



Students get real life lessons

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AMSTERDAM, N.Y. -- Meet Cassandra Robataille. She's 10-years-old and is a student at the Barkley Magnet School in Amsterdam. Robataille is not just your typical fifth grader. She's actually the first female president of the United States.

"It actually is very exciting and plus it takes a lot of responsibility to actually help our citizens in society," said Robataille.

Robataille and other students at Barkley are involved in what they call a micro-society. Here, students take on roles as working citizens. It all part of a program offered twice a week at the school.

"Kids totally get it they totally understand this is like the real world," said Barkley Magnet School Coordinator Nancy Rad.

And like Robataille , 10-year-old Scott Bevins has also taken on an important role.



"I'm a manager at the warehouse and we get all the supplies from other distributions. There is one down the road in Kwanz Distribution Center," Bevins said.

It's all about bringing the real world into the classroom faculty. At Barkley, they say the micro-society helps students keep one step ahead by helping them prepare for real life situations.

"Well it takes what they learn in a regular classroom and they build on it to make it more valuable them. It makes them realize I need to know math because I need to keep a checkbook, I need to balance, I can't keep spending, spending, spending if I'm not earning, earning, earning and they see the value of that," said Rad.

"It actually gets you ready for the real world. It tells you and shows you what's gonna come at you" said Robataille.

But at the end of the day, Robataille says when she's not working to protect our country, she out doing what any typical kid her age will do.

"Probably going outside and jumping on a trampoline or practicing my gymnastics," Robataille said.