

SPRUCE Mini Society~

A teaching strategy that brings real economic experiences into our classroom!

Dear Families,

The purpose of this letter is to tell you about Mini-Society, the multidisciplinary program we will be implementing to our students to teach economics curriculum.

What is Mini-Society?

In this innovative program students will establish their own society, manage their own money, and open their own businesses. This experience will help your child understand more about entrepreneurship, economics, government, and ethics in a fun and meaningful way. Key concepts students will learn about include: scarcity, goods, services, producers, consumers, profit, inflation, imports, exports, taxes, advertising, and marketing. In addition to subject-area learning, the children will experience several side benefits. They will work cooperatively and actively in problem solving—trying to find creative and workable solutions to the numerous problems that occur in any society.

What is your role as a parent?

- Your active interest and involvement will enhance your child's learning. You will act as a business consultant for your child. He/she can come to you for advice, encouragement, marketing ideas, or problem solving. Your child may ask you to transport them to a particular store to purchase supplies, ask you to assist them in creating their products, or ask to use some of your supplies. You **MUST** be paid for anything you do on behalf of your child. **You do not work for free! You must receive a salary!** Your child may pay you with personal services, for example by helping to prepare dinner, or pay you with our classroom currency (remember, it won't be fake money to them). **Please do not do anything for your child without compensation.**
- You will monitor the spending of real cash to acquire some special raw materials for their future goods or services. They will be able to get most things from our classroom warehouse. Their product may require a raw material that we'll have little chance of getting donated from our families, so it may be necessary to go out and purchase it for them. **The total amount of real cash you and your child can spend is \$5.00. After that, they can't spend any more real cash.**

Businesses That May Evolve from Mini-Society

Stationary/card shop, handmade crafts, jewelry, bookmarks, simple toys, etc. The possibilities !

Please note, the following types of businesses are not permitted: food based businesses; finger nail painting, hair braiding or face painting (The students may not touch each other as part of their business.)

Keep in mind, Mini-Society belongs to the kids!

You and I don't have unlimited checking or savings accounts. The kids in Mini-Society won't either. Like all of us, they will learn how to make some challenging choices while gaining knowledge through economic lessons along the way. Don't make decisions for them.

Other important information...

*If you're interested in learning more about the program, I will post 10 minute video on Facebook, which has clips of students participating in the society, as well as answer questions.

Thank you for your involvement. We are looking forward to the Mini-Society experience with your child!

Sincerely,
SPRUCE Staff

Mini-Society Warehouse Suggestions

Look around your house! It is not necessary to buy anything for our warehouse. You may donate any supplies for our businesses from the list below. Our “warehouse” will be in one area. After spring break, we cannot accept any further donations. The students will have to be creative and stretch their imagination! Thank you for your contributions!

beads
clay
marbles
rubber bands
old greeting cards
flower pots
yarn, string, ribbon, thread
jacks
partially-used craft kits
clothes pins
construction paper
tape
glue
contact paper
wrapping paper
wallpaper
buttons
scraps of fabric, leather
tracing paper
stickers
water colors
paper cups
sports cards
pictures
old game pieces
shoe laces
craft sticks
artificial flowers
chalk
balloons
old magazines, maps
empty plastic bottles
straws

seeds
glitter
magic tricks
socks
birdseed
colored pencils
markers
puzzles
old jewelry
pom poms
wiggle eyes
pipe cleaners
foam sheets, shapes, etc.
paper plates
lunch bags
lace
Styrofoam balls
bubble wrap
shoe boxes
egg cartons
scrap booking scraps
shaped scissors
hole puncher
duct tape
masking tape
baby food jars
packing peanuts
Velcro
magnet strips
colored sand
coffee filters
paperclips
cotton balls