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## Franklin latest school to get its own bank branch

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Posted: Thursday, November 12, 2015 12:00 am

By Scott Stewart  
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Brady Jorgensen accepted his classmate's \$15 and proceeded to look up a prize sheet.

"You get a Money Smart Week pencil and a pencil-top eraser," he said.

With that transaction Wednesday morning – officially recorded a little while later when account books were available – Franklin Elementary School opened its Jr. Jackets branch of TS Bank, the latest Council Bluffs Community School District building to offer banking services to its students.

During a ribbon-cutting ceremony a few minutes earlier, Council Bluffs Mayor Matt Walsh said he's always believed students should be taught two skills in school – car maintenance and financial management – that would "go a long way to be successful" later in life.

"Thanks to TS Bank for taking this initiative to do that second thing," Walsh said.

Earlier this fall, TS Bank opened a branch at Wilson Middle School to create what it believes is among the first K-12 banking programs in the county. Students at Wilson can have banking experiences at Rue, and now Franklin, and they can go on to further their participation

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Staff photo/Joe Shearer

Cece Silba, branch manager at the 3201 W Broadway TS Bank, third from right, assists Franklin Elementary School fourth-grader Brady Jorgensen, center, in taking the first-ever transaction at the newly-opened TS Bank Jr. Jacket Branch inside the school Wednesday.



at Thomas Jefferson High School.

Veridian Credit Union, which was represented at Wednesday's ceremony, will open a branch at Roosevelt Elementary School this winter, adding a third bank branch at a Wilson and a T.J. feeder school. Students at Bloomer and Hoover elementary schools – which feed into Kim Middle School and Abraham Lincoln High School – have bank branches from U.S. Bank.

Franklin third-grade teacher Chase Piper said students were excited for the chance to make deposits and learn

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about saving with the new bank branch.

"It is an opportunity that TS Bank is bringing to our children at Franklin," he said, and students gathered at the school's library quickly showed their excitement when asked if they wanted to cut the ribbon.

Bob Mantell, director of the TS Bank Institute, said it has been a thrill to partner with the school.

"It's a great opportunity for us to continue to promote financial education," he said. "We have a long-term vision and desire for this program to reach far beyond state lines and really make this a nationwide initiative."

For Brady, though, the new branch a chance to learn how to resist the allure of candy and toy vending machine.

"Usually, when I have a quarter, I would spend it on one of those," he said.

When he interviewed to be a bank teller at Franklin, he was among the most confident students, the fourth grader said in a matter-of-fact manner.

"I had to fill out an application and then a week later they pulled me into an interview," Brady said. "The next week, they had three people from all the fourth grades, and I was one of them."

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