Welcome to the second quarter issue of MoneySKILL Matters!

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the teachers who responded to the short survey we recently distributed regarding the new technology platform and interface for MoneySKILL. We appreciate your input. After all, who knows more about how MoneySKILL is used in the classroom than teachers.

There were so many good ideas I couldn’t possibly list them all. Some of them were doable and some not, especially when considering the cost. But some of my “take-aways” included:

• The current interface looks “tired” and needs sprucing up.
• New resources might include a “best practices” tips or guide.
• Module questions need to tie better to the text.
• Add age-appropriate practical life scenarios for each module.
• Include videos for more interactivity.
• Add a few games to increase students’ interest.
• Question & Answer section for teachers would be very beneficial.

We’re taking time now to “digest” all of the information provided and handing that off to the designers. Again, thanks!

I’m also reminded that May included Teacher Appreciation Week and Day! Teacher Appreciation Week is a week-long celebration in recognition of teachers and the contributions they make to education and society. It is held in the first full week of May every year and provides an opportunity for students, their parents, and school principals to show their appreciation for the hard work teachers do and the long hours many of them put in. Many educators receive thank you gifts and notes of gratitude from their students during this week, and schools organize events and celebrations to mark the occasion.

The Tuesday in Teacher Appreciation Week is designated as Teacher Appreciation Day.

I personally thank you for the hard work you do each and every day. We’re doing better in providing students with an increase level of financial literacy in this country, and we owe much of the credit for that to teachers!

Regards,

Rhonda Ashburn
Executive Director
It has always been a hallmark of MoneySKILL® to encourage and pay close attention to input from teachers. In fact, teachers’ input has helped bring about a number of significant features in the online curriculum, including:

- Selecting specific modules and reordering
- Duplicating a course setup
- Importing class rosters
- Entering a module retake score
- Adding a date for student access to a module and a date of completion
- Printing a “completion certificate”
- Recording time spent on all modules

With a significant upgrade in the works, MoneySKILL once again sought advice from teachers and used SurveyMonkey to gather that information.

The answers to the first question were intriguing. “Please rank how impactful the following potential features would be to help enhance student learning and retention, by supplementing MoneySKILL online curriculum modules.”

The two largest responses were “Video, Practical Life Scenarios” and “Guided, Online Practice Activities.” The least-favored response was “Moderated, Class Discussion Forum.”

Some of the “other” comments included:

- Spanish version
- The more interactive, the more retentive that the knowledge becomes.
- MoneySKILL is wonderful, however, we are pushed for time to cover everything else so any activity needs to be short.
- Financial life simulation

The top responses, in order, were “Downloadable, Offline Classroom Activities” and “Enhanced, Digital Dashboard on Class/Student Progress.” “Other” responses included:

- I create discussion forums based on student data. So I’m not sure this would benefit me.
- Offline supplemental resources
- Videos are helpful, then guided problem solving.

Answers to the open-ended question, (Q3 What is the single most important enhancement or change that should be made to the MoneySKILL program over the next 2 years.), as one might expect, were many and varied. Although, “videos” of one type or another proved to be the most-mentioned answer. Others included:

- Keeping up with financial changes
- Gaming functionality
- Downloadable activities
- The students should be able to back track or review seen material for review.
- I would love to see some short videos placed with the modules of practical scenarios and a few games thrown in for review/fun.
- Guided online practice for students.
- Increased interactivity.

All of this information and input is being synthesized and, when possible, incorporated into the new technology upgrade. The current plan is to have the new technology platform in place in time for the next school year. We appreciate all of the educators who responded to the survey.
Jamestown High School—home of “Raider Red” pride—is a public high school located in Chautauqua County in the western-most part of New York State. It is the sole public high school within the city limits of Jamestown and educates high school students for all four years.

The high school has a long tradition of excellence in its music and arts program. 1903 marked the publishing of the first yearbook. In 1924, the Band and A Cappella Choir were founded, which still exist today. In 1934, the present day building began construction as part of Roosevelt’s New Deal. The new school building was officially finished on November 15, 1935. In 1979, the first Battle of the Classes took place, which still continues today.

