

Course Title:	Financial Literacy (A)
Grade(s):	11 & 12

Course Description
The course is designed to prepare students for many real-life applications of mathematics. Topics include earnings, taxes, checking and savings accounts, transportation expenses, housing expenses, personal expenses, credit, credit cards, loans, life insurance, health insurance, retirement and estate planning, and writing a budget. Students will learn the mathematics behind these topics and will be given opportunities to research information that is applicable to their plans and create a budget. Course Units: 1. Basic Skills Review 2. Employment and Earning Basics 3. Income Taxes 4. Banking & The Value of Money 5. Transportation & The Cost of Owning a Car 6. Housing & The Cost of Owning a House 7. Other Expenses - Lifestyle and Leisure 8. Consumer Credit & Debt Management 9. Retirement & End of Life Expenses 10. Creating a Budget
Approved Curricular Materials/Textbook(s)

Unit Title	Unit Description (Include Unit Objectives)	Unit Pacing
Unit 1: Basic Skills Review	• Ratios and Proportions • Working with Percentages	2 weeks - 3 weeks (August - September)
Unit 2: EMPLOYMENT & EARNING BASICS	This unit transitions students from the classroom to the workforce by demystifying the financial realities of modern employment. Students will move beyond the basic concept of a "paycheck" to master the technical and practical aspects of income. We will break down various compensation models—including hourly wages, salary, commission, and royalties—and investigate the "hidden" math that separates Gross Pay from Net Pay. By analyzing real-world pay stubs, students will learn to navigate the complexities of mandatory tax withholdings (Federal, State, Social Security, and Medicare) and voluntary benefit deductions, such as retirement plans, union dues, and health insurance. The goal of this unit is to empower students to evaluate job offers critically, understand their total compensation packages, and confidently manage their own financial documentation as they enter the workforce. Unit Topics Include: • Getting a Job (Part-time, full, seasonal) • Pay Periods, Hourly Rates, Overtime • Commission, Royalties and Piece-work Pay • Employee Benefits • Social Security and Medicare • Understanding Pay Stubs ○ Tax Deductions (Federal Tax, State Tax, Social Security Tax, Medicare Tax) ○ Union dues / Association Fees ○ Health Insurance Deductions ○ Retirement Deductions ○ Gross Pay / Net Pay ○ Taxable Income	3 weeks (September - October)

Unit 3: INCOME TAXES	This unit demystifies the bureaucratic "paperwork of adulthood." Students will learn to distinguish between the forms required when starting a new job—such as the I-9, W-4, and W-9—and the forms required during tax season, like the W-2 and Form 1040. By examining real-world tax tables, schedules, and worksheets, students will move beyond passive tax withholding to active tax literacy. We will cover the complete lifecycle of tax reporting: from the initial onboarding process to the final calculation of taxable income. The goal is to replace the fear of "tax season" with a clear, systematic understanding of how to read income statements, prepare tax filings, and fulfill legal tax obligations. Unit Topics Include: ● Understanding the Purpose of Key Employment Forms ○ Employment Eligibility: The I-9 Form ○ Withholding & Status: The W-4 (Federal) and state-specific tax withholding forms ○ Contractor Status: The W-9 Form ● The Tax Season Cycle and Turning Documentation into a Tax Return ○ Income Statements: Understanding the W-2 wage and tax statement ○ The 1040 Framework: Reporting taxable income using Form 1040 and accompanying schedules ○ The Math of Taxes: Applying tax tables and worksheets to determine tax liability or refunds This framework is designed to help students feel capable when they sit down to do their taxes for the first time, rather than overwhelmed.	3 weeks (October - November)
Unit 4: BANKING & TIME VALUE OF MONEY	This unit is designed to shift student focus from merely "spending and saving" to the strategic utilization of banking systems and the powerful mathematical concept of the Time Value of Money (TVM). Students will learn that money is not static; it is a dynamic asset that, when managed correctly, can grow exponentially over time.	4 weeks (November - December)

	This module bridges the gap between basic financial management and wealth-building fundamentals. Students will first master the day-to-day mechanics of personal finance, including the nuances of checking versus savings accounts and the critical skill of reconciling bank statements. We will then pivot to the "math of wealth," exploring how interest rates transform modest deposits into significant long-term assets. Students will understand the following major concepts: • Banking Foundations: Understanding liquidity, the purpose of different account types, and how to read and interpret monthly bank statements to avoid overdrafts and fees. • The Power of Compound Interest: Moving beyond simple interest, we will demonstrate how earning interest on interest accelerates growth. ◦ Periodic Compounding: $A = P(1 + \frac{r}{n})^{nt}$ ◦ Continuous Compounding: $A = Pe^{rt}$ • Future Value (FV): Understanding the "Time Value of Money"—why a dollar today is worth more than a dollar tomorrow—and calculating the projected growth of investments over long time horizons. This unit is intended to provide students with both the practical habits required for daily financial health and the theoretical knowledge needed to make informed investment decisions in adulthood. Unit Topics Include: • Checking Accounts / Savings Accounts • Understanding Bank Statements • Compound Interest • Continuous Compounding • Future Value of Investments • Present Value of Investments	
Unit 5:	This unit helps students navigate the single largest purchase most will make in	5 weeks

