

THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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JA FOR A DAY RETURNS TO THOMASTON CENTER SCHOOL

Students Learn about Economics and Entrepreneurship from Community Volunteers

Thomaston, CT, November 13, 2017—Thomaston, CT)—Thomaston Center School Principal Kristin Bernier announced Thomaston Center School students participated in a Junior Achievement Program “JA for a Day” on Wednesday, November 9, 2017. Approximately fourteen volunteers delivered lessons on personal, local, and global economics to students throughout the day at the school. These lessons are part of a larger Junior Achievement program that was instituted in 2015 at Thomaston Center School and Black Rock School. The program, “JA for a Day” relies on parent and community volunteers to help teach practical, real-world skills.

In the program, fourth grade students learned about entrepreneurship and how entrepreneurs use resources to produce goods and services in the community. Students analyzed how entrepreneurs use resources and work with each other to produce goods and services in a community as well as recognize the skills, tasks, and concepts an entrepreneur must master to start a successful business. Fifth grade students participated in the “JA our Nation” program to learn practical information about businesses’ needs for individuals who can meet the demands of the job market. As a result of these lessons, students understood that businesses need individuals with certain skills that are in the workplace. Sixth grade students gained practical advice about preparing for the working world while still in school. During these lessons, students explored potential careers, discover how to plan for a job, and learn how to maintain a job. Students also had fun developing a personal brand that will help them in the world of work.

Principal of Thomaston Center School Kristin Bernier stated, “The program is a wonderful opportunity for the students to learn about finance and business from adults who are deeply involved in their community and in their professional practice. The students enjoyed learning the concepts and nuances of entrepreneurship in a fun, innovative way. Our students benefitted from the personal connections strengthened from participating in the program. We are thrilled that so many of our volunteers return to support this initiative. The entire Thomaston Center School community is grateful to our volunteers for donating their time and talents to make this day a huge success.”



Thomaston Center School’s JA for a Day volunteer, Mr. Chip Hungerford, discusses different natural resources from around the United States that are used by businesses in our nation’s economy.



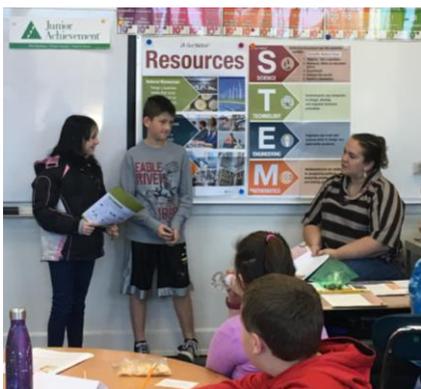
Fourth graders work collaboratively during the JA for a Day program at Thomaston Center School.



Mr. Josh Russman supports sixth graders during the JA for a Day program at Thomaston Center School. This is Mr. Russman's third year of volunteering for this program.



For the third consecutive year, Ms. Kim Macsicza presents lessons at the Thomaston Center School's annual JA for a Day program.



Fifth graders present information about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) careers during the JA for a Day program at Thomaston Center School as JA volunteer Ms. Lisa Marcil and fifth graders look on.

Thomaston Board of Education Mission Statement:

In a partnership of family, school and community, our mission is to educate, challenge and inspire each individual to excel and become a contributing member of society.

-TBOE Policy 0100

Goals and Objectives of the Thomaston Board of Education:

The Thomaston Board of Education believes that all students have a right to an education which is based on standards of excellence, which stresses rigorous demands and which serves to expand students' personal horizons. The Board believes that the education of each student is the shared responsibility of students, parents, faculty, and administrators. The Board also recognizes that students differ in their interests and abilities and therefore the district offers a comprehensive program consisting of a variety of learning experiences. The Board believes that an important function of the school is to prepare students for participation in our American democratic society. The Board seeks to improve the intellectual, emotional, social, and physical capacities of all students. The Board encourages the development of thinking and communication skills, the tolerance of and responsibility for others, and the understanding of varied cultures and life styles. In order to implement this philosophy, recognizing that elementary, middle and high school education are important steps in a lifelong process, the Board of Education establishes the following objectives:

- A. To teach the essential skills traditionally associated with the various disciplines.
- B. To develop the four communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- C. To extend and refine the students' ability to comprehend, interpret, and evaluate printed, visual, and aural material.
- D. To develop critical thinking.
- E. To further the students' development of self-awareness, self-discipline, and self-esteem.
- F. To promote the physical well-being of all students.
- G. To promote creativity and appreciation of the arts, humanities, and sciences.
- H. To encourage students to consider both the alternatives to and the consequences of their actions in the decision making process.
- I. To present career options and to assist students in setting tentative goals.
- J. To help the student appreciate that learning is integrated and continuous.

-TBOE Policy 5010

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Kristin Reichelt Bernier at 860-283-3036 or email at kbernier@thomastonschools.org.