



Photos and story by Sheila Blankenship

Brian McCann, left, rehearses hosting the game show "Who Wants to be a Non-Smoker?" with players Ruby Garcia and Allisa Davis for their class video on the costs and risks of smoking. The project features news broadcasts as well as the game show to help younger students decide to never start smoking.

Jamie Hill's sixth grade math students are learning not to smoke while they learn math skills in a new class segment that has her students excited about their classwork.

Students are putting math to work as they figure costs of smoking with the help of slide calculators provided by Rodney Burd, director of the Center of Awareness and Preventive Education in Sunray, Tex. and Larry Burd, Ph.D., director of the North Dakota fetal alcohol syndrome Center in Grand Forks, N.D.

The card calculators show students how smoking just one cigarette a day or taking one dip of smokeless tobacco a day affects their life expectancy and their pocketbook.

The calculator shows that if a person smokes 14 cigarettes each day, the habit will cost them \$63,857 over their lifetime at \$5 a pack. More importantly, the calculator also shows that 14 cigarettes a day will cost five years of life.

Students are also using computer skills to graph the data and are sharing the facts they learn in a video for younger students.

Students as newscasters quote frightening facts including, "One-half of all smokers started by age 13."

The sixth graders have put a great deal of energy into the lessons that they will hopefully remember when someone offers them a cigarette.