



## Starting up a “classroom economy”

Dear [Administrator]:

I want to let you know about a new “classroom economy” program I’m introducing this year. It is a tool for teaching financial responsibility and other skills while supporting the regular curriculum.

The program creates an economic system in which students earn classroom currency they can use to pay classroom bills. They also can earn rewards. It will take relatively little of my teaching time, as it essentially runs itself after the start, with students acting as “auditors” and in other roles. The program will not interfere with the standard curriculum; in fact, it supports the coursework in several ways.

In addition, I can get most of the needed materials for free. The program is based on a system developed by volunteers at Vanguard, a major investment company, in partnership with Rafe Esquith, a widely recognized educator and author. They offer many materials for free download at **[myclassroomeconomy.org](http://myclassroomeconomy.org)**.

The program includes small monthly auctions, which serve as an incentive for students to manage their “dollars” wisely. (No real money is involved.) I am planning to reach out to local businesses and parents for donations of school supplies and other items to make the auctions fun.

I’m enthusiastic about this program because it will support our goals while engaging the students and helping them learn to perform tasks responsibly, delay gratification, and save for the future. I will be happy to answer any questions you have.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Teacher’s name]

[Teacher’s school]