



Expanding Real-World Learning *Relevance and Rigor in New Course Offerings* *At Haverford High School*

Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, Personal Finance moved from an elective course to one that is required for all graduating seniors.



PERSONAL FINANCE

"This course is designed to help students make financial decisions intelligently."

After gathering feedback from students and parents, the District's teachers and administrators believed there was a growing interest in ensuring that students leave high school with a financial knowledge base to help them be as prepared as possible for the future. Teachers worked with students and administrators to define the curriculum with the goal of it being relatable and relevant to students' lives, now and moving forward.

Topics include:

- **Personal banking**
- **Managing debt including credit cards**
- **Creating a budget**
- **Saving and investing**
- **Researching housing options, rent, and mortgages**
- **Goal-setting – "needs" vs. "wants"**
- **Applying and searching for car loans**
- **Understanding student loans**
- **Understanding insurance**
- **Developing resumes and LinkedIn profiles**

The Debt Calculator

Students can click on a purchase below to see compounding interest in action.



What's the real cost of credit?

"The course is designed for all students, no matter their path after high school," said **Patrick Bader, Cooperative Education Teacher and Acting Department Chair for the Business Education Department**. "It is designed to allow them to make financial decisions intelligently and understand how to find more information when making these decisions. The interest level of students in these financial topics is very high, and often we have real-life conversations about decisions they're trying to make right now. Assignments for this class are designed to be as interactive and relevant as possible to keep students engaged and taking ownership of their personal finance education."

Student-Favorite Projects

- **The Stock Market Game** An interactive game in which students invest in real-time and compete against their classmates. They research their investments and use that information to make wise buying decisions.
- **Life Timeline/Budget** Students make a timeline that takes them through significant financial decisions including student loans, car loans, buying a home, careers, daily budgets and retirement.



COURSE ELECTIVES

Haverford High School is continually updating its course offerings, with some new, exciting electives now part of the catalog from which students can choose.

These classes were approved last year and offered as electives for the first time in the 2022-23 school year.

A number of other courses have been added as electives, including:

- **Introduction to Data Science**
- **Introduction to Sports Management**
- **Interior Design**
- **AP Computer Science Principles**
- **Advanced Personal Fitness**
- **Fitness and Sport**
- **Italian Culture via Cinema**
- **Spanish Culture**
- **Ukulele Lab**
- **Co-Op Education (on-the-job work experience)**



DATA SCIENCE

"We talk a lot about what we see and hear in the media, or social media, and about how things like sample size can impact data. I want students to be good consumers of data and information."

Our world is filled with the analysis and interpretation of data, and this course introduces students to the ways in which data can be used and represented. Data can be used to tell a story, to make a point, to sell something, to ask and answer questions, and to enhance our lives. From measuring and modeling to exploring probability, correlation, and simulations, students in this class will get a taste of the way data influences their world.

Student-Favorite Projects

- **Song Simulation Project** Students created a class play list, then wrote a computer program simulating which musical genres would be included on the list, then examined the probability of those songs playing. They answered questions such as, "Is every genre represented on the play list? How does the play list simulation work?"
- **City Ranking Project** Students use Google Sheets to create a mathematical ranking on the top 5 cities in which to live in the U.S., based on the qualities that each student group feels are important to them.



"Data Science is a project-based class with real-world math," said **Haverford High School Math Department Chair Shelley Daniszewski**. "This class isn't just about performing calculations, but about understanding how numbers can be used and are used in our world."

Each unit begins with a graphic/visual representation of data and students are asked what they notice and wonder about this visual, and how can data be interpreted or misinterpreted. In this class, students are introduced to the data science process that includes these steps:

- asking questions
- gathering and organizing data
- modeling
- analyzing and synthesizing
- communicating

This is the process that they use as they explore data and make decisions about what data means and how to use it."





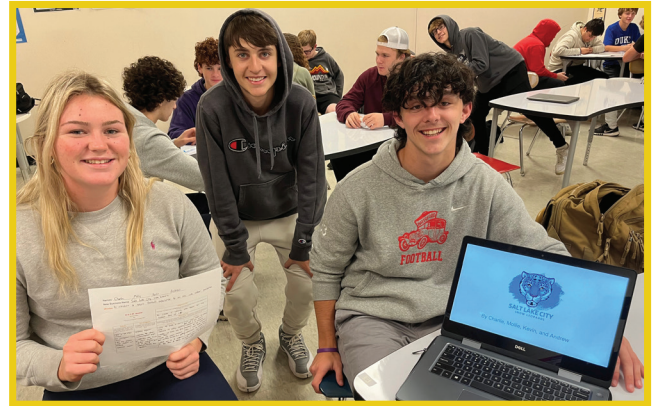
INTRODUCTION TO SPORTS MANAGEMENT

Sports is a lucrative and thriving industry in the United States, and this course introduces students to the management process, procedures, and operations in both the sports and entertainment industries.

Students engage in case studies and problem-solving activities typically completed by sports managers. Students learn the importance of management skills including effective communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and goal-setting.

Student-Favorite Course Highlights:

- **Guest speakers in the sports and entertainment management industry** (such as an event manager for the Miami Heat)
- **Virtual Business Management Simulator**
Students are prompted to make business decisions about promotions, ticket pricing, staffing, stadium operations, concessions, and more.
- **Business Plan Project** Students work in groups to develop and present a sports business plan.



"My favorite topics in the course are the management basics, goal setting and business planning," said **Business Education Teacher Kyle Keblish**. "Students who have taken the course have given it unanimously positive reviews. This is a fun and relevant course that introduces them to concepts that will help them be successful, no matter what field they choose to pursue."



INTERIOR DESIGN OVERVIEW

"Students learn how to evaluate floor plans and furniture arrangement. They're challenged to use both art and science in creating function and beautiful spaces."

This hands-on, project based course explores the field of interior design, color theory, principles and elements of design, and space planning. Students have a chance to explore current housing and design trends, as well as various design career possibilities. The course encourages students to hone their problem-solving skills, and to foster creativity as they explore space planning, architectural drafting, colors, fabrics, furniture, and lighting.

Student-Favorite Course Highlights:

- Students evaluated homes on Zillow and created elevation drawings.
- The final course project combined all the design skills they'd learned throughout the course to design a "tiny home" that would be less than 600 square feet.



"This class uses authentic Ethan Allen samples and a local Ethan Allen Design Center Leader comes to speak to the class," said **Family and Consumer Science Teacher April Wolfe**. "Students learn about the elements and principles of design and apply these to sample boards, yarn wall art, and paper homes."

They also learn how to create and evaluate floor plans and furniture arrangement. Students are challenged to use both art and science in creating functional, beautiful, and safe spaces in a collaborative setting."