Lots of history!

It is also where Ashley L. Andrews decided to start her teaching career as a business teacher. She currently teaches students at all four levels in classes that include Career Exploration and Personal Finance. So far, she admits, she loves teaching.

“I teach,” she said, “because I want students to be prepared for the real world. Personal finance is an essential part of being an adult. If I can give them some tools to be successful in the real world I feel that I have done my job.”

To help her do that, she uses the MoneySKILL® online curriculum.

She learned of MoneySKILL from another teacher who uses it as an end of year assessment tool.

But it’s not all work for Ashley. She lives with her boyfriend, Andrew, and loves their dog, Rocky! They also enjoy doing outdoor activities together, including kayaking, hiking, biking, and in the winter, snowshoeing.
As many of our readers know, the AFSA Education Foundation (AFSAEF) is a founding partner and current board member of the Jump$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy®. One of the best resources it provides is the Jump$tart Clearinghouse. In fact, as one of its national partners, AFSAEF considers it the premier online library of financial education resources for teachers, partners, caregivers, and anyone committed to financial smarts for students. Best of all, it’s free to use. If this is not a resource you’re familiar with, it should be!

Recently, Jump$tart launched the next-generation of the Clearinghouse. The updated Clearinghouse is designed to maximize advancements in technology, keep pace with expanding use of mobile devices, and engage new audiences. Originally established in the mid-1990s, the Clearinghouse has entered a new era of helping educators find resources that inspire students to achieve and maintain financial literacy.

You’ll find what seem like an almost endless supply of all types of financial literacy materials. Features include:

- Teaching guides, videos, student workbooks, games, simulations, textbooks, lesson plans, interactive websites, informational booklets, calculators, learning toys, music and posters are among the types of materials listed on the Clearinghouse.
- Users can search the Clearinghouse by parameters such as keyword or topic, grade level, type or format of material, resource title or provider, and language.
- The Clearinghouse provides brief descriptions and complete ordering information for more than 700 titles. Materials are ordered directly from the provider, and many resources may be accessed or downloaded immediately via the Internet. The Clearinghouse does not distribute materials directly.
- Approximately half of the resources are offered absolutely free.
- Materials listed in the Jump$tart Clearinghouse are reviewed for appropriateness using the 2016 Criteria for Reviewing Materials.

Some of the most popular resources in the Clearinghouse include:

- **Practical Money Skills for Life**
- **MoneyTeach aka Money Teach**
- **Thinking Money: The Psychology Behind Our Best and Worst Financial Decisions**
- **Foundations of Personal Finance**

Check out these and other materials at [www.clearinghouse.jumpstart.org](http://www.clearinghouse.jumpstart.org). You’ll be glad you did!
Ask MoneySKILL!

Q: Students are experiencing delays in loading web pages today. Are you aware?
A: Yes, thank you, and we apologize for the problems you’re experiencing. At times, we experience “degradation issues” that revolve around capacity. We have taken steps to address this in the short term, and you should notice a significant improvement almost immediately. Also, we expect the new technology platform to address this starting next school year.

Q: Is there any way to turn off the Pre-Test? Or to make it optional?
A: Unfortunately, at this time, there is no way to turn off the Pre-Test or to make it optional.

Q: Do students have to pass all the modules in order to print the “completion certificate”?
A: No, you can print the certificate at any time, and it’s the teacher’s choice as to who should actually receive the certificate.

Q: I had a student take the post test before he should have. Is there any way to reset that?
A: Yes. First, sign in as an approved instructor. Then, on the teacher administration page, click on “students” then “Edit (beside student’s name)”. Put a checkbox next to the post-test, save the changes and that will reset the test for the student.

Q: Can my students re-take modules? If so how?
A: You have two options. One, you can set an automatic retake score on the class edit screen. Then, all students who score below that percentage on a specific module will be able to retake that module. Also, you can set retakes by clicking “edit” besides any student’s name and clicking “Set Retake” beside individual modules.

Q: Can my students re-take modules? If so how?

Every month we answer questions about the Foundation, MoneySKILL, and anything pertaining to educating students of all ages on personal finance.