

BALANCE

PAYMENT DEPOSIT
OR INTEREST

CODE

PAYMENT WITHDRAWAL
OR FEE AMOUNT

DESCRIPTION OF TRANSACTION

DATE



H&R BLOCK
DOLLAR\$ & SENSE

Financial Literacy
Lesson Plan
Contest Winner

**CALIFORNIA
GRIZZLY
BANK**

Student
Checkbooks

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LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- Students will use basic math skills in maintaining their individual checkbooks by adding income earned and subtracting purchases and 'daily living' expenses.
- Students will predict needed income in order to participate in class auctions and other expenditures like buying pencils, pens, extra homework passes, snack passes, etc.
- Students will learn to separate their money into savings and regular spending blocks.

RELATED STANDARDS

- Supports the Common Core fourth grade math standards in multiple skills areas.

MATERIALS:

- Portfolio tabbed/pocket file for each student.
- Set of checkbook balance sheets per student.
- Instruction page
- Contract page
- Parent instruction page
- Financial vocabulary list

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS.

1. During the first week of school, students are given their checkbooks that consists of individual portfolio files including balance sheets, parent information and contract sheet.
2. In whole class discussion, students are asked to share ways people can earn and spend money and why it is important to keep track of personal finances. These responses are placed on a chart.
3. Specific vocabulary terms are discussed: expenditures, income, balance, payment, fines, earnings, savings, etc. Definitions are placed on vocab mini posters and displayed on the "bank" wall.
4. A "menu" is shared with the class regarding ways students can 'earn' money in class (i.e. Attendance, 100% on tests, completed/on time assignments, organized areas, 'good deeds', etc.) as well as ways to spend it (I.E. buying extra pencils, pens, etc.; fines for missing work, poor behavior choices, etc.)
5. Using the Elmo, the teacher will demonstrate how income is added and payments are subtracted while showing current balance as each step is entered into the checkbook.
6. Students then begin to add income and subtract payments as needed. For the first week or so, all transactions are guided. Then, "expert" bankers assist students until everyone can comfortably manage their own finances.
7. Once a month, an auction is held for special items encouraging students to "save" for special items or privileges wanted.
8. Once a month, students reflect in their journals how they feel about their financial experiences and relate it to real life situations that may occur for them.

WRAP UP & REFLECTION:

*See Step-by-Step Instructions

Monthly reflections and share out on how the process is going as well as how the classroom experience transfers to real-life situations.

For more information on H&R Block Dollars & Sense and its resources for increasing financial literacy among teens, visit hrblockdollarsandsense.com