

Idaho School Credit Union

MELANIE DAVIS, ICCU Branch Manager

Let's get everything open and we'll get ready for business. // Sweet.

SARAH HOWARD, Correspondent

This Idaho Central Credit Union branch isn't open eight to five. It's open 3rd, lunch, and 8th period.

That's because this branch is located inside Mountain View High School in Meridian, Idaho.

MELANIE DAVIS

Let's get open and ready for business. Sweet.

STUDENT

Here you go, Kelsey. // Thank you.

SARAH HOWARD

Credit Unions work like a bank. At the Mountain View branch, students and teachers can set up a checking account, deposit savings, apply for a loan, or just cash a check.

KELSEY NELSON, Senior, Mountain View High School

My name is Kelsey Nelson. I'm a teller at the Mountain View High School Credit Union Branch.

KELSEY NELSON and STUDENT

Did you want to put money in or take money out today? // Take money out. // Take money out? How much did you want to take out? // Twenty.

SHAUNA MURRY, Mountain View High School Career Counselor

At Mountain View High School we're a career academy high school.

KELSEY NELSON

You can sign it.

SHAUNA MURRY

We have eight majors that are business related and so we wanted to give them some sort of internship after they'd gone through some classes

SHAUNA MURRY

...and so we decided that that would be a good thing to bring into our school to teach kids about how to handle money.

KELSEY NELSON

Alright Patrick, here's your twenty dollars. // Thank you.

KELSEY NELSON

I just help kids or anyone who comes through - teachers, kids, students - do their deposits and withdrawals in their savings and checking accounts.

MELANIE DAVIS

The students, when they are here, are responsible to have their cash drawers out and counted, they are responsible to balance those cash drawers as they do transactions, deposits and withdrawals for other students that come during the lunch hour or during class time.

It's just been really nice to get to know everybody, get to know how many kids really have savings accounts already. Many of them do. However, many of them say, well my parents set it up and I don't know anything about it so, possibly by being here we can get the students to take a little more control and ownership of their money.

KELSEY NELSON

How many of you guys are saving for something right now?

SARAH HOWARD

Several times a week, the student tellers step out from behind their cash drawers to teach about managing money.

ELLEN BUCKLEY, Senior, Mountain View High School

We go into classrooms and we present about savings and credit and interest and also a little bit about credit cards.

So credit...does anyone know what credit is? // Credit is the ability to borrow money if you need it.

I think if you are financially literate and if you learn these things when you are at high school level you will be able to apply it to your life and so you can make better financial decisions.

KELSEY NELSON

Alright, you want one in your checking and you want to cash the other?

SHAUNA MURRY

Some people aren't comfortable with financial institutions because they don't understand how they work and they've never dealt with them before. To be in a high school and be a student in a high school and have a financial institution readily available run by your peers makes it more comfortable and accessible for them.

ELLEN BUCKLEY

So as you can see by the table on the hand-out we gave you, good credit means that you pay your minimum payment or more, pay on time, you never miss a payment, you stay within your credit limit and when you do this you can borrow money easier, you don't get any additional fees or penalties and you also get lower interest rates so you are saving money in the long run.

KELSEY NELSON

I've learned a lot just about credit and what good things help you throughout your life and just the basic knowledge of money and savings and all that.

SHAUNA MURRY

I think this is a great way for students to be involved instead of teachers telling them that, actual peers are telling them that.

SHAUNA MURRY

We may take it on the road and go down to the middle school and give them presentations, do it at the elementary school. There are no limits to what we can do with this program. We just have to have a vision and keep moving forward.

SARAH HOWARD

This is Sarah Howard with *the.News*.