

# Educational News

A regular Tuesday feature



Elcho students learn about some budget realities.

## Budgeting program gives Elcho students dose of reality

Elcho middle and high school students received a dose of financial reality, compliments of Huntington National Bank.

Through the 'Huntington Reality Day,' volunteers presented the basics of budgeting before putting students through a simulation where they were provided a career, family and credit score.

Students then had to negotiate housing, transportation, child care, insurance, education, food and entertainment expenses. If they were short at the end of the month, they had to go back and negotiate a lesser monthly payment.

After the simulation, students were debriefed on their experience. Many students expressed disbelief at what they thought was a very good salary, and yet came up short in having too many expenses. Many students who are close to finishing their high school career expressed gratitude for this experience as it helped them think about life after high school. It gave them a taste of what decisions they will face and some tips on how to manage their money as they move on from high school.

Elcho school counselor, Paige Roland said she was of the students for fully engaging in this whole process.

"They asked a lot of great questions about careers and money, and they fully participated in the simulation," Roland said. "What makes this experience even more unique is that, while this program has been in place for

many years in the Midwest, Elcho are the first school in Wisconsin to participate."

About 20 volunteers raved to Elcho School to provide this experience to our students.

"We can't thank the volunteers enough for investing in our students," Roland aid.

When asked why Huntington National Bank created this program, Christina Brown, Vice President of Corporate Volunteerism, explained "we

wanted to start at a younger age to teach kids how to start making smart money decisions for their future."

Plans are underway to bring a similar experience to elementary students. All of these activities fall in line with academic and career planning initiatives in making sure our students are prepared for life after high school.

"Students can achieve anything they want to if they know how to make smart decisions," Roland said.