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Enriching future entrepreneurs

The principal and a teacher at Newport News' Reservoir Middle School say enrichment classes boost kids.

By **CATHY GRIMES** | 247-4758

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NEWPORT NEWS - The pitch was designed to intrigue: Are you the next apprentice?

More than 20 Reservoir Middle School students said yes, signing up for the school's first class in business and entrepreneurship.

"I thought it sounded interesting," said eighth-grader Eddie Barber. "It seemed like something I wanted to do and it involved money."

Eddie and his classmates meet with technology teacher Barbara Augburn

for 40 minutes each day, beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Augburn, an entrepreneur in her spare time, developed the curriculum, which teaches students basic concepts of business and marketing.

"Our children are taught academics, but they don't know anything about financial literacy," she said.

"Students need to know there are options.

"If I had known these things earlier, I wouldn't work two jobs."

Reservoir Principal Angela Seiders said the class is one of several enrichment courses the school offers at the beginning of the day.

"I wanted to get kids excited and enriched in the first 40 minutes of the morning," she said.

The classes serve two purposes: helping students see how their academic courses fit into non-academic settings and giving students a boost at the beginning of the day.

Eddie and classmate Brianna Colon said the entrepreneurship class reinforces the need for their core classes.

"There is money, so there's quite a lot of math," Eddie said.

"And there's English because you don't want to sound illiterate."

"You have to know social studies and even science if you want to come up with your own product," said 12-year-old Brianna.

The class also emphasizes deadlines, a staple in the work world.

Entertainment
Metromix
Life
Travel
Newspaper services
Site Services
HRTownSquare.com
HRVarsity.com
HRHealthBeat.com
HRTaste.com

"Usually with an assignment I do a little every so often," Brianna said. "Now I'm turning things in before deadline."

From the first day of class, Auburn challenged students to think like business owners selling their ideas and products.

"She made us get up in front of the class and introduce the products," Brianna said.

The class is divided into two groups. One group works as a team to develop a company and products, while the other functions as a series of single-owner companies working together.

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