

Character Education

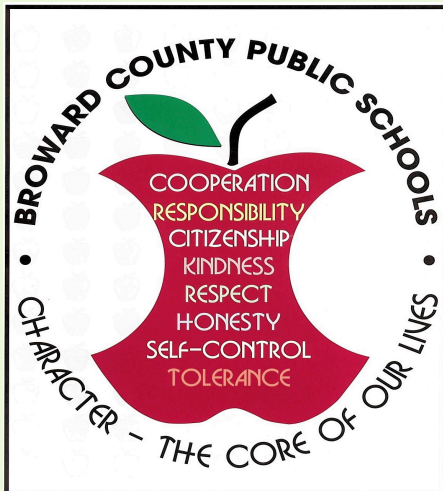
*Suggested Activities
High*



April

Tolerance

Prevention Calendar April 2017



Inside this issue you will find:

- Alignment to Prevention Calendar.
- A variety of lessons and activities for all grade levels.
- Links to multiple additional resources and helpful websites.
- Social Emotional and Learning alignment.

Monthly Observances:

- [National Child Abuse Prevention](#)
- [National STD Awareness](#)
- [Prevention of Animal Cruelty](#)
- [Stress Awareness](#)
- [Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention](#)
- [Genocide Awareness](#)

Weekly Observances:

- [National Public Health Week](#), April 3rd – 9th
- [National Youth Violence Prevention Week](#), April 3rd – 7th

Day Observances:

- April 5 – [National D.A.R.E. Day](#)
- April 7 – [World Health Day](#)
- April 21 – [National Day of Silence](#)
- April 22 – [Earth Day](#)
- April 24 – [National Healthy Schools Day](#)



DEFINITIONS & QUOTATIONS

DEFINITIONS

Ideas on How to Use:

- Post character trait & definition around the school campus.
- Teachers use definitions to help students understand the meaning of the character development trait.

“Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world’s cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human.” – Unesco Declaration of Principles on Tolerance

Definitions:

- Recognizing and respecting differences, values and beliefs of other people.
- The act of tolerating something
- A disposition to allow freedom of choice and behavior
- Willingness to accept feelings, habits, or belief that are different from your own
- Sympathy for or acceptance of