# Teacher Academy Personal Finance Curriculum

# **Unit 1: Decision Making and Money**

## **Theme A: Basic Concepts**

- Producers and Consumers
- Wants and Needs
- Goods and Services
- Trade-offs
- Decision Making and Opportunity Costs
- The Circular Flow of Money

## **Theme B: Money**

- Coins and Currency
- Fiat Money
- Characteristics and Functions of Money

## **Theme C: Comparative Economic Systems**

- Market Economy
- Command Economy
- Traditional Economy
- Mixed Economy

# **Unit 2: Working and Earning**

#### Theme A: The Value of Education

- Investment in Human Capital
- Is College for Me?
- Options vs. Desired Outcomes

#### **Theme B: Career Choices**

- Supply and Demand for Labor
- Employment and Unemployment
- Getting That First Job
- First Impressions: The Job Interview
- Skills vs. Interests

#### **Theme C: Taxes**

- Why Pay Taxes?
- Who Pays Taxes?
- Where Tax Dollars Go
- What are W2s, W4s, 1040s, etc.?

# **Unit 3: Getting Your Money's Worth**

## Theme A: Budgets and Budgeting

- Budget: A Financial Plan
- Fixed vs. Variable Expenses

## Theme B: Saving

- Goal Setting
- Delayed Gratification
- Why Save?
- Compound Interest

## **Theme C: Spending**

- Staying Within a Budget
- Cash Flow
- Income vs. Expenses
- Comparison Shopping
- Values, Wants and Needs
- Gross vs. Net Income
- S-M-A-R-T- Goals
- Creating a Spending Plan

#### Theme D: Banking Basics

- Savings Accounts
- Checking Accounts
- Types of Financial Institutions
- Banking Services and Instruments

## Theme E: Philanthropy

- The Spirit of Giving: Time, Treasures and Efforts
- The Value of Philanthropy
- Giving Back or Paying Forward

#### Unit 4: Credit

## **Theme A: Understanding Credit**

- Why use Credit?
- Establishing and Maintaining Credit
- Laws and Regulation of Credit
- Building a Credit History
- Credit Reports and Your FICO Score
- Different Types of Credit
- How Much Credit?

#### **Theme B: Credit Cards**

- The Right Credit Card for You
- Understanding Finance Charges
- Your Credit Rights
- Interpreting Credit Card Statements
- Dealing with Errors
- How Much (Credit Card Debt) is Enough?

### Theme C: Buying on Credit

- What is APR?
- Revolving Credit
- Buying Your First Car
- Home Mortgages: Different Kinds of Financing

## **Unit 5: Wealth Creation and Management**

## Theme A: Savings vs. Investments

- Income Sources
- Different Goals for Different Instruments
- How Saving and Investing Complement Social Security
- Saving Within a Budget and Within an Income Level
- Setting Goals: Wants vs. Needs vs. Reality
- Saving for Retirement

## Theme B: Time Horizons and Risk Tolerance

- The Power of Compound Interest: The Rule of 72
- Risk vs. Return Trade-offs
- How Risk Tolerance Evolves Over Time

## **Theme C: Investment Options and Market Influences**

- Different Types of Investments: Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds, etc.
- The Investment Pyramid
- Components of Investment Risk
- Market Efficiency: What Moves the Market?

## Theme D. Portfolio Construction and Management

- Diversification
- Asset Allocation
- Building your Investment Portfolio

## Unit 6: Protecting Yourself: Risk Management

## Theme A: Insurance

- Life Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Home-owner's Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Liability Insurance
- Selecting an Insurance Provider

## **Theme B: Identity Theft**

- Identity Safeguards
- Stealing Process
- Resolving the Theft
- Determining Your Risk

#### Theme C: Fraud

- Deception
- Fraud and Fraud Perpetrators
- Internet Fraud
- Resolving Fraud

#### Theme D: Consumer Rights and Responsibilities

- Consumer's Bill of Rights
- Governmental Consumer Protection
- Legal Documents such as Wills