



Contact:
Nick Couture
586-466-7800
ncouture@freestarfinancial.com

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Credit Union Completes Financial Education Tour

Clinton Township, Mich. –FreeStar Financial Credit Union education team had a busy school year conducting 9 real-world budgeting simulations called #Adulting which taught financial education in a fun, interactive setting.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the FreeStar Financial team was able to present this simulation to over 400 students teaching the importance of saving, credit score, budgeting, and avoiding credit card debt. The goal of the program is for students to understand that budgeting is a necessary step in good money management and having a plan is a necessity.

“The 60-minute simulation allows students to make purchasing decisions in a real-life situation within a free app provided by the Michigan Credit Union League called Bite of Reality 2,” said Laurie Cafagna, marketing specialist and #Adulting coordinator. “Students realize quickly how expensive life is and how important establishing a budget can be.”

During the exercise, students pick from 40 different occupations, were given an established credit score and obligations such as a student loan and credit card debt. The students navigate through 8 stations to purchase needs and wants such as transportation, housing, food, clothing, technology and more. It did not take long for the students to quickly realized their monthly income didn't go as far as they hoped.

Students were also visited by the “Fickle Finger of Fate” which surprises students with good or bad news. Student could receive good news such as receiving a birthday card with a gift of money, or bad news, they got a speeding ticket, which affects their budget by subtracting or adding funds depending on the news that they receive.

“It was a huge wakeup call being able to see what I am going to have to pay for eventually and this helped me learn the importance of having good credit and preparing a budget. I like how the #Adulting simulation was a hands-on experience and it was fun to navigate through the app. It was very realistic,” stated L’Anse Creuse High School twelve grade student.

Contact the marketing department at: marketing@freestarfinancial.com if you are interested in having our #Adulting Team present this wonderful program to your group, organization or school.

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