

BizTown Program Overview

While visiting JA Biztown, each student will become a Town Citizen and assume a job in one of the Town Businesses. Students will experience economics first-hand by producing and/or selling products, receiving a paycheck, working as a member of a business team, repaying business loan, shopping, and managing a personal bank account.

Through Junior Achievement's JA BizTown[®], area 5th & 6th grade students are able to become business operators, taxpayers, and lawmakers in a hands-on learning laboratory. Students populate a simulated city, serving as entrepreneurs seeking venture capital, paying taxes, and meeting payroll... as employees in the local sports shop, setting prices for new merchandise... as designers creating signs for JA BizTown[®] businesses... as reporters hustling to meet story deadlines for the local newspaper.

JA BizTown[®] buzzes with the excitement and challenges that adults face each day in the real world. Here, 5th & 6th graders are putting their classroom instruction to work as they practice decision-making and learn about leadership and teamwork.

Our innovative curriculum is correlated to Pennsylvania curriculum standards for math, language arts, social studies, civics, and technology.

The JA BizTown[®] learning experience combines a six week classroom curriculum with an action-packed day of hands-on learning in the colorful simulated city.

Studies in these learning laboratories throughout the nation show that JA BizTown[®] students consistently increase their understanding of economic principles, government, and employment concepts. Teachers report JA BizTown[®] increases student retention of these principles. Teachers also feel that JA BizTown[®] inspires them to create more hands-on learning opportunities in their classrooms. Employers and business leaders have commended JA BizTown[®] for helping to prepare students for the workforce and a rapidly changing world.

To prepare for their roles in JA BizTown[®], students complete a comprehensive curriculum that focuses on basic economic principles and entrepreneurship. Teachers, parents, and adult volunteers attend on-site training workshops to make the experiential learning program a success.

Biztown Itinerary

8:50 Depart Bear Creek

9:30 Arrive at JA Biztown in York PA on 610 South George St.

9:30-10:00 All Town meeting/groups work in their shops

10:00:1:00 Groups work in their shops and take shopping/lunch breaks

1:00-2:15 Shop/Town wrap-up meetings

2:15—2:30 Leave JA Biztown in York, PA

3:15 Arrive at Bear Creek

- Town Meetings/Groups working – The town will have a meeting giving them guidelines and expectations for the day. Each shop will be able to showcase the product that they will be selling.
- Work/Break time- students will rotate between working in their shops and taking their lunch and shopping breaks. When shopping, they will be spending their earned money in other businesses.
- Wrap-Up- Students discuss lesson learned and hear closing remarks from each shop and citizenship awards are presented.