Members of the Holyoke Future Business Leaders of America chapter recently joined forces with Rural AmeriTowne to teach the sixth graders, who are planning to attend Rural AmeriTowne in May, business ethics.

Rural AmeriTowne is a mock economy set up to give grade-schoolers hands-on business experience. Each participant will be interviewed and hired for a position. The kids then go through job training during sixth period every other day in Kristine Ham's class. Ham is the Holyoke Chapter Adviser.

They also learn personal finances, such as how to balance a checkbook, and how to write and deposit checks. On May 12 the kids will travel to Rural AmeriTowne in Wray.

A team of three FBLA members, Kendra Timm, Sydney Nelson and Chasity Pelle, used this opportunity to construct a project, American Enterprise, by taking part in the sixth grade class's learning experiences.

They have developed three lessons they plan to teach the students throughout the year. The team previously visited the classes and demonstrated the "Dos and Don'ts" of interviewing for a job. The class was amused by their mock interviews.

They started with a bad example: gum snapping, feet on the desk, inappropriate attire, etc. They then acted out a good example of an interview, and the kids could easily tell the difference between the two. The team then discussed what to expect when they visit Rural AmeriTowne.

The students were also challenged with an activity involving writing and depositing fake checks. Other plans include a lesson on business and electoral advertising. The kids will then be involved in an advertisement poster-making competition.

The three will review with the class before they attend Rural AmeriTowne by holding a "Knowledge Relay" in the new gym.

The FBLA chapter will interview the entire class to determine professions. Timm, Nelson, Pelle and Ham are planning to go to Rural AmeriTowne with them in May.

They are finishing their report and will attend the State Conference in Vail on April 20-22. They hope to make it to the National Conference this summer in Anaheim, Calif.