TRANSPORTATION & THE COST OF OWNING A CAR	their young adulthood: the automobile. We move beyond the excitement of getting a license and dive into the "Total Cost of Ownership" (TCO) model. Students will learn to view cars not just as symbols of freedom, but as depreciating assets that require rigorous financial planning, statistical analysis, and risk management. This module forces students to confront the reality that the "sticker price" is merely the starting point of transportation costs. By balancing the necessity of personal transport against the benefits of public transit, students will develop a framework for making evidence-based purchasing decisions. We will investigate the complex math behind automotive finance, from calculating fuel efficiency and depreciation to decoding insurance liability and loan interest rates. Students will gain an understanding of the following: • Analyzing the "Buy vs. Lease" dilemma, when public transit is a viable economic alternative, and how to interpret statistics like MPG/MPGe to predict long-term fuel costs. • Demystifying the car-buying process, including understanding sticker prices, sales tax, down payments, and the net cost of an automobile after interest. • A deep dive into the types of coverage (Collision, Personal Injury, Property Damage, Comprehensive) and the application of probability in determining premiums and liability. • Understanding how an asset loses value over time and why "used" often outperforms "new" in a financial plan. By the end of this unit, students will be able to perform a complete "break-even analysis" on a vehicle purchase, ensuring they can afford not just the car, but the insurance, fuel, and maintenance that come with it. Unit Topics Include: • Public Transport - When do you need a car? • Buying and Selling a Used Car - Cost of advertising - Sales Tax • Buying versus Leasing a Car	(December - January)
--	--	-----------------------------

	• Using Statistics when Purchasing a Car - MPG, MPGe - Estimating Gas Usage - Cost of fuel • Automobile Loans - Sticker Price - Sales Tax - Downpayments - Loan Amounts - Net Cost of Automobile • Automobile Insurance - Different types of automobile insurance Coverage - Collision, Personal Injury, Property Damage, Comprehensive - Probability & Insurance - Insurance Costs - Payments on Insurance Claims - Determining Liability • Automobile Depreciation	
Unit 6: HOUSING & THE COST OF OWNING A HOUSE	This unit shifts the focus from daily expenses to the single largest financial commitment most adults make: housing. Students will analyze the trade-offs between renting and buying, developing the technical skills to interpret leases, mortgages, and property tax assessments. By treating housing as both a necessity and an investment, students will learn to calculate the "hidden" costs of shelter—beyond the monthly rent or mortgage payment. This module provides a realistic look at how we house ourselves. We move beyond "finding an apartment" to analyzing the financial and legal structures that dictate housing stability. Students will practice reading floor plans to understand space usage, calculate the long-term math of mortgage amortization, and dissect the differences between market value and assessed value for tax purposes. By the end of this unit, students will be able to perform a comparative analysis between renting and buying, ensuring they can project the real-world costs of a home before they sign their first contract. Unit Topics Include:	5 weeks (January - February)

	• Renting - Lease signing costs (First, Last, Security) - Furnished/Unfurnished - Cost of Utilities (What does the rent cover?) - Landlord versus Renter Responsibilities - Renter's Insurance - Square Footage • Buying a House/ Buying a Condominium - Understanding a Floor Plan (How much space do I need?) - Using Dimensions to Determine Possible Heating Costs - Mortgage Calculations - Market Value - Assessed Value - Property Tax - Real Estate Tax - Homeowner's Insurance - Cost of Utilities - Home Maintenance and Repairs	
Unit 7: OTHER EXPENSES: LIFESTYLE & LEISURE	While housing and transportation are the "big rocks" of a budget, most young adults actually derail their finances through the "sand"—the smaller, recurring lifestyle expenses that accumulate into massive leaks. This unit helps students understand that "fun" isn't free—but it can be sustainable if it's budgeted. We move away from the idea that budgeting means "no fun" and toward the idea of "intentional spending." We will analyze the cumulative cost of monthly memberships (streaming, gaming, gym, cloud storage). We will discuss the "Convenience" tax, such as the financial difference between cooking at home vs. food delivery/dining out. We will discuss how to budget for vacations and other major family or life events.	4 weeks (February - March)

	Unit Topics Include: ● Personal Living Expenses - Food - Clothing - Health Care - Internet / Cellular Service - Education - Personal care/ cosmetics - Other ● Vacation Expenses - Travel costs - Lodging - Food - Tickets - Souvenirs ● Entertainment Expenses - Eating out - Going to the movies - Family gatherings - Streaming Services ● Children	
Unit 8: CONSUMER CREDIT & DEBT MANAGEMENT	This unit moves students from the concept of "spending what they have" to the strategic use of "other people's money." For juniors and seniors, this is a critical threshold; understanding credit is the difference between building wealth and becoming trapped by high-interest debt. We will treat credit as a financial lever—an essential tool for major life purchases that requires precise handling. This module demystifies the credit industry by focusing on the "cost of time." Students will learn that credit is not just a way to buy things they cannot currently afford, but a contractual agreement that impacts their financial reputation for decades. We will explore the mathematics of lending, the mechanics of credit reporting, and the legal consequences of both success and failure in managing	4 weeks (March - April)

