

To invest or not to invest, that is the question Norwalk High grad starts Web site for young investors

NORWALK

By STEVE KOBAK

Hour Staff Writer

At the age of 10, Christopher Sacchinelli's eagerness to learn about economics and make investments prompted a financial adviser to tell him that he'd be a multimillionaire by his mid-30s.

While the dire state of the financial market has impacted that prediction, Sacchinelli, a 19-year-old Norwalk High School graduate, retains his passion for investing and has started programs to help educate other young investors.

"Kids think they are unable to invest because of age," he said. "But the younger you are, the more time is on your side when you invest."

Sacchinelli, a sophomore at the University of Tampa, recently started the Successful Young Investor Network — a social networking site for entrepreneurs under 30 years old. In the first month of its existence, the Web site boasts 266 members.

The Norwalk High grad launched the site to promote "financial literacy" among teens and twenty-somethings. He wants the site to become "a university of thought," wherein young investors give each other advice and share information.

"We are looking for individuals who have the drive to do better financially but lack the opportunity to do so," he said. "We want to give them the opportunity to capitalize on their drive."

Sacchinelli's interest in finance extends into a host of projects beyond the Web site. The 19-year-old is chairman of a holding company and the Young Billionaires Club, a business advice group for young adults. He hosts a weekly radio show about investing on 1080 AM in Tampa, Fla., Sundays at 8

see NHS, [A4](#)

[See NHS on Page A04](#)

NHS grad starts Web site for young investors

From A3

p.m.

Nick Sacchinelli, Christopher's father and a technology teacher at NHS, said his son taught him a thing or two about finance and exhibits a desire to teach others about economics.

"I'm learning quite a bit as I speak to him," he said. "He has a plan. He's very different from a lot of young people you see today."

Sacchinelli's interest in economics began showing an early age. Whereas other children his age performed chores to earn money for toys, Sacchinelli mowed lawns and worked other odd jobs for his neighbors to procure money for investments.

"The fact that I could build wealth over time got me excited," Sacchinelli said.

He made his first investment at age 10, putting money in a mutual fund with the help of his parents. He also dabbled in simulated Internet stock trading to get a feel for the stock market.

"I took him to speak with a financial consultant when he was 10 or 11 years old. He spoke with her for close to two hours," said Nick Sacchinelli. "She wanted him to invest in Disney stocks, but he was beyond that."

In middle school, he sold candy out of his locker and in high school, he purchased clothing, pocketbooks and other items on Canal Street in New York City and sold them for a profit.

While he won't put a dollar amount on his profits from nearly a decade of investing, he said he earned a "13 to 15 percent" return on his investments.

Despite his success, Sacchinelli said his interest in finance goes beyond making a quick buck and his ultimate goal is to teach people his age about economics.

"I'm not concerned with being a billionaire," he said. "If I could create opportunities for other through my actions, I'd be successful."

Powered by [TECNAVIA](#)

Copyright © 2009 The Hour Publishing Co. 04/18/2009