

Junior Achievement of Greater Cleveland Fact Sheet

Our Core Purpose

Junior Achievement inspires and prepares young people to succeed in a global economy.

Overview

Junior Achievement is dedicated to educating young people about entrepreneurship, financial literacy and work readiness. JA programs are taught by volunteers in class and after school in over 200 schools and organizations throughout Cuyahoga, Lake and Geauga counties. JA's classroom volunteers come from all walks of life and include business people, college students, parents and retirees. These dedicated individuals are the backbone of the organization.

Junior Achievement builds partnerships between the business and education communities to provide the curriculum and volunteers who serve as role models to the students to help prepare them for their future. Almost 42,000 students actively participated in Junior Achievement programs during the 2007-2008 school year.

JA provides 19 separate, sequential programs to students in kindergarten through 12th grades. Our programs focus on seven key content areas: business, citizenship, economics, entrepreneurship, ethics and character, financial literacy and career development.

In the elementary grades, students learn about needs vs. wants, different types of jobs and money & banking. Middle grades students study budgeting, job interviewing and decision-making. In high school, students try their hand at entrepreneurship, writing business plans and financial management. The Junior Achievement programs supplement standard social studies curricula and develop skills that are essential to success in the workplace and in life.

Junior Achievement programs are funded through contributions from businesses, individuals, foundations and special event fund-raisers. We are not a United Way agency.

Facts

- JA of Greater Cleveland will provide programs to more than 42,000 students in over 200 schools in Cuyahoga, Lake & Geauga counties during the 2008-2009 school year.
- The 2008-2009 budget is approximately \$1,080,000.
- More than 5,000 local businesses, foundations, organizations and individuals provide funding through annual campaigns, special projects and fundraising events.
- More than 3,000 local business people, community members and schoolteachers are involved annually in 1,720 classrooms.
- 45% of the classes provided in our area were in 68 Cleveland Metropolitan Schools during the 2007-2008 school year.
- The Greater Cleveland office has been in operation since 1941.

Benefits

- JA students demonstrate a significant understanding of economics and business knowledge and an enhanced desire to stay in school and pursue a career in business—particularly those exposed to programs at consecutive grade levels.
- Teachers credit volunteers as a major factor for the positive impact of JA, saying that volunteers bring an outside business perspective into the classroom and serve as positive role models for students.
- Schools have an opportunity to form meaningful partnerships with area businesses.
- Volunteers share personal experiences, success stories and information about their career while enjoying a meaningful and fun experience!
- Sponsoring companies and organizations have an opportunity to invest in the future workforce of Cleveland.

Feedback from Participants

Volunteers

- Junior Achievement helps build students' self-esteem and your own. I love making a difference.
- The materials were excellent and very easy to understand and use.
- Junior Achievement makes students aware of the importance of saving money and a good education.
- Junior Achievement introduces children to the economic world in a way they can understand. It is an interesting and fun program.
- JA helps me stay informed and in touch with a younger generation. I don't want to be a person who refers to my generation as the 'good old days'.
- Knowing that you're having a positive influence on the children you're teaching is a great feeling.

Students

- I learned how a community works and where money comes from.
- Most of what we learned in Junior Achievement had to do with business and budgeting, but it showed me that if I put my mind to it, I can be what I've always wanted to be.
- I am now ready for the real world after learning so much about money, getting a job and making a budget.
- The thing that was most useful was how to balance a checkbook because I plan to use a checkbook when I get older.
- I liked JA because it was fun.

Teachers

- I have had the opportunity of working with consultants from manufacturing, banking and entrepreneurs and they each had a different way of linking the "real business world" with the schools.
- JA is a great program and I always look forward to participating in it. Thanks for letting me be a part of your program for 21 years!
- The information and concepts taught by Junior Achievement are necessary for students' everyday lives. JA helps them better understand our world.
- JA teaches students to respond to questions that require thinking beyond the printed word. My volunteer provides a different perspective on learning for my students.
- My volunteer invited his co-worker, a Human Resources person, to role play mock interviews. She was professional with my students and gave them 'real world' experiences and knowledge.
- I love having Junior Achievement in my classroom.