	debt. By the end of this unit, students will be able to compare different borrowing products, calculate the true cost of a loan over its entire term, and understand the long-term ramifications of credit decisions on their financial freedom. Unit Topics Include: • Introduction to Consumer Credit • Credit Scores and the Ability to Borrow • Understanding the Cost of Borrowed Money - Revisit Auto Loans and Mortgages - Student Loans - Personal Loans - Home Equity Loans - Loan Calculations • Credit Cards - Understanding Credit Card Statements • Late Fees / Defaults / Bankruptcy	
Unit 9: RETIREMENT & END OF LIFE EXPENSES	This unit is designed to shift the student's perspective from viewing retirement as a "distant event" to understanding it as a mathematical certainty that requires immediate action. For juniors and seniors, this unit is arguably the most financially transformative module they will encounter: it demonstrates that the primary variable for wealth creation is not the size of their salary, but the <i>length of time</i> they remain invested. This module bridges the gap between basic financial literacy and true long-term wealth building. We move beyond simple interest calculations to model the exponential growth provided by compound interest over decades. Students will learn that retirement is not a destination, but a financial status built through strategic asset allocation, tax-advantaged accounts, and consistent contribution habits. This unit equips students with the technical vocabulary to navigate their first HR benefits meeting and the mathematical confidence to start their own	5 weeks (April - May)

retirement accounts as soon as they receive their first paycheck.

In the final part of the unit, students will learn that estate planning is not just for the wealthy or the elderly—it is an essential act of adulthood that protects survivors from the bureaucratic and financial burdens of an unplanned transition. This is a heavy topic, and will be framed as an act of love—protecting those left behind from the administrative and financial nightmare of a sudden loss.

Unit Topics Include:

- Reviewing Interest - distinguishing between simple interest and compound interest, and the time factor of growth.
- Understanding how inflation impacts the value of money.
- Retirement Vehicles and Accounts
 - 401(k) and 403(b) plans and Employer matching
 - Traditional IRA plan vs. ROTH IRA plan and understanding the “Tax now versus the Tax later” trade-off
 - Bonds and CDs (Low-risk components of a portfolio)
- Strategic Investing - Risks and Rewards
 - Understanding the Stock Market
 - Short Term versus Long Term Investing and Market Volatility
 - Diversification
 - Tangible / Real Assets - Real Estate, Precious Metals, and Commodities
 - Life Insurance as an investment - Term Life vs. Full Life
 - Emergency Funds
- Estate Planning - Costs and Legal & Administrative Fundamentals
 - End of Life Costs
 - Wills, Trusts, Guardianship for children
 - Durable Power of Attorney (Financial), Health Care Proxies & Medical Power of Attorney
 - Beneficiary Designations & Their Importance
 - Legacy Binders

Unit 10: CREATING A BUDGET	This final project serves as the culmination of your financial literacy journey. Objective: Design a master financial plan for yourself that demonstrates mastery of earning, spending, borrowing, saving, and estate planning. You are building a "financial life" from the ground up, ensuring that all components—from your first paycheck to your legacy—are mathematically sound and strategically aligned. Your master project must reconcile the following eight domains into a single, balanced, and sustainable financial plan: • Earnings: Define your career path, salary, and pay period. Calculate your <i>Gross</i> vs. <i>Net</i> pay after accounting for all mandatory Federal, State, and FICA taxes. Include completed mock-ups of your onboarding forms (W-4, I-9) and your final income statement (W-2). • Transportation: The cost associated with owning/leasing a car. (Loan, insurance, maintenance, fuel and/or electricity). • Housing: Integrate the costs of your housing (rent vs. mortgage). Include homeowner's insurance and property taxes. Also include the costs of utilities (water, gas, oil, electric, sewer and garbage removal). • Banking: Outline your daily financial operations, including checking account management, bill payment, and how you reconcile statements. • Credit: Explain your approach to credit. If you use credit cards or loans, model the interest costs and demonstrate a clear strategy for debt repayment to avoid defaults or bankruptcy. • The Lifestyle Budget: Allocate funds for "variable" expenses, including Food, Clothing, Education, Entertainment (i.e. hosting parties, going out to eat, going to a movie), Service accounts (phone, internet, streaming services), Vacations, and the costs associated with family or children. • Retirement: Project the growth of your investments. You must include contributions to at least two tax-advantaged accounts (e.g., 401k, 403b, Roth IRA) and explain how compound interest impacts your final nest egg. • The Legacy Plan: Draft a basic estate plan. This includes identifying your beneficiaries, creating a "Legacy Binder" checklist, and explaining your choices regarding life insurance and end-of-life directives. Your final submission will be a "Financial Master File" (digital presentation or	2 weeks - 3 weeks (May - June)
---	---	--

	portfolio) that clearly demonstrates the trade-offs you made. You must include a "Rationale Statement" for each section, explaining why you chose a specific apartment, car, or investment vehicle over the alternatives.	
--	---	--