

Personal Finance helps students recognize and develop vital skills that connect life and career goals with personalized strategies and milestone-based action plans. Students explore concepts and work toward a mastery of personal finance skills, deepening their understanding of key ideas and extending their knowledge through a variety of problem-solving applications.

Course topics include career planning; income, taxation, and budgeting; savings accounts, checking accounts, and electronic banking; interest, investments, and stocks; cash, debit, credit, and credit scores; insurance; and consumer advice on how to buy, rent, or lease a car or house.

These topics are solidly supported by writing and discussion activities. Journal activities provide opportunities for students to both apply concepts on a personal scale and analyze scenarios from a third-party perspective. Discussions help students network with one another by sharing personal strategies and goals and recognizing the diversity of life and career plans within a group.

This course is built to state standards as they apply to Personal Finance and adheres to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics' (NCTM) Problem Solving, Communication, Reasoning, and Mathematical Connections Process standards.

Length: One semester

UNIT 1: GOALS AND CAREER PLANNING

- Lesson 1: The Need for Financial Literacy
- Lesson 2: Identifying Goals
- Lesson 3: Income and Career
- Lesson 4: Establishing Career Goals
- Lesson 5: Achieving Career Goals
- Lesson 6: Goals and Career Planning Wrap-Up

UNIT 2: INCOME AND BUDGETING

- Lesson 1: Types of Income
- Lesson 2: Compensation Packages
- Lesson 3: Required and Optional Deductions
- Lesson 4: Taxation
- Lesson 5: Budgeting and Cost of Living
- Lesson 6: Inflation, Deflation, and Recession
- Lesson 7: Income and Budgeting Wrap-Up

UNIT 3: BANKING

- Lesson 1: Types of Banks
- Lesson 2: The Federal Reserve
- Lesson 3: Checking Accounts
- Lesson 4: Balancing Your Checkbook
- Lesson 5: Comparing Checking Accounts
- Lesson 6: Electronic Banking
- Lesson 7: Banking Wrap-Up

UNIT 4: SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT

- Lesson 1: Interest
- Lesson 2: The Rule of 72

- Lesson 3: Savings Accounts
- Lesson 4: Comparing Savings Accounts
- Lesson 5: Investment
- Lesson 6: Stocks and Brokers
- Lesson 7: The Stock Market
- Lesson 8: Savings and Investment Wrap-Up

UNIT 5: CREDIT

- Lesson 1: Credit, Debit, and Cash
- Lesson 2: Calculating Credit Card Interest
- Lesson 3: Tracking Payments and Purchases
- Lesson 4: Comparing Credit Cards
- Lesson 5: Credit Scores
- Lesson 6: Bankruptcy
- Lesson 7: Other Types of Credit
- Lesson 8: Credit Wrap-Up

UNIT 6: CONSUMER PURCHASING AND PROTECTION

- Lesson 1: How to Buy a Car
- Lesson 2: How to Buy a House
- Lesson 3: Buying, Renting, or Leasing
- Lesson 4: Consumer Purchases and Agreements
- Lesson 5: Marketing
- Lesson 6: Insurance
- Lesson 7: Retirement Planning
- Lesson 8: Consumer Purchasing and Protection Wrap-Up

UNIT 7: WRAP UP

- Lesson 1: Review and Exam