

Students get reality check

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Susan Wagoner

High School students participated in Northeast Technology Center's (NTC) Reality Check Day Thursday at the Pryor campus.

Students were issued a career and number of children upon arriving.

"They are given a calculator and find out their circumstances," Academic Assistant Sue Wilcox said. The NTC Academic Resource Center participated in the event, providing computers and assistance with research and budget issues,

Students then traveled to the RCB Bank booth, where pretend accounts were opened and a check register issued.

A grocery store booth was also displayed to give information on food costs.

Deputies from the Mayes County Sheriff's Office were in attendance, adding to the reality check experience by stopping random students and issuing tickets.

If a ticket was given, the student had to visit the "Too Much to Lose" Prevention Center booth for help. They received information on programs for addiction and other issues or paid their fines at the booth, to be entered into their check register.

Pryor decided to have their own Reality Check after observing the Rogers County Reality Check last year at NTC—which was sponsored by Inola Learn and Serve, Family and Consumer Science teachers, Rogers County Youth Entrepreneurs, Rogers County Industrial Authority, and NTC.

Organizer Vicki Venable, NTC Specialist, said she had lots of help and great support in planning this event.

"I couldn't have done this without their help," she said.

Kathy Phillips with Inola Learn and Serve provided notebooks for the students and information from Yukon Public Schools related to their own Reality Check. Cathy Tysver, Inola compiled the information necessary for the students' career sheets. NTC—Pryor provided all of their campus facilities, lunch, and a staff member to work with the project.

Also assisting with the event were RCB Bank, Hope Coalition, Cherokee Nation, OSU Extension, Department of Human Services and Pryor High School Leadership Class under the direction of Evette Barham.

"Her students worked with Reality Check as one of their projects. They visited and called businesses and organizations asking for their participation," Venable said. "On the day of Reality Check, they worked as volunteers by operating booths, directing student traffic, and running errands for the participants."

Reality Check was funded through a grant from the Pryor School Foundation as a result of an application submitted by Barham.

Reality Check originated with federal School to Work grants which began in the 1990's, and an internet version is available to schools that subscribe to okcis.org Oklahoma Career Information System.