

Holiday Auction To Teach Students More Than Economics

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Tampa, Fla.

When third graders at Independent Day School - Corbett Campus (IDS-CC) gather on Friday morning, Dec. 19 for their annual auction, the classroom will be filled with all the excitement of Sotheby's in London or New York.

To the casual observer who will see students wiggling frantically in their chairs, waving makeshift paddles, it will seem as if a Monet original or a Barry Bonds record-breaking home run baseball is up for bid. Instead, the item causing the vigorous bidding will most probably be used candlesticks, a slightly worn paperback, costume jewelry, or fragrant soap — each a treasure in its own right because it will become a memorable holiday gift for a special family member.

While the money won't be real, the lessons in economics, mathematics, and individual responsibility will be. Third grade teachers Jeanne Rivera and Judy Sobel designed the auction to culminate students' efforts in earning classroom currency called "moola" throughout the first trimester.

"Our economics program is a real life simulation of earning, saving, and spending income," said Sobel. "It is a motivational system that rewards students for academic excellence and for being responsible third grade citizens."

Students receive compensation each Friday for completed homework, academic participation, classroom jobs, responsible behavior, and quality work. "Our goal is to incorporate math and economic standards into daily instruction, while familiarizing students with real world functions, such as keeping an accurate balance in a checkbook, and knowing how to fill in a check," said Rivera. "We also want to motivate students to be responsible producers and consumers, and encourage a positive attitude toward class work."

Both teachers agree that this approach to economics really empowers students and gives them the opportunity to be independent. They learn to work towards a goal by saving, so they can eventually spend their moola on things they really want for their family.

It's a real life experience that turns used games and trinkets into priceless gifts, and student success into an invaluable lesson.

Founded in 1968, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus (IDS-CC) is a fully accredited, independent school located in northwest Hillsborough County. It serves 500 plus students in grades Pre-K through 8. At IDS-CC, all children experience learning in a nurturing and highly academic environment focused on excellence and developing a positive self-concept. IDS-CC has become recognized as an exemplary school with over 1,200 visitors observing and learning from and with IDS-CC teachers. For more information about IDS visit <http://www.idsyas.com>.

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