WTNS Radio OSU Extension Update for April 15, 2024
Healthy People. Healthy Finances. Healthy Relationships.

On today's OSU Extension update for Healthy People, Healthy Finances, & Healthy Relationships we'll talk about financial literacy, and as always look at some upcoming programs from OSU Extension.

Next week I'll be heading back into our local schools to teach "Real Money. Real World." At OSU Extension, we've been offering this financial literacy program for a decade now, reaching almost 2,500 students here in Coshocton County.

In fact, when I talk with people about the kinds of programs I teach, this is the one that gets the most head nods. I'll often hear, "That's one of the most important things we can be teaching young people." And any of the more than 60 community volunteers will tell you they volunteer for the Spending Simulation Day because they want to show our young people they care about them, and they care about the way they manage their finances.

April is National Financial Literacy Month. This is a time to think about how we are helping our kids and grandkids relate to money. Financial literacy is partly learning the lingo but mostly learning wisdom and self-control. You may have heard some of the reports about a recent survey of Generation Z (now ages 12-27). Some respondents replied that filing taxes was stressful enough they would require therapy. I take this with a grain of salt, because the survey was conducted by "Cash App Taxes." I may question the validity their survey tool.

However, in an article about the survey, a financial director is quoted as saying, "They don't learn this in school." The thing is, they do. We learn a lot in school that honestly means nothing to us until we need to use it. Learning about how to file taxes as a 15-year-old doesn't seem that important at the time. Yet, it is still important to teach them because it increases their capacity for financial wellness in being familiar with the concepts and vocabulary.

The intent is not to create future certified financial planners. It is to get them comfortable talking about money. Depending on their ages, this might mean showing them how much the monthly household bills are. Do your kids know your household budget for your mortgage/rent, utilities, car payments, insurance, phone plan, and healthcare expenses? Do you talk about saving money for specific goals? What about how you make decisions on where to spend money? Talking with

our kids about these things as we walk through every day life is the best way for them to become familiar and comfortable with financial topics. There are many useful resources out there to help us have conversations with our kids.

Next Gen Personal Finance is an amazing resource. This is designed for classroom teachers, but there are plenty of opportunities to use materials at home. There are games and short videos at ngpf.org, and one of my favorite sections has always been the Arcade. These video games are about all kinds of topics from budgeting to insurance, from cryptocurrency to credit. My favorite game will always be “Cat Insanity.”

One of my favorite little books is “The Index Card: Why Personal Finance Doesn't Have to Be Complicated” by Olen and Pollack. They offer some great advice on keeping financial goals simple. The focus is living within your means and making the most of wise and conservative investing strategies. It is a fantastic place to start some conversations with your older teen or young adult.

And now let’s see what else is new from OSU Extension. Coshocton County 4-H has opportunities for youth to learn, make connections, and have fun this summer! Cloverbud Camp is for youth ages 5 and in kindergarten through 8 and in second grade as of January 1. Cloverbud Camp will be June 8 at Lake Park from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. The theme is “Going on an Olympic Adventure!” Cost is free per participant which includes lunch and snack. Registration is due to the OSU Extension office by May 31. Thanks to the Coshocton County Youth Financial Support Committee for their sponsorship of this program.

4-H Junior Camp is July 5–9 at 4-H Camp Ohio. Junior Camp is for youth ages 8 and in the 3rd grade on January 1 through those in 7th grade on January 1. Camp creates an experience of a lifetime for the campers, including new learning experiences, friendships, skills, and fun. Cost for Junior Camp is $135 for all campers thanks to a generous donation from the Coshocton County Youth Financial Support Committee. For questions or further information, please contact OSU Extension or our website coshocton.osu.edu.

In closing, at OSU Extension, we are proud to work for Coshocton County to help educate and empower our families, farms, and businesses. Please feel free to contact OSU Extension for more information at 740-622-2265 or visit our website at coshocton.osu.edu. Happy Income Tax Day - make it a healthy day!