Moneythink’s Purpose

Most of us are aware that kids living in the urban St. Louis area, along with countless kids in urban areas just about everywhere, are suffering from inadequate primary and secondary education.  What you might not know is that on average, a striking fraction of urban high school students, between 20 and 50 percent, do not graduate, and those who do graduate usually leave school with poor skills in important academic subjects such as reading and mathematics, making them poorly prepared to be successful as independent adults or as college students.

Moreover, these urban high schoolers, along with their more fortunate and advantaged suburban counterparts, leave high school with only a very basic understanding of money and personal finance.  Although the state of Missouri requires all high school students to take a Personal Finance course, the combination of the course’s wide-sweeping curriculum (see <http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/Personal_Finance_Competencies.pdf>) and its focus on preparing students to pass a state-required personal finance exam does not leave enough time or room for students to develop a deep understanding of the highly important concepts of investment management and finance.  It takes particularly motivated people to reach out to these disadvantaged students and give them the personal attention and in-depth instruction that they need to obtain useful financial literacy skills and financial knowledge.

As highly motivated Wash U students of finance, economics, and the like, we have formed a chapter of American Investment Fellows in order to boldly provide local high school students with especially useful financial literacy, knowledge, and experience.  We will use fun and engaging investment clubs to give students an unmatched opportunity to develop the real-world financial, analytical, and leadership skills they need to succeed.