

April 25, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write a letter in support of Junior Achievement North (JA), formerly Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest. As longtime partners of Junior Achievement, we at St. Cloud Area School District 742 have witnessed firsthand how committed JA is to empowering students with the skills and resources they need to take on the challenges of today and continue preparing for the future.

For nearly 30 years, St. Cloud Area School District 742 has chosen to partner with JA because their work promoting financial literacy and career readiness addresses a critical need in the community. Knowledge of career and financial management and soft skills such as teamwork, creative problem solving, and self-advocacy are integral to students' success in school, work, and beyond. Their programs provide students with unique opportunities to develop the skills and knowledge they will need to be successful in their education, career, and adult life.

During the 2021-2022 school year, many of our K-12 students had the opportunity to experience JA programs, where they explored different career pathways, learned about the important role education plays in future success, and participated in important lessons on financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and career readiness. We love being able to give our students access to these programs each year, and we hope and plan to continue to partner with JA for years to come, in a more equitable way through sequential elementary program delivery, JA BizTown and JA Finance Park capstone programs, and JA high school pathway programs.

I hope you will support JA's request that is working to bring equitable program access to students across our district. Your support can help ensure that all ISD 742 students grade 2 – 5 can access JA programs, ensuring that regardless of the school a student may attend they get the opportunity to learn through these impactful programs.

JA provides a unique opportunity for students to explore their talents and passions and together we are making a difference by preparing our future leaders to reach their full potential in school and beyond.

Sincerely,

Leah Sams

Ms. Leah Sams, Ed. S.

Director of Career and College Pathways and Career and Technical Education
St. Cloud Area School District 742