



JOSH MANDEL

STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

Treasurer talks to Bucyrus High School students
By Kimberly Gasuras | Telegraph-Forum

BUCYRUS — Ohio's chief financial officer, state Treasurer Josh Mandel, visited Bucyrus High School students enrolled in a financial literacy class.

Seven years ago, legislation was passed in Ohio that requires all students to take a financial education class, and this year's graduating class is the first to take the class.

"We were seeing young people coming out of college with too much debt or falling prey to predatory lenders. We want to educate people on the front end so they do not have financial trouble on the back end," Mandel said Wednesday morning.

Bucyrus seniors are enrolled in a financial literacy class that uses the EverFi computer program to educate the students about things like interest rates, use of credit cards and mortgages.

The program is part of the treasurer's Financial Edge Program.

"It's an interactive program that walks you through real-life situations. It's a fun way to learn what we need to know about finances when we are out on our own," said senior Levi Vermillion.

Vermillion's classmate, Haley VanVoorhis, said the program is a good opportunity for students to learn about finances.

"It teaches us about things we will need to know as adults about how to manage our finances," VanVoorhis said.

Brad Murtiff of First Federal Community Bank said the financial institution is sponsoring the EverFi program for Bucyrus, Colonel Crawford and Buckeye Central students.

"The mandate came down from the state that financial literacy is required for students before they graduate, but there was no financing of the program for schools. We thought this would be a great opportunity to help our local schools with a class that we feel is very important for their future," Murtiff said.

Mandel said it is his hope the program will give young people the tools they need to be financially healthy as adults.

"The more educated people are about finances, whether it's young people or adults, the better decisions they will make," Mandel said.