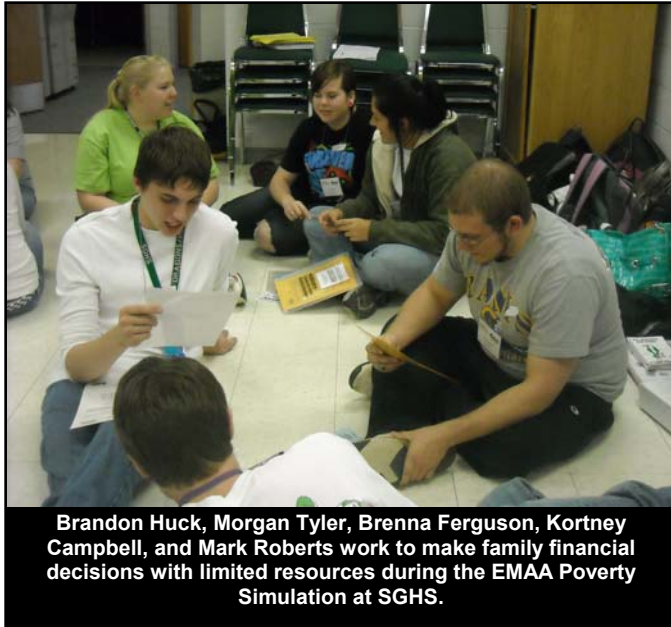


## Ste. Genevieve High School students participate in Poverty Simulation

On April 21, 2009, students at Ste. Genevieve High School had the opportunity to participate in a Poverty Simulation, sponsored by the East Missouri Action Agency (EMAA) and the SGHS Chapter of the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). The simulation provided students with an opportunity to learn how our economy works, specifically within the context of a family situation. Each student



was given a different role—some were children who were still in school, and others were parents with jobs working to stay afloat. Others were single parents who might have no job and no income at all. The students learned the importance of making sure household bills were paid on time, and provided students with valuable decision making and problem solving opportunities. Other activities the “families” participated in were applying for jobs and for assistance from public agencies when appropriate. At the end of the simulation, volunteers that helped participated in a debriefing to help the students understand what they had done successfully and what

they could do to improve their management skills. Students learned that pawning important items is seldom a wise financial management move; as well as the importance of getting a receipt when paying with cash. “Nobody asked for a receipt and we made sure to charge some of you more than once, and we also gave incorrect change regularly—nobody noticed,” said one volunteer.

Another benefit of the activity was the increased awareness that students gained about the support available for families. “A lot of real-life people live below the poverty line and need help,” said Katrina Brown, FCCLA member. “Everyone needs help at one point or another and if you don’t ask for help you won’t get any.”

“Although we enjoyed the activity and had fun, we came away with a better understanding about managing both time and money, as well as sources of help for families, said Brown.

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a dynamic and effective national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through Family and Consumer Sciences Education. One of the organization’s national programs, Financial

Fitness, focuses improving the financial management skills of student members and their families. FCCLA has more than 220,000 members and nearly 7,000 chapters from 50 state associations and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The organization has involved more than ten million youth since its founding in 1945.

FCCLA: The Ultimate Leadership Experience is unique among youth organizations because its programs are planned and run by members. It is the only career and technical in-school student organization with the family as its central focus.

Participation in national programs and chapter activities helps members become strong leaders in their families, careers, and communities. For more information, visit [www.fcclainc.org](http://www.fcclainc.org).



Kelsie Noll, Tessa Brown, Jacob Gettinger and Brenna Ferguson work together during EMAA's Poverty Simulation at SGHS.