Sarah Park, 11/5/14, Sect. 2

**Economic Mysteries**

**Part A: Mystery #12 Why is the School Lunchroom always Dirty? :**

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| Handy Dandy Guide (Economic Principles used to solve the Mystery)1. People choose to do the things they think are best for them.
2. People’s choices have costs.
3. People choose to do things for which they are rewarded.
4. People create rules that affect our choices and how we act.
5. People gain when they freely decide to trade with one another.
6. People’s choices today have future results.
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| True False Questions (Clue/cues to solving the mystery – type out and answer): | The school cooks and custodians like it when the students mess up the cafeteria. (F)The rules in the school say that the students should leave the lunchroom a mess. (F)People tend to take better care of things they own. They benefit when they take care of the things they own. (T)The students own the school lunchroom. (F)Students and their parents own their dining rooms at home. (T)  |
| Solution to the Mystery (Use relevant Economic Vocabulary – see Principles and handouts): | The students choose to clean up their messes at their houses because rules are implemented and because those are things and places that belong to them. It is best for them to clean up their mess at home because that is the environment they have to live in (1). Because the student’s choices have costs, more rules should be implemented in the school lunchroom (2). Those rules would change the way the students act in the lunchroom (4). The students do not feel any reward for cleaning up the lunchroom so they don’t do it (3).  |

**Part B: Write and Solve your own Economic Mystery**

**Title of your own mystery:**

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| Your original economic mystery scenario: | Sarah lives in Spring Lake, Michigan and babysits very often. Because of her busy babysitting schedule, especially in the summer, she enjoys sleeping in whenever she can. Sarah has to drive many children around which is one of costs that go along with babysitting so she usually charges at least $10 an hour. One family asked Sarah if they would be willing to drive their daughter Izzy to her swimming lessons every morning at 8 o clock for a week. This particular family was busy having garage sales in the morning and could not drop her off. This would require Sarah to get up much earlier then she would have wanted and require a lot of extra driving. Also, the family was not willing to pay the $10 an hour but instead said that Sarah could have one of the pieces of furniture that they were selling their garage sale. Sarah wanted the piece of furniture for her apartment and considered the job a trade.  |
| Focus Question: | Why would Sarah go through the hassle of waking up early every morning to bring the girl to her swimming lesson? What is her final decision? |
| True False Questions (Clue/cues to solving the mystery – create your own **and answer**): | Sarah does not care about making money. (F)Sarah sleeps in only because she is lazy. (F) One of the reasons Sarah charges $10 an hour is because of the additional costs like driving that go along with the job (T). Sarah is happy to get up at 8 o clock in the morning (F).  |
| Solution to the Mystery (Use relevant Economic Vocabulary – see Principles and handouts): | Sarah wants to make a choice that is best for her financially (1). The cost of waking up is going to leave her very tired and the cost of the additional driving is going to require her to buy more gas then before however, she feels rewarded because she feels she gained more then she lost (2). She was benefited because she made a trade that left her with a piece of furniture that she would have needed regardless and the family was benefited because they didn’t have to pay out of pocket and a service was done for them (5). Sarah is happy because she made a choice that had a positive incentive that left her and the other family happy because they got rid of something they didn’t need (3).  |