

THINKING AHEAD

Students views on the value of money change after they start working; finance class teaches students money management

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Sports Editor

Bagging groceries at Jewels three to four times a week, Mario Hernandez, senior, now knows how it feels to have a job and make his own money.

"I mainly got one (a job) for the money," Mario said. "So I can buy stuff and gas for my car."

Although he may enjoy the freedom of driving a car and making his own money, Mario knows that they both connect in one important way.

"I try to save my money, but most of it goes straight to the gas tank," Mario said.

While growing up, Mario considered money easy to obtain, but now realizes the difficulty of getting it.

"I thought money was the best," Mario said. "But when you are a kid, you don't know much about money."

Now with working experience under his belt, Mario views money differently.

"Having a job tells me how to be more responsible and not buy the little things," Mario said.

When Bryan Dublak, junior, started working at Veirok's Liquor store in Lansing as a stock boy this past summer, his view on money also changed.

Although he can now make purchases more freely, Bryan does have to manage his work schedule with his school work.

"I am dead when I come home, so, I do my homework in the morning before school or in my study hall during first hour," Bryan said. "It can be a pain to manage around my job, but the money is worth it overall."

This year marks the first year that the high school introduced the sophomore required, Personal Financing class. The class teaches students situations that they will deal with later on in life, according to Mr. David Dausch, Economics teacher.

"I teach basically the ideas that they will deal with in everyday life," Mr. Dausch

said. "This includes taxes, credit cards, checking accounts, and even mortgages later on."

Having a job during high school can give teens early job experience, according to Mr. Dausch.

"I definitely think getting work experience at a young age is important with the economy today," Mr. Dausch said. "I understand that it is difficult to teach them (sophomores) to save before they spend which is the hardest thing to do."

Mark Montella, sophomore, currently takes the class and finds it both enjoyable and tough at times.

"It is a very good class to teach you about money, but it can be lengthy and boring at times," Mark said.

Mark likes the idea of sophomores taking a financial class this early on in their high school careers.

"It is important so we can get ready for college and the future," Mark said. "It would be nice to take it a little later, but either way it is going to help a lot."

Mr. Dausch believes kids learn financial responsibilities that they will need in their future and that will lead to them to enjoy adulthood more.

"I was told growing up, don't work to live," Mr. Dausch said. "Enjoy your money when you get a job after college. They will enjoy their career and adult life, if they are financially responsible."

Pay Check

Crier survey shows what students spend most of their money on; from food, clothes, entertainment

Food: 33.7% Clothes: 23.35% Electronics: 8.38% Entertainment: 12.77% Shoes: 2.40% Other: 10.98%



photo by Cesar Camacho

HELPING HAND Doing one of his many jobs for Jewel Osco, Mario Hernandez, senior, collects as many carts as he can hold in the grocery store parking lot and pushes them inside the store. "My favorite part of the job is helping customers out and making their lives much easier," Mario said. "I feel like I do a good deed by helping all customers. My reward is a smile that says, 'Mario, you did a good job!'"

source: student survey of 501 students