

# CORE ESSENTIALS



## TEACH YOUR CHILDREN TO SAVE

Teaching children the fundamentals of money and money management can be a difficult undertaking. How young is “too young” to begin learning and which concepts are appropriate for each age to learn? Some experts say kids as young as 2-3 years can learn to identify coins and how to count them. Below, we’ve highlighted a few steps you can take to help your child build a strong foundation with money concepts that will serve them their whole life.

### 1. DISCUSS THE MEANING OF MONEY

When they’re old enough to understand, talk to your child about wants vs. needs and help them recognize that money comes from working. Some experts recommend not giving them an allowance, but having them earn a commission instead.

### 2. ESTABLISH SAVINGS GOALS

Find ways to involve your kids in their money decisions. Ask them what they want to save for and help them set savings goals. Go over the monetary value of what they’re saving for and how long it would take them to save with the amount of money they earn.

### 3. HELP TRACK SPENDING

Teach them that tracking their spending helps them learn

where their money is going, how much money they have in total and where they are with their savings goal(s).

### 4. LEAD BY EXAMPLE

If you practice healthy money habits, your children are more likely to follow suit. Talk them through your process as you save and budget. Saving as a family is a great approach for children to learn the value of money and that it takes effort to have nice things.

### ABOUT THE WISE KIDS SAVINGS CLUB

With their money knowledge, your children will need somewhere to hold all of their savings! Soon, our Youth Savings Account will become the Wise Kids Savings Club for kids ages 0-12 years old.

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## TIDY UP YOUR RECORDS

Prevent dumpster divers from getting their hands on your sensitive information by securely shredding papers containing confidential information. It only takes seconds to shred documents with your social security number, credit card information or old account statements, but it can take months or even years to clear your record once scammers set up fraudulent accounts in your name.

Join us for an opportunity to safely dispose of your sensitive information. Shred-It will provide on-site document destruction at the Lafayette and Iberia branches, and there will be secure bins in the lobbies of our Acadia and Carencro branches. This event is a first come, first served basis and will run during the scheduled time or until the shredding truck reaches capacity.

Shredding is limited to three boxes/bags of paper documents per vehicle. Please do not include electronics, CDs, plastics or other non-paper items. Drive-thru service will be rescheduled in the event of inclement weather.

### SPRING SHRED DAY SCHEDULE

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>Thursday, April 15, 2021</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>1:00 pm - 4:00 pm</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Lafayette Branch   515 Guilbeau Road</b> (Drive-Thru Service)
	<b>Acadia Branch   331 Odd Fellows Road</b> (Secure Bins in Lobby)
	<b>Carencro Branch   724 Veterans Drive</b> (Secure Bins in Lobby)
	<b>Iberia Branch   1101 Parkview Drive</b> (Drive-Thru Service)

**For the health and safety of our staff and participants, please remain in your vehicle at drive-thru sites.**

## GET VISA GIFT CARDS FOR YOUR GRADUATES

Before you know it, the class of 2021 will be on their way to a new chapter in life. Give your graduate the gift of versatility with a Visa Gift Card. When you buy from us, it's just \$2 to activate and it can be used anywhere Visa Credit Cards are accepted. What better way to let them know you care than to buy them a cup of coffee for late night studying or a lunch with friends between classes?

## Notes

Visit our website and social media channels in May as we celebrate National "Share a Story" month.

You can win cash just by sharing how the credit union has helped you on your financial journey!

## SPRING CLEAN YOUR DEBT

Your house may not be the only area that needs decluttering.

Refinancing could be the right choice if your current loan rate is higher than the credit union rate. By switching your loan over to the credit union you could reduce your term, rate and/or monthly note (Pro-tip: Flip to the last page of our newsletter to see our current rates). During the refinancing process, we essentially pay off your current loan and replace it with an entirely new loan. Of course the best reason for doing this is to reduce your monthly note and save significantly on interest over the term of your loan.

Longtime member Shelley L. shares her story refinancing with the credit union: "I was looking to lower my car note and my member relations officer told me about the credit union's interest rates and how low they were. Since I am a member, I decided to see what they had to offer. The process of refinancing my car was quick and easy. I did not have to go into the branch; the paperwork was done over the phone and by email. I'm now saving \$75 a month on my car note and would absolutely recommend other members to refinance their loans here too."



# EARN IT. KEEP IT. GROW IT WITH A MOMENTUM ACCOUNT.

Through the Bank On Acadiana program, residents will have access to support including affordable low-to-no cost checking accounts regardless of their checking history, resources to credit counseling, pathways to homeownership, and money management skill training.

Bank On Acadiana is based on successful Bank On programs throughout the country, including several in the state of Louisiana.

At the press conference announcing this initiative, United Way of Acadiana President and CEO, Carlee Alm-LaBar, stated, "Financial security for our community is now more important than ever. Many of our residents are facing financial insecurities, some for the first time, due to job losses, illnesses, and the general impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are excited to launch this program in our community. It will offer a hand up that many of our residents need now to take their next step toward financial stability." We could not agree more.

Effective April 1, 2021, our Freedom Checking account will be called Momentum Checking. Below is a list of changes you can expect:

- » \$15 monthly maintenance fee will be waived with aggregate monthly direct deposits of \$200.00 or more
- » Courtesy pay option for overdrafts will be discontinued for this account; however overdraft protection from savings is still available.
- » The waiting period for upgrade to Free Kasasa Rewards Checking has been reduced from 12 to 6 months
- » Upgrade qualifiers – Must still complete online financial courses
- » No more than 12 return items in 12 months changes to no more than 6 in 6 months

Our mission is to give our members an opportunity to start fresh (or begin for the first time), and positively manage a checking account so they can enjoy our awesome rewards.

