DOBBS FERRY MIDDLE SCHOOL
Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522
2026-2027

COURSE OUTLINE

SUBJECT: Financial Literacy 7 **GRADE: 7**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Financial Literacy is a semester long course that meets every other day. This course introduces students to the foundational skills and habits needed to make informed financial decisions. Students explore how money is earned, managed, saved, and spent, while developing an understanding of how financial choices connect to personal values and long-term goals.

Throughout the course, students engage in real-world scenarios that help them build practical skills such as budgeting, evaluating financial information, understanding credit, and planning for the future. The course emphasizes critical thinking, responsible decision-making, and awareness of how external factors influence financial behavior. By the end of the course, students will be better prepared to navigate everyday financial situations with confidence and independence.

Anticipated topics to be covered:

Budgeting and Money Management

Students explore how individuals make financial decisions based on needs, wants, values, and goals. They examine how people with similar incomes can experience very different financial outcomes due to priorities, obligations, and unexpected expenses. Students learn how to evaluate financial information, including advertisements and online sources, and consider how outside influences such as peers, media, and technology shape spending habits.

Students also compare different payment methods, including cash, credit cards, and digital payment tools, and analyze their benefits and risks. The unit culminates in students creating a realistic budget based on a hypothetical income, incorporating both expenses and savings.

Statement of Inquiry: Financial decisions reflect personal values and are influenced by both internal priorities and external factors.

Credit and Debt Management

Students develop an understanding of how credit works and the responsibilities that come with borrowing money. They examine why individuals choose to use credit and evaluate the costs and benefits associated with different types of purchases.

Students learn how interest, fees, and repayment terms impact the total cost of borrowing. They also explore strategies for managing credit responsibly, including paying balances on time and understanding billing cycles. The unit highlights the long-term consequences of missed payments and poor credit decisions.

Statement of Inquiry: Responsible use of credit requires understanding both short-term benefits and long-term consequences.

Earning Income

Students explore how income is earned and the factors that influence earning potential. They compare different career paths, considering the role of education, training, and skills in determining income opportunities.

Students learn the difference between gross income and net income, and examine how taxes and deductions affect take-home pay. They also develop an understanding of the purpose of taxes and how they support public services and community resources.

Statement of Inquiry: Income is shaped by individual choices and societal systems that influence opportunity and responsibility.

Risk Management

Students examine the role of risk in everyday life and the strategies individuals use to manage it. They explore how planning ahead and purchasing insurance can reduce the financial impact of unexpected events.

Students learn how insurance works, including concepts such as premiums, coverage, and shared risk. They also evaluate decisions such as purchasing extended warranties and consider whether they provide value. The unit includes a focus on protecting personal and financial information.

Statement of Inquiry: Understanding risk allows individuals to make informed decisions that protect their financial well-being.

Saving and Investing

Students focus on the importance of saving and planning for future financial goals. They identify reasons for saving, such as emergencies or major purchases, and create simple savings plans to achieve short-term goals.

Students are introduced to the concepts of principal and interest, and explore how money can grow over time. They compare savings options and examine how interest rates impact long-term outcomes. The unit also introduces different types of investments, along with their potential risks and benefits, and emphasizes the importance of diversification and starting early.

Statement of Inquiry: Planning for the future requires understanding how money can grow and how risk can be managed over time.

Materials required or used:

- Folder
- Binder - 1 Inch
- Calculator
- Access to a digital device for research and simulations
- Writing utensils and highlighters

Criteria for grading:

Grades will be determined by the number of points earned out of the total number of possible points. These points will be earned through student performance in the following areas:

- Class Work and Homework
- Assessments
- Participation and Engagement
- Financial Projects

Outline developed by: Math Department *Date: Fall 2026*