality Store be improved?

- Some of the groups were really small. It would help to have at least a couple of classes together.
- I would get rid of the iguana – terrible pets.
- Went smoothly – no suggestions for improvement.
- More counselors to help children move through the process.
- Give students, especially the slower ones, more time.
- Explain the order of importance to students beforehand.
- It's well run. A little more direction at the start would be helpful.
- Seems well thought out – no ideas at this time.
- You do a really nice job and listen to suggestions. I can't think of any new ones.
- By keeping accuracy in prices/wages.
- Clearer directions in the utility area.
- Keep adding/updating real life scenarios.
- There needs to be a stiff penalty when something illegal is involved. In life's Unexpected you can get caught with a DUI. Instead of going to legal, the student only has to go to the insurance company and pay more. The kids don't see the severity of the issue.
- It would be great if the child care sheet could be turned sideways and put in spreadsheet format with calculations already done. It would make it easier to determine the monthly cost of childcare for low-income earners.
- In Life's Unexpected, nix the 401k transfer. The kids don't understand and we don't have adequate time to explain.
- Doing a good job – keep it up!
- So far, so good.

Additional comments or suggestions?

- Add a breeder permit as an alternative to s/n. Add small animal pet – rat, hamster, gerbil, etc. Add fish and chickens.
- College doesn't always lead to high incomes.
- Wonderful morning!
- This was my first time and I really enjoyed the experience.
- Reality on gas?
- Ever think of having a "baby" doll to care for during time in the store?
- I thought it ran smoothly today. Thank you for the food!
- This is a great program. I enjoy helping.
- Glad to see gas included.
- Great concept – and well organized.
- Cars: add to "compact" Honda Civic Hybrid. Pets: all dogs & cats should be spayed or neutered.
- How does Fox fit into TV options?
- Adapt utilities – maybe put gas, electric and water with Housing or put data plan with electronics.
- Well organized and set up.
- Stress the need for life insurance and pre-planning funeral arrangements.
- Next time I work at utilities I would like to work again with someone who has worked utilities.
- Nope!