

EXHIBIT 1  
Sample Letter to Parents and Businesses

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ ,

On behalf of North Marshall Middle School, we want to invite you to *Leap into the Future* with our eighth grade students. This project is designed to show students what it takes to balance careers, families, and finances. We need adult volunteers from our school district to assist with this project by working in "reality booths."

In the activity, students will imagine they are 30 years old and the sole providers in a family. Randomly, they will draw a career (with an annual salary based on that job), number of children, and a driving record. Then students will stop by booths representing the real world and pay monthly bills and expenses.

The first stop students will make is Uncle Sam's Tax Office, where taxes will be taken out of their monthly salary. After giving a chunk of cash to the government, students will stop by the Leadership Bank where they will set up checking, savings, Christmas, and vacation club accounts. Now they are ready for the REAL WORLD.

Other booth stops include the Car Lot, Clothing Store, Communications Company, Day Care Center, Doctor/Dentist Office, Entertainment Store, Grocery Store, Health and Beauty Store, Insurance Agency, Local Government Office, Nonprofit Organization, Real Estate Agency, and Utility Company. Students will be required to visit each booth and buy goods and services necessary to survive for the month. Actual prices will be provided by local businesses.

There will also be a "Crystal Ball" booth where students will draw a card for a chance at good or bad luck. Medical bills, car repairs, lottery winners, and inheritances will be some of their chances. When balances in student checkbooks get too low, they will have to visit the SOS booth. Adult advisors will give students advice on how to manage their expenses. Options will include borrowing money, seeking a different career, keeping their car vs. taking public transportation, renting vs. buying a home, or obtaining government assistance.

This project will be a true-life experience for each participant, providing a wonderful learning experience for students, volunteers, and teachers. *Leap into the Future* will teach self-discipline and the realities of life. Students will soon realize that a sole provider with two children cannot afford to drive an expensive vehicle, live in an exclusive neighborhood, buy designer fashions, pay for childcare, and go to the movies weekly on a \$20,000 annual salary, and still have money to buy groceries.

We are asking you to join us in cosponsoring this project. It takes a minimum of 60 people to operate the booths. A chairperson for each booth will make a work schedule for volunteers. Can you help us by finding people to volunteer and by contributing door prizes, snacks, or cash donations? If you will be able to help in any way, please contact one of the sponsors at North Marshall. You are invited to visit our school and *Leap into the Future* with us.

Sincerely,  
North Marshall Middle School Faculty