

**WHAT:** Students participating in the CONNECT Business Challenge will engage in a free after school program designed around the Junior Achievement It's my Business!® Blended curriculum. The program will culminate with students competing against other MCPS students by pitching their ideas at the 2019 CONNECT Business Challenge. This is an exciting new opportunity for students to experience the initial steps of a business startup while addressing a social problem in their local community. Please share widely with your school community.

**WHO:** 6th-8th grade MCPS students (high school students can get SSL hours)

**WHEN:** 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of this school year (six sessions minimum, nine sessions recommended).

**HOW CAN YOU HELP:** Please support this MCCPTA/MCPS initiative by disseminating the information to your local school communities and having your local PTAs encourage teacher sponsorship of the club and student participation. Please see the flyer for more details. We hope to have this program implemented in every MCPS middle school. While the program is under way, we will submit further notice regarding opportunities for community and family engagement.

As you know, all seventh graders in MCPS this year will explore a Junior Achievement curriculum in World Studies classes, culminating with a trip and business life simulations at the Finance Park hosted by Thomas Edison High School of Technology. Conceived as a continuation of the Finance Park financial literacy program, the CONNECT Business Challenge will give all interested MCPS middle school students further opportunities to relate course work with real world experience and build confidence in the process. Participants will learn the basics of entrepreneurship, increase motivation and forge a positive relationship with their community. MCCPTA is excited to work with MCPS, Junior Achievement and the Montgomery County Department of Recreation in providing this great learning opportunity for our students.

Thank you,

Nora Vacariu Webster and Erin Clegg  
MCCPTA Connect Business Challenge Committee Co-Chairs