

# Mission Viejo Community Financial Literacy Night

## Mission Viejo Elementary

### Aurora, CO



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

Mission Viejo Elementary held a Financial Literacy Night on May 5, 2022. The purpose was to promote and educate members of the community and school about the importance of personal financial literacy.

The event was spearheaded by one of the fourth-grade teachers. He had a positive “yes” from the principal and then had the help of many individuals from local businesses and individuals in the Cherry Creek School District. Mission Viejo’s PTCO and the Cherry Creek Schools Foundation were instrumental in the success of the event due to their generous donations.

The evening began with dinner for families, followed by introductions, announcements, and the keynote speaker. The keynote speaker is a huge advocate for financial literacy and provided a great message. The evening also had speakers including the President of Global Children Financial Literacy Foundation and an education director at Economic Literacy. The event was then split into breakout rooms. Each breakout room was led by a guest speaker with different financial information for the attendees to explore. There was also a student only breakout room, allowing past and present students to engage which provided a positive school climate for our school and community.

#### Mission Viejo Community Financial Literacy Night! May 5, 2022

##### Order of Events:

- 5:00-5:45—Dinner Catered by Tacos La Morentia
- 5:45-6:00—Transition to Gym
  - 6:00-6:20—Welcome & Keynote Speech: Mr. Ryan Harris
- 6:20-6:30—Transition to Breakout Session #1
- 6:30-7:00—Breakout Session #1
- 7:00-7:05—Transition to Breakout Session #2
- 7:05-7:35—Breakout Session #2
  - 7:35-7:45—Return to Gym
- 7:45-8:00—Closing Remarks & Door Prizes

#### Breakout Sessions:

##### *Financial Wellness*-Mandy Cakir-District Credit Union

In this session you will learn about the importance of budgeting and saving. We will look at how to create a budget, different savings account options, ways to save and much more!

##### *Investing Wisely*-Prince Dykes-G.C.F.L.F

In this session, you will explore how to get started investing in our current economy.

##### *Small Business & Entrepreneurship*-Steven Cartwright-Key Bank

In this session, you will find out what the basic steps are when you start a new business, as well as available resources to help get you started.

##### *Credit & Financing Options*-Jay LeBlanc-Econ Lit CO

In this session, you will discover how your credit score impacts your financial well-being. Additionally, you will gain an understanding of a variety of financing options.

##### *Preparing for Life After High School*-Charles Kastens

This session is designed for both students and parents. The purpose of this session is to stress the importance of building human capital and share some tips and strategies how to not only save for college, but complete it in a more affordable manner.

The practice was evaluated by the parents and students that attended (85) along with the 10 businesses that participated and set up booths for the evening. Like most events, the biggest challenge was getting the event recognized and advertised to achieve maximum attendance and to help all those involved.

The advice we would give to someone wishing to replicate the event is to know what your community is interested in and build an event around that. Include people that are knowledgeable and engaging in the topic surrounding the event. As one of our teachers stated, “No matter what our students grow up to be – a doctor, a teacher, a mechanic, or stay-at home mom – everybody has got to know how to manage their finances.”