



Photo provided

Westview Elementary Principal Denise Kluck works with children in class. The school recently received \$500 worth of financial literacy books.

Financial literacy books on Westview shelves

BY MARIA ALLARD
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WARREN — Students who attend Westview Elementary School in the Fitzgerald Public Schools district are receiving a head start when it comes to personal financial matters.

That's because the school recently received \$500 in financial literacy books, courtesy of Extra Credit Union, which partnered with the Michigan JumpStart Coalition to bring the Money Smart Library Program to the school.

According to Extra Credit Union representatives, the program provides financial literacy library collections to some of Michigan's most financially challenged districts. Books about financial matters, including topics on managing money, budgeting and starting a business, are now available in the Westview media center.

"All Michigan youth should have access to personal financial education," Extra Credit Union Financial Manager Lois Gibbons said in a prepared statement. "The Money Smart Library will help young students develop the skills necessary to

become fiscally responsible."

"Our goal is to provide some personal education," said Margot Hamilton, Extra Credit Union marketing manager and Money Smart Library Program chairperson. "This was an opportunity to give back."

Hamilton said the Money Smart books are age-appropriate, and the books are not textbooks, but considered fun to read. Schools in the program receive anywhere from 60 to 80 books. The goal is to place Money Smart libraries in schools across the state.

Extra Credit Union is education-based and works with seven Macomb County districts, including Fitzgerald, Warren Woods, Center Line and Van Dyke. The credit union has nine student-run high school branches, three middle school branches and on-site day programs at 10 elementary schools where the students learn business skills, personal finance education and the ins and outs of a bank setting.

"We give them the basics and hope that they carry through," Hamilton said.

Extra Credit Union is located in Warren. For more information on school programs, call (586) 276-

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