

Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Assabet Valley Sophomores Get Reality Check

Area. Learning to stretch a paycheck to cover all of life's essentials and some occasional discretionary spending is a feat that often baffles adults, but the Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School recently held a Reality Check event to give their sophomores a running start. Sponsored by the Marlborough Rotary, Patriot Ambulance, Marlborough Regional Chamber of Commerce and the school, students had a chance to pick a career, get a monthly "paycheck" and then visit booths staffed by community volunteers in various categories representing typical life expenses. Spinning the wheel of fortune/misfortune was quite a hit, even though luck could go both ways, resulting in both financial gain and loss. Students were quick to obtain housing and transportation, and surprisingly held off on travel, pets and gym memberships until they could see how their money was holding out. Asked if she learned anything, Ashley Miller, a student from Maynard, quickly answered, "Yes, life is hard. I don't know how my parents do this each month! I have a new appreciation for them."

Tagline: Coleen Baldelli, a hair stylist at Great Lengths in Marlborough, volunteered at the recent Reality Check at Assabet Valley, and is pictured with students Paige Scott, Berlin, and Lisa Tavares, from Hudson, as they try to fit salon services and manicures into their monthly budget.