

INTEGRATED LESSON PLAN

Lesson Name:	Making Ends Meet
Subject/s:	Language Arts, Math, Life Skills, Health
Grade Level:	Intended Grade Level(s): 7 th -8 th Grade
Objective:	To have students prepare a monthly budget using Microsoft Excel, to estimate a monthly food bill based on a weekly food menu, and to have students evaluate the activity in a thoughtful essay.
Prerequisite Skills:	Knows how to create a Microsoft Excel worksheet including formatting cells, creating basic formulas, and saving and printing the worksheet, knows how to use Microsoft Word to create a document, including creating tables and can access the Internet using Microsoft Internet Explorer.
Content Standard/s:	Language Arts Standards – Writing Process, Writing Applications, Conventions, Research, Communications: Oral and Visual, Reading Process, Reading Applications. Math Standards - Data Analysis and Probability, Mathematical Process Standard
Technology Standard/s:	Standard #1 Nature of Technology, Benchmark B: Apply the core concepts of technology in a practical setting. Standard #4 Technology and Communication Application. Standard #5 Technology and Information Literacy.
Materials:	Required Software: Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel Optional Software: Microsoft Internet Explorer, Microsoft Works Computers with internet access would be good if possible.
Description:	In this real-life simulation, students create a monthly budget, showing income earned from an imaginary job versus estimated monthly expenses. They then encounter unexpected monthly expenses and must adjust their budget to compensate for those expenses. Finally, they write a report evaluating the activity and what they learned about "making ends meet."
Activities and procedures:	Begin a discussion about the "cost of living" by asking students questions such as: "How much do eggs cost?" "What is the bus fare from your home to another part of town?" "What is the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment?" Next, discuss the average beginning salaries for various jobs. Suggest that students research salaries by using Internet Explorer to visit the Job Market section of the The New York Times Online. You can also have students consult the Help Wanted database published by CareerPath.com for a list of jobs advertised in selected newspapers

Prepared by: Robert Steinbrecher