

## FINANCES ARE FOCUS OF TWO NEW LPA COURSES

By Amanda Hart

Lighthouse Preparatory is challenging students with two new finance-related classes this semester. Consumer Math, which is taught by instructor Charlie Snider, is a course on personal finances. Enterprising Entrepreneurs, taught by our co-administrator Christa Rapp and designed for junior high, delves into business finances. Students in both classes are doing some pretty exciting things this semester.

For their study of marketing and small businesses, students in Enterprising Entrepreneurs currently are selling valentine's cards and gifts. Order forms recently went out to everybody at school, advertising valentine's cards for 25 cents each. From there the cost varies, depending on if you would like to send candy or a flower, or both. The order form also includes a place for you to write the message you would like to send to your valentine. All this is aimed at teaching our junior high students about small business skills. With the money the "entrepreneurs" raise, they intend buy something for the school that all the students can benefit from.

Instructor Rapp commented that, "This project gives students a simple foundation of the economic side of business and the skills they will need, starting very soon. It's meant to give them a handle on how to make wise choices when handling their own money."

Wyatt Archer, a seventh-grade "entrepreneur," said, "we have fun activities to do, and we're learning a lot." Another seventh-grader, Nathan Hays, added, "It teaches (me) about production and how to handle my money."

Likewise, the Consumer Math course is designed to help students learn how to handle money and develop financial skills they need for the future. It also fulfills the state's department of education requirement that all high school students must complete a personal finance course by the time they graduate. "It gives them the tools they need for practical applications in life, like how to earn wages, set a budget, and spend money for a house and car," instructor Snider said.

He pointed out that because this course is designed to be a full-year credit, he is busy with the task of covering all the material in LPA's accelerated pace of a semester-long class. Those students currently enrolled certainly are finding it challenging, and worthwhile. Freshman Giselle Weghorst said, "It's helpful for when you become an adult," and her classmate Alyssa Wilhite added, "I'll be able to manage money better when I get a job."

Overall, these new courses are beneficial to Lighthouse students. They help to accomplish the school's mission of partnering with parents to bring about academic excellence.

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