## NEWS & EVENTS

### **JOSH DUNCAN**

Josh has joined our team as our new Vice President of Lending. He hails from Mississippi and loves the Saints.



### **CHRISTINA SIMPSON**

Christina is our new Branch Manager in Crowley. She enjoys a good laugh, so be sure to tell her your best joke on your next visit!



### **ALEXANDRA TURNER**

Alexandra is a graduate of UL at Monroe and is one of our newest faces on the Teller line in Crowley.



### **LORI WELCH**

Lori is a video gamer and a reader in addition to joining our team as a Teller in the Crowley branch.



### **FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY**

Congratulations to Class #41 Graduates on their completion of Financial Peace University!





## SAVE TIME AND MONEY ON YOUR NEXT CAR

Whether you're buying your first car or simply looking for an upgrade, Meritus Credit Union has you covered with auto loan rates as low as 3.29% APR<sup>\*\*</sup>. Call us or visit a branch to secure your financing before you even set foot on the lot!

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(continued from front cover)

The account will offer competitive dividends on balances of \$100 or more with no monthly service charge and no minimum balance requirements. At opening, each child will receive a deposit tracking booklet and a welcome packet. Other benefits will include rewards for good grades, free coin machine visits and rewards for saving. Learn more about the Wise Kids Savings Club at [merituscu.net/wisekids](http://merituscu.net/wisekids).

### FEATURED SAVINGS & LOAN RATES

#### SHARE CERTIFICATES

**0.80%**

UP TO 0.80% APY\*  
FOR 36 MONTHS

#### KASASA CASH

**3.00%**

3.00% APY\* ON BALANCES  
UP TO & INCLUDING \$15,000

#### HOME EQUITY (HELOC)

**4.00%**

AS LOW AS 4.00% APR\*\*  
FOR 120 MONTHS

For more information about all of our rates and loan products, contact us today at 866.989.2800 or [merituscu.net](http://merituscu.net).

\*Annual Percentage Yields (APY) are quoted and declared by the board of directors and are subject to change. Dividends are posted and compounded according to the terms of the certificate agreement. Fees may reduce earnings on your account. All rates as of 2/23/2021. Visit [merituscu.net](http://merituscu.net) for current rates. <sup>1</sup>Average daily balances up to and including \$15,000 receive an APY of 3.00%. Average daily balances over \$15,000 earn a dividend rate of 0.24% on the portion of the average daily balance over \$15,000, resulting in a range from 3.00% to 0.61% APY depending on the account's average daily balance. When linked to a Kasasa Saver account, the dividends earned within the Kasasa Cash account do not compound since it, along with any nationwide ATM withdrawal fee reimbursements are, automatically transferred to the Kasasa Saver account within one day. This automatic transfer may cause an overdraft to your Kasasa Cash account, if the account balance is less than the transferred amount when the transfer occurs. Membership restrictions may apply. Account approval, conditions, qualifications, limits, timeframes, enrollments, log-ons and other requirements apply. Qualifications and rewards may vary by account. \$25 minimum deposit is required to open the account. Enrollment in electronic services (e.g. online banking, e-statements) and log-ons may be required to meet some of Kasasa Saver's linked Kasasa Cash, Kasasa Cash Back or Kasasa Tunes account's qualifications. Limit of one (1) account(s) per social security number. There are no recurring monthly maintenance charges or fees to open or close this account. A linked Kasasa Saver account is required for automatic savings. Contact one of our credit union service representatives for additional information, details, restrictions, reward calculations, processing limitations, cycle dates and enrollment instructions. Federally insured by NCUA. Your Savings Insured To \$250,000 Per Account. <sup>2</sup>Loans are available to creditworthy members for as low as the Annual Percentage Rates (APR) quoted. Listed APRs assume excellent credit rating. Minimum and maximum loan amounts or credit limits apply. Your APR may differ based on your loan amount, repayment method, and other factors. Rates are subject to change. Meritus Credit Union is an Equal Housing Lender.

## CONNECT

### LAFAYETTE BRANCH

515 Guilbeau Road | Lafayette, LA 70506

#### Lobby

Monday - Friday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

#### Drive-Thru

Monday - Thursday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Friday & LPSS Paydays | 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

#### Contact Numbers

Phone 337.989.2800 | Fax 337.989.2816  
Toll Free 866.989.2800

### CARENCRO BRANCH

724 Veterans Drive | Carencro, LA 70520

#### Lobby

Monday - Friday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

#### Drive-Thru

Monday - Thursday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Friday & LPSS Paydays | 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

#### Contact Numbers

Phone 337.896.2900 | Fax 337.896.9200

### ACADIA BRANCH

331 Odd Fellows Road | Crowley, LA 70526

#### Lobby

Monday - Friday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

#### Drive-Thru

Monday - Thursday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Friday & APSB Paydays | 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

#### Contact Numbers

Phone 337.785.0810 | Fax 337.785.0201

### IBERIA BRANCH

1101 Parkview Drive | New Iberia, LA 70563

#### Lobby

Monday - Friday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

#### Drive-Thru

Monday - Thursday | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Friday & IPSB Paydays | 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

#### Contact Numbers

Phone 337.335.1100 | Fax 337.335.1103

### BONJOUR TELEPHONE BANKING

800.291.3867

### ONLINE & MOBILE BANKING

[www.merituscu.net](http://www.merituscu.net)

### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Friday, April 2 - Good Friday / Easter  
Monday, May 31 - Memorial Day  
Monday, July 5 - Independence Day (observed)



Federally insured  
by the NCUA



Equal Housing  
Lender



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