

Personal Finance - Course Syllabus

Michigan Center High School

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Course Description: This course in personal finance includes a study of various personal finance topics including saving, investing, avoiding and reducing debt, and preparing for your future.

Course Goals: By successfully completing this course, students will be able to...

- Explain reasons for saving money, identify the benefits of having an emergency fund, and demonstrate how compound interest works.
- Examine the relationship between diversification and risk, compare and contrast different types of investments, and list the different types of retirement plans.
- Demonstrate the various ways people get into debt, compare and contrast credit cards and debit cards, evaluate and refute the myths associated with debt.
- List the five steps to take before making a significant purchase, evaluate the myth of building your credit score, describe precautions that will protect you from identity theft, and explain how to correct inaccuracies on a credit report.
- Explain the benefits of a budget, and demonstrate how to complete a zero-based budget.
- Evaluate the role of a cover letter, résumé and interview.
- Explain the various types of taxes withheld from your paycheck.
- Explain why insurance is an essential part of a healthy financial plan, identify and describe the seven basic types of insurance coverage needed, differentiate between term and cash value life insurance, and list types of insurances to avoid.
- Examine what to look for when purchasing a home, evaluate the various types of home mortgages, identify the pros and cons of renting versus owning, and compare and contrast a 15-year mortgage to a 30-year mortgage.

Required Daily Supplies:

- Pencil and eraser
- Personal Finance Materials (provided by MCHS and available on class website)
- MCHS Student Agenda

Requested Supplies for Class:

- Box of Tissues
- Clorox® Disinfecting Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer

Grading Policy: The following is the policy for determining your quarterly grades

- Classwork and Homework (25% of quarterly grade) including in-class projects, and chapter reviews.
- Quizzes and Tests (75% of quarterly grade) consisting of chapter and unit tests.

Your first and second semester grades will both consist of your quarterly grades (40% each) and a semester exam (20%).

Grading Scale: The following grading scale, as determined by MCHS, will be used to calculate quarter and semester grades.

A+	(100%)	C	(73% - 77.99%)
A	(93% - 99.99%)	C-	(70% - 72.99%)
A-	(90% - 92.99%)	D+	(68% - 69.99%)
B+	(88% - 89.99%)	D	(63% - 67.99%)
B	(83% - 87.99%)	D-	(60% - 62.99%)
B-	(80% - 82.99%)	E	(below 59.99%)
C+	(78% - 79.99%)		

Grades are posted to PowerSchool regularly. Both students and parents are encouraged to refer to PowerSchool frequently and to proactively monitor student progress.

General class rules:

- Be respectful to teachers and faculty, classmates, and your school.
- Be responsible for your success, your learning, your choices, and your actions.

Class policies:

- Students are not allowed to interrupt and distract class.
- Students are not allowed to talk during tests and quizzes. Unauthorized talking will result in a zero.
- Food is not allowed in class. Drinks are allowed, provided the student takes care of all trash and any mess.
- Cell phones, MP3 players, and other electronic devices are allowed in class only during appropriate times, and only for appropriate uses. Any actions that are inappropriate or distract others are prohibited and will result in confiscation of the device.

Expectations:

- Attend class regularly, and come to class prepared, including bringing all necessary materials, a positive attitude, a willingness to work, and a commitment to contribute to the learning environment.
- Academic honesty is a must, and cheating/copying will not be tolerated. All parties involved in cheating will receive a zero according to the MCHS student handbook.
- Student work needs to be neat and legible. Problems must be numbered, all work must be shown, and all answers must be circled or otherwise identified in order to receive credit.
- Follow all school rules at all times.