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# Charter school promotes business sense

By The Associated Press

## CLEVELAND

Students will learn how to write a business plan and evaluate the bottom line at a charter school opening Aug. 23 under the leadership of an entrepreneur who wants to instill business sense in young people.

John Zitzner hopes to have a class of 125 sixth-graders with high expectations to inaugurate the Entrepreneurship Preparatory School in Cleveland.

"I'm going to shake each student's hand and tell them they're going to college," Zitzner said. "That's what they're going to hear for seven years."

The taxpayer-supported charter school will be an outgrowth of the E City afterschool and summer program that Zitzner founded after he

sold his software company in 1998.

Zitzner hopes to expand on the Entrepreneurship Prep idea.

"By the time I'm 94 years old like my father, we're going to have 12 of these," he said.

To encourage a business spirit, students must learn how to handle money, have a bank account, understand income statements, gross profit and return on investment, develop a business plan with an eye toward individual enterprise, practice professional manners and make a presentation before a group.

One of E City's participants, Crystal Ramos, a senior at Cleveland's Success Tech, was named a 2004 National Young Entrepreneur of the Year in a competition by the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship.