JA High School Heroes Program
High School Participation Guidelines

**WHO:** Outstanding high school—9th through 12th—grade students are selected based on teacher recommendation and volunteer need at the elementary school sites (approximately 20 – 40 students)

**WHAT:** High school juniors and seniors volunteer to teach Junior Achievement’s Elementary School Program in one day to Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders.

**WHEN:** Fall or Spring Semester

**WHERE:** In neighboring elementary schools

**WHY:** Your outstanding high school juniors and seniors are role models who exemplify the importance of staying in school and giving back to the community. They understand and have successfully navigated the challenges that elementary students will soon face.

We believe it is important to instill community service values in our young people at an early age and reward them for it. In addition to being a wonderful leadership and learning experience that will make your students stand out in the job/college application process, the seniors will have the opportunity to compete for a scholarship to support their post secondary education plans. Students will reflect on their experience teaching JA in essay form. JA staff will judge all essays and four-six scholarships will be awarded in the amount of $500 each.

**Junior Achievement is committed to soliciting much deserved positive publicity for community service by and for city school students.**

**HOW:** The high school would need to select a liaison to work with Junior Achievement staff for this event. Some examples of liaison duties include but are not limited to: acting as JA’s main contact at your school, helping to recruit students for participation, and arranging for a student training sessions at the high school.

Junior Achievement staff will train participating students at the school on how to use the JA materials and what to expect in the classroom.

In addition to receiving a parent/guardian’s permission, participating students will be required to obtain a signature of approval from each teacher whose class will be missed on the day of the event. Junior Achievement will provide sign out sheets if your school does not have one.

The morning of the event, a JA staff person will meet students at your high school or at the elementary school, address any questions or concerns from the students, and lead the group to your school's partner elementary school. Your partner elementary school will be chosen based on their desire to have the program and proximity to your school. **Junior Achievement staff will be present at the elementary school for the duration of the event.**

The students will spend 4-hours with their assigned elementary class taking breaks appropriately. We will work with the elementary schools to coordinate lunch for the high school students according to their status with free or paid lunches.

Our curriculum is built around the Illinois social studies framework with grade appropriate themes of personal economics, business, work force readiness and importance of staying in school. **Students will lead fun, hands-on activities with the support of regular classroom teachers who have been prepped for the event ahead of time.**