

FBLA helps students hone business skills

By Ryan R.

The Jolly Roger

Do you dream of a career in business? Maybe you want to apply those business-savvy lessons from class in a real-world setting. Either way, Jack Britt's FBLA may be the club for you. The FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) meets after-school for students enrolled in business courses. According to FBLA adviser Deann Hodges, a student must have passed three business courses and attend Leadership Conferences to join.

Joining, Hodges said, isn't the goal of the club. "The main goal is to train future business leaders to be contributing members of society and help them gain a competitive edge for college and career success."

The FBLA club at Jack Britt attracts a small yet active group of students, usually boasting between five and fifteen members. Participants interactively plan group activities, attend conferences and meet new people. The club founded its chapter when the school opened ten years ago, and in that decade the club achieved several accomplishments.

Each year, the FBLA participates in the Angel Tree at the mall--a community service project. As for competitions, a few members placed in regionals and the state level. However, there are a few fundamental fees. "There are dues of \$20 which cover national, state and local dues. There are additional expenses when attending conferences for food, lodging and registration," said Mrs. Hodges. The club is also involved in fund-raising in order to offset the cost of competition.

Expenses, though, are nothing compared to what a member of the FBLA can potentially achieve. "There are a couple of scholarships that can be applied for and also scholarships that are awarded at the state level for placing 1st in certain competitions," said Mrs. Hodges. Usually, a few students each year make it to the state level.

Members meet Thursdays at 3:35 p.m. in A105. The FBLA meetings and competitions have a year-long agenda.