



JA BizTown™ Volunteer Information

Introduction to JA BizTown Letter

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This year, our class will participate in an exciting Junior Achievement program called *JA BizTown*. *JA BizTown* encompasses important elements of community and economy, work readiness, financial literacy, and business management. As part of the program, we will spend the day at the *JA BizTown* site on _____ (date). This on-site visit will provide students with an opportunity to apply what they have learned in class, to in a realistic setting. Each student will assume a job, produce and/or sell products, receive a paycheck, work on a business team, repay business loans, shop, and manage a personal checking account. Throughout the program, students are encouraged to use critical thinking skills to learn about key economic concepts as they explore and enhance their understanding of free enterprise.

Every week or so, you will receive a ***JA BizConnect*** newsletter. The point of these communications is to keep you informed and encourage you to talk with your child about his or her classroom learning. The goal of experiential education programs such as *JA BizTown* is to help students see how classroom learning connects to real-world actions and events. Students acquire knowledge through hands-on classroom activities and discussions and then seek relevance between their new learning and their future lives. Consider trying a few of the *BizTalk* prompts offered in each newsletter. If you relate what the student is learning in class to what you actually do in your day-to-day life, learning will be more lasting and meaningful.

Because of their unique learning format, students remember Junior Achievement's capstone simulation experiences for many years following their visits. We hope your child enjoys the *JA BizTown* experience and that you can live a little of it, vicariously, through them!

To make the simulation visit successful, we need _____ volunteers to accompany us to *JA BizTown*. Volunteers who attend the simulation must participate in a 40-minute on-line training to prepare to work with the students. In addition, volunteers arrive at *JA BizTown* 45 minutes before students, on simulation day, for training on daily operation tasks.

The cost of the curriculum and on-site visit is \$150/student. The local JA Area Office works with area businesses to cover most of the cost, but there is a school fee of \$ _____ per student. We hope to cover the school fees by _____ (date) and ask for your support.

We look forward to participating in this exciting educational opportunity with you; we hope that you will be interested in volunteering to accompany our students and serve as a mentor for the day.

Sincerely,

(Teacher's Signature)