

Life in a MicroSociety

Talley students learn real-world skills

Students are in their own world at Talley Middle School—and it's a world they have created themselves. Students at Talley participate in the MicroSociety Program, a project that helps students prepare to become active, responsible citizens by encouraging them to create their own society within the context of the school. Talley students have elected a government, designed a currency, and are starting a variety of business ventures with the goal of preparing for the real world. Standards-based lessons are promoting academic achievement as MicroSociety is incorporated across the curriculum. Each student at Talley has been through an interview process to be hired by a MicroSociety venture. This process included filling out a job application, writing a cover letter

and creating a resume. Ongoing job evaluations will provide feedback on the achievement of MicroSociety's goals.

According to Jennifer Bishop, Talley's MicroSociety Coordinator, most students are excited about putting their business ventures together and opening the school's MicroSociety three days a week. The project is funded through a consolidated school reform grant, and Talley is the only school in Delaware to be participating in MicroSociety. The grant provides \$56,000 per year for three years.

More than 200 schools across the country have implemented MicroSociety in their schools. For more information, please contact Jennifer Bishop at 475-3976.