

## **Metro East Montessori School Adolescent Program Micro Economy Policy**

Students in the Adolescent Program (AP) at MEMS will participate in a student run business, or micro economy (ME). The goal of participation in the ME is to install practical skills in accounting, finance, marketing, business planning, as well as oral and written communication. In addition, the ME will assist in the development of a strong work ethic among the AP community. Throughout the year students will work together to care for the chickens, orchards, gardens, bees, and other endeavors to support the ME.

AP students will look at the net costs (chicken feed, seeds, fertilizers, garden implements, apiary tools) and track the profits of produce sold at area Farmer's Markets. Students will conduct market research to determine the asking price of items sold at the markets. Students will also apply their knowledge and experiment with goods to sell (soaps, candles, wood working, and pottery). Money raised during the ME will be used to offset the costs of the production of goods. Students will make decisions on how to reinvest, or spend their profits. It will be an expectation that students will donate a portion of their ME profits to an area non-for-profit organization.

**Students will be expected to volunteer for at least 20 hours of ME work during the summer.**

**Students will be expected to volunteer for at least 5 hours of ME work during the fall semester.**

**Students will be expected to volunteer for at least 5 hours of ME work during the spring semester.**

Parents may need to assist in ME events including harvesting, chicken care, farmer's markets or a craft booth. Students should understand that while they are working with the general public, or attending to customers, they are expected to adhere to the MEMS dress code. Students are expected to act professionally while working with the public and shall refrain from the use of digital devices (cell phones, iWatches, iPads, tablets).

Students will be receiving academic credit for their work on the ME program.

## **Metro East Montessori School Adolescent Program Fundraising Policy**

Students in the MEMS Adolescent Program (AP) will be expected to participate in a variety of student led fundraisers. These fund raising events will allow students to continue their development of communication skills, assist with the building of their work ethic, and will serve as community building events within the entire MEMS population. While the majority of the proceeds from fundraising will go towards the ninth grade trip, some of the proceeds may be used for short term trips (camping, snow skiing, etc.) or special events (dances, shows at the Fox Theater, formal dinners) as determined by our students.

Fund raising events may include any of the following:

Preparing meals for sale on Fridays.

Babysitting and movie night for our primary and elementary families.

Car washes.

Trivia Night.

Assisting in the after school Elementary STEM club.

Offering a morning of raking leaves and general yard work for MEMS and area families.

Preparing a pancake breakfast feast for the MEMS community.

Hosting a coffee shop or Harvest Festival.

**Students will be expected to participate in at least 10 hours of fund raising events outside of regular school hours.** The fund raising event hours are separate from the micro economy requirements. The volunteer hours that each student participates in will be recorded. Profits from the fund raising events will be divided among each student according to the volunteer hours that each student completed.

Individual student "bank accounts" will be utilized to save money from the profits of fund raising. Deductions will be made as students spend money from their accounts. Appropriate deductions would include the payment of special events, short term trips, and the ninth grade trip. *If a student is unable to participate in a class trip or special event, money will still be deducted from their account. If a student does not re-enroll in the AP program and has a positive balance in their account, the money in that account will be distributed amongst students that have successfully met the 10 hours of volunteering requirement for that school year.* Students will carry over their balances each year in order to accumulate enough money to cover all or the majority of the cost of the ninth grade trip.

## Questions regarding the Fund Raising Policy

*What if my child cannot attend all of the fundraising events due to sports, religious, or family activities?* We understand that every family has different commitments outside of school. We require each student to volunteer a minimum of 10 volunteer hours. Students that volunteer more hours will be given more money in their student accounts based on the number of hours worked.

*What if my child is late to an event or has to leave early?* Part of the goal of community fundraising is to help instill a strong work ethic. Students will be expected to make arrangements with their advisor if they will be late or need to leave an event early. Time will only be credited for the time that each student spends working the event. Time will be credited in 15 min increments. It may be determined that a student should not volunteer at an event if they are unable to attend and participate the entire time.

*What if my child does not have enough money in their account to pay for a special event?* As a part of a valuable life lesson, if a student does not have enough money in their account, they may miss out on that particular event. If a student does not have enough money to cover the cost of the ninth grade trip, the parents or guardians may need to cover any additional costs.

*What if my child did not join the AP in seventh grade? Will they have the same amount of money as their peers?* Money is dispersed into each student account based on the total profit of all of the events for that school year and the total number of hours spent working at the events for that same school year. A student that does not join the MEMS AP until eighth or ninth grade will most likely not have as much money in their student account to pay for the entire ninth grade trip.

*What if one event profits more money than an event that my child worked at?* Over the course of the school year all of the profits from fund raising will be put into one "pot." At the end of the school year, the total number of hours worked will be determined and money will be dispersed according to the number of hours worked. We understand that some events may make a greater profit than other events. We will average the profit over the number of hours worked, and disperse money based on the average profit.

*What if my child works every event and has a surplus of money after paying for the ninth grade trip?* A ninth grade student that has extra money after paying for their ninth grade trip may use the money for additional travel expenses (food, supplies). Additional funds may be equally dispersed to all other student accounts for currently enrolled students.

*Why will money be deducted from my student's account if they do not attend a special event such as going to Hidden Valley for skiing?* Most of our planning of trips will be based on group rates and group attendance. In order to purchase tickets for such events in advance, we may need to deduct money from an account regardless of attendance.

Please return this form.

***I have read and agree to the Metro East Montessori School Adolescent Program Micro economy Policy***

***Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_***

***Parent/ guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_***

***Parent/ guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_***

***I have read and agree to the Metro East Montessori School Adolescent Program Fund Raising Policy***

***Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_***

***Parent/ guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_***

***Parent/ guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_***