



Honors Algebra 2 in Business Syllabus

In class this year you'll be a key member of an economic system and an owner of a small business, contributing as a producer, earner, investor, and consumer. You'll be earning and spending classroom dollars called Cat Ca\$h. This syllabus explains the program, and you'll have an opportunity to ask questions about it in class.

Part One: Earning and Spending Money

Overview

Starting now, you have bills to pay. You owe monthly rent for your desk (i.e. the spot at your table), and you also have an electricity bill. Fortunately, you have several ways to earn enough classroom cash to pay these bills. You also have special investment and business opportunities, and you'll see some attractive ways to spend your earnings—assuming you can save up enough. **Your bills always come first.**

Earning money

- You will earn \$750 a month for being an exemplary student.
- You can earn more if you take on another classroom job (see the list below). The teacher will explain how to apply for a job.
- You can earn bonus pay for achievements such as making good grades, doing extra projects, and participating in school activities.
- Finally, you will come up with a creative idea and start your own classroom business.

Spending money

- You must rent your desk (i.e. the spot at your table) for \$800 per month. However, if you save up enough, you can purchase your spot for a one-time payment of \$2,400 and never pay rent again.
- You must pay \$150 a month as your share of the classroom electricity bill. If the class Electrician finds ways to reduce our electricity usage, the bill may shrink.
- You will owe fines to the class when you do not follow the classroom rules and fall short of exemplary student requirements. The list of fines is on the back of this page.
- You can use your extra money to buy items in the class auctions. (Feel free to give the Auctioneers suggestions for things to be bid on.)
- You may want to use some of your earnings for insurance or for investments. These are advanced topics that won't be covered in class for a while, although you can read about them in Part Two of this syllabus.

Classroom jobs

Jobs	Job Description	Monthly Salary
Exemplary Student Everyone in the class	Arrive in class on time with all needed materials. Complete all classroom and homework assignments as instructed and deliver the work when it is due. (Students who don't meet these requirements are still paid their salaries but are subject to classroom economy fines.) • Respect • Collaboration • Responsibility • Invested in Learning •	\$750
Attendance Monitor 1 per class	Take daily attendance and record absences. Report absences to the teacher. Provide students with makeup materials when they return to class. A student must have a strong attendance record to be considered for this job.	\$700
Auctioneer 3–5 per class	Poll the class to determine appropriate auction items. Identify ways to obtain the items. Plan and facilitate fundraising events to sponsor the auction. Manage the auction.	\$750
Auditor 1 for every 5 students	Analyze the bank logs of 4 to 6 students to ensure accuracy and compare with classroom investment and insurance logs. Verify transactions by witnessing them and initialing students' bank logs. Requires a recommendation (email or letter is fine).	\$850
Loan Officer 1–2 per class	Allow students to acquire loans for a set amount. Hand out loan slips and calculate interest. Keep a record of all loans. Work with the Banker to deposit money from the students' accounts.	\$750
Bonus/Fine Administrator 1–2 per class	Record student bonuses and fines on the bonus/fine log and keep bonus/fine slips in order for ease of auditing. Mark slips as "processed" and store them in the class folder after they are recorded. Requires a recommendation (email or letter is fine).	\$850
Clerk 2–3 per class	Hand out papers and other materials to students. Collect homework and other items from students when asked. Organize the class supply shelves and keep them neat.	\$700
Economist 1 per class	Monitor spending patterns during the class auction. Report to the teacher and other students about the buying trends observed and how they compared to previous auctions.	\$750
Electrician 1–2 per class	Monitor electricity usage in the classroom. Determine the daily charge and report the monthly total. Creatively present ideas on how to conserve energy and reduce the monthly bill.	\$750
Insurance Agent 1–2 per class	Sell insurance policies to students at their request. Keep a detailed log of who purchased insurance each month, and record the damages that uninsured students must pay. Be able to provide an up-to-date log to the Auditors when required.	\$750
Investment Banker 1–2 per class	Collect investments from students. Keep a detailed log of all investments, and inform students when their investments mature. Be able to provide the log to the Auditors when required.	\$750

