



MEDIAPOLIS
SAVINGS
BANK

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



MSB Serves Local Schools Through Junior Achievement

Several MSB Staff Members volunteered for Junior Achievement last school year impacting students in Mediapolis, Morning Sun, and Wapello.

Junior Achievement helps students build skills in financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship through hands-on lessons that connect education to future career opportunities. By volunteering in local classrooms, MSB employees helped students develop a stronger understanding of money management, career exploration, and economic decision making.

MSB is proud to support programs that empower young people and strengthen the communities we serve.

Our involved staff members have each shared a synopsis.



My second year of teaching JA in Mrs. Hunderdosse's kindergarten class at Mediapolis Elementary School was a wonderful experience. Watching the students get excited about saving and spending money has been especially rewarding. The skills we teach through JA curriculum are important, and it is our hope that by planting these seeds at a young age, students will develop the knowledge and habits to save and spend wisely as they grow older. I am very grateful for the opportunity to participate each year, and I hope JA continues to make a positive and lasting impact on the students.

~Sam Janssen



I have enjoyed sharing the JA curriculum with Mrs. Skelley's 4th grade class for the past two years. The theme of the unit is "Our Region." We discuss jobs, resources and trading within our regions. I enjoy the looks on the kids' faces when I come into their room and watching them create the projects that follow along with the lesson. I'm so grateful that MSB allows me to participate in this program.

~ Sally Carter

I have had the pleasure of being a Junior Achievement leader for 20 years. JA provides a solid curriculum, inviting young people into an interactive experience. I have been able to teach 2nd graders about how a community works. Engaging in lessons on small business and employment, government and paying taxes, volunteerism, and accountability. I believe this core knowledge encourages a generation of responsible citizens.

~Amy Whitaker

Junior Achievement is a great way to connect with local students. The programs are engaging and fun while also teaching the importance of things like entrepreneurship, communities, and earning, saving, spending and donating money. It's great for the kids to start to learn how cities are run. We talk about jobs within our communities and how some of those jobs in rural communities are volunteers - like our local firefighters. The students always have questions and it's fun to see what sparks their interest. I'm thankful that Mediapolis Savings Bank allows its employees the opportunity to volunteer through JA.

~Amanda Ball



I had the chance to teach Junior Achievement for the first time at Mediapolis Elementary School for Mrs. Schoonover's class. It was such a fun and rewarding experience. Seeing the students get excited, ask great questions, and connect classroom lessons to the real world made it all worthwhile. I'm grateful for the chance to help young learners build skills and confidence for their future success.

~Rachel Murphy



This was my third year teaching Junior Achievement. I taught Mrs. McCulloch's 4th grade class at Morning Sun Elementary School. Through interactive activities, we learned necessary traits and skills it takes to become an entrepreneur. We also learned about the different obstacles and challenges of being an entrepreneur. The skills they learned are valuable now and will continue to be in the future. I am thankful for the opportunity to be a JA volunteer and look forward to next year!

~Ellie Frank

This year was my first year of teaching Junior Achievement, I taught in Mrs. Dopler's 1st grade class at Wapello Elementary School. We learned about different family dynamics, money, jobs, and making smart choices, while having some fun and snacks everyday. These JA lessons taught the students about how small businesses work and how small communities work as well. I remembered learning a lot from Junior Achievement in elementary school and wanted to give back the same way.

~Carter Konecne

This was my first year teaching JA at Mediapolis Elementary School. I taught Ms. Miller's Kindergarten class about the difference between needs and wants, and ways they can earn money. It was fun to hear the students ideas on how they might earn money and spend it. We also discussed the importance of saving money and helping others in your community with the money you earn. The lessons that are taught in JA set a good financial foundation for their future. I am thankful for the opportunity I had to be able to engage in our community and volunteer with Junior Achievement!

~Tyra Hany

I recently completed my tenth year as a volunteer mentor for the JA Titan Competition at the high school level. JA Titan is a simulator that allows students to test their business acumen by competing in an online business industry. This simulation requires them to make quarterly decisions related to pricing, production, marketing, R&D, capital investment, and charitable giving. Each decision they make determines how they will fare against their competition from various high school teams in the region. All of the students seem to really enjoy the process once they get a firm grasp on the concepts, and the best part is that they all have an opportunity to win scholarship money!

~Jake Schnedler



This was my first year teaching a Junior Achievement class as well as mentoring for the JA Titan Competition. I taught 4th grade students in Mrs. Ankrom's classroom and was able to share with the kids the different opportunities regions of the United States and the world have for employment. I really enjoyed relating the curriculum to the students' lives and giving them a better understanding of the different challenges, opportunities, and aspects of entrepreneurship. JA Titan is something I participated in myself, and it is rewarding to be able to assist the kids in a great opportunity to learn the ins and outs of business as well as compete for scholarship money. I look forward to continuing to teach and mentor with Junior Achievement.

~Eli Grier



UPCOMING EVENT!

Fraud Prevention & Luncheon

Date:
Nov 10, 2026

Time:
11:30 AM

Venue:
**Mediapolis
City Hall**

We'd like to invite you to learn how to recognize, prevent, and respond to fraud in today's evolving landscape. Enjoy lunch while gaining valuable insights and practical tools to help protect yourself and your community.

Featured Keynote Speaker: Al Perales, a longtime Consumer Protection Investigator with the Iowa Attorney General's Office.

Meet Local Leaders: Connect with local law enforcement officials, State Representative Taylor Collins, and State Senator Mark Lofgren.

Please RSVP to Amy Whitaker at 319-394-3191 or email awhitaker@gombsb.bank

**Please help us congratulate these staff members on
their work anniversaries!**



Jeff Burgus
24 years



Ellie Frank
3 years



Valerie Pilling
1 year



Lily Williams
1 year



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