

December 1, 2025

Hello Walter T. Bergen Families,

We are thrilled to share that this year's **TREP\$ Program** is gearing up to launch in the new year! The Bloomingdale PTA is proud to once again offer this award-winning entrepreneurship program to all Walter T. Bergen students, empowering them with the skills and confidence to become young enTREPreneurs.

TREPS has become a beloved tradition among both students and parents. Over the past few years, more than 100 WTB students have proudly showcased their creativity, innovation, and business savvy. Students love the independence the program offers, while parents appreciate the responsibility, professionalism, and positive character traits it reinforces. TREP\$ gives students the unique opportunity to take an idea and transform it into a real business in a real-world setting.

The TREP\$ Program begins **Wednesday, January 14th** and consists of **six after-school workshops**, a Marketplace event, and independent time at home to develop their products or services.

- **5th & 6th grade students** are required to attend the workshops and pay a **\$35 fee**, which includes a TREP\$ workbook.
- **7th & 8th grade students** who have *previously* completed the workshops may skip them and pay a **\$15 fee**.
- Any **7th or 8th grader participating for the first time** must take the workshops and pay the **\$35 fee**.

During the workshops, students participate in hands-on activities covering product development, finance, marketing, research, merchandising, advertising, and salesmanship. They will take full ownership of their ideas and learn what it takes to bring a business to life. Workshops run from **3:30–4:45 PM**, and students are welcome to bring a snack to enjoy beforehand in the cafeteria.

The program culminates with the highly anticipated **TREP\$ Marketplace**—a lively event where students become vendors, set up their displays, and sell their products or services to real customers for real money. The Walter T. Bergen gym will be transformed into a bustling marketplace open to families, friends, and the entire community. This year's Marketplace will be held on **Friday, March 20th**.

As many say, self-esteem can't be given—it must be earned. TREP\$ provides a space where students can gain confidence, resilience, and real-life skills through hard work and commitment. They will learn that passion and perseverance are key ingredients for success. Your guidance plays a vital role as well, and we encourage parents to support the learning experience by having students pay for their own supplies or repay any loans used to fund their business.

A **kickoff meeting** for all 5th, 6th, and *new* 7th and 8th grade students will take place on **Wednesday, December 3rd** with PTA Committee Chairs, Biljana Angjushev and Melissa Bressette. Students will receive registration forms and a full workshop schedule during this meeting. Registration is also available online at www.bloomingdalepta.org/treps.

All registration forms and payments are due by Tuesday, December 23rd. This is a firm deadline, and late registrations cannot be accepted. Checks should be made payable to **“Bloomingdale PTA.”**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at bloomingdaletreps@gmail.com. You may also visit our website for additional information. We encourage families to explore www.TREPSed.com to learn more about this incredible program and read testimonials from students, parents, and educators.

We cannot wait to see what our young entrepreneurs will create this year!