Recyclist 2–3 per class	Monitor the recycling bins and trash cans for appropriate deposits. Increase the school's awareness of the importance of recycling by creating signs and flyers.	\$750
Messenger 1–2 per class	Deliver written or spoken messages to people throughout the building. Answer the class phone. Get the passes as they come in from the office monitors and deliver them.	\$600
Tutor As needed	Provide one-on-one or small-group tutoring in subjects identified by the teacher. Applicants must be high performers in the subject for which they want to tutor.	\$700
Visual Display Artist 2–3 per class	Determine what type of information is displayed on the classroom walls. Ensure that the message boards are updated with relevant information. Decorate the classroom for events, holidays, and other special occasions.	\$600
Webmaster/Social Media Coordinator 1 per class	Maintain and update the class' or teacher's webpage/Google Classroom. Respond to relevant inquiries. Post new information as directed by the teacher on social media sites.	\$700

Bonuses (submit proof as needed)

Activity	Bonus Amt	Activity	Bonus Amt
Earn "Exceptional" on a target quiz	\$50	Attend an advertised extra-curricular event	\$50
Earn "Exceptional" on a unit assessment	\$200	Participate in IL Math League	\$50
Work together outside of class in small study teams	\$100	Come in to school early (or stay after) when extra help is truly needed	\$20
Complete an optional assignment	\$100	Dress up for school spirit days	\$50
Get a compliment from another teacher	\$200	First to finish an escape game	\$100
Join an extracurricular activity	\$100	Finish an escape at any time	\$50
Random acts of kindness	\$100	TBD	TBD

Fines

Rule	Ticket Amount	Rule	Ticket Amount
Dishonesty	\$500	Missing work	\$50
Inappropriate use of electronic devices	\$300	Off-task behavior, such as talking during direct instruction	\$100
Rudeness	\$100	Tardiness	\$50
Not bringing materials to class	\$100	Leaving trash at your table	\$100
Profanity/inappropriate language	\$100	TBD	TBD

Part Two: Insurance and Investing

Starting next month, on Bill Day you will have two new options: to purchase insurance and to invest in certificates of deposit (CDs). You can decide to buy one, both, or neither.

Insurance: If you buy insurance, you'll be protected from the cost of repairs should your desk/table suffer "property damage." It's up to you to decide whether you want to buy the protection or simply hope that your desk/table will escape harm. If you choose to purchase insurance, you have two options:

- Pay \$1,200 for a full year of coverage.
- Pay \$200 for one month of coverage. You can pay for a month on each Bill Day.

Four times a month, our class will use an insurance simulator based on random number generation, to determine whether the class has suffered any "property damage." Depending on the numbers that come up, your desk/table may suffer no damage at all, or it may require \$100, \$150, or \$200 worth of repairs.

- If you own insurance, you will not have to pay any repair bills.
- If you don't buy insurance, what's the worst that could happen to you? Try calculating the maximum amount of damage you might have to pay in a month.

Investing: Certificates of deposit (CDs) are a way to make your money grow. If you buy a CD, after a while you will get back the money you invested, plus an additional amount. What's the catch? Your money is tied up— you can't spend it at the auction, for example—until the term of the CD has expired. In the classroom economy, you can buy CDs in \$100 increments, at terms of 1, 3, 6, or 8 months. The longer-term CDs pay you a higher rate of interest, but will cease to be available as the year goes on. For example, the 8-month CD can only be purchased on the first Bill Day. Here are the interest payments you'll receive for CDs with various terms:

\$100 Invested	1 month	3 months	6 months	8 months (or just before the final auction of the year)
Earnings at the end of each term	\$15	\$50	\$120	\$200
Balance at maturity	\$115	\$150	\$220	\$300

Note: In the *real economy*, these earnings would be high for a typical CD. They are set at this level in the classroom economy to illustrate key concepts within the compressed timeframe of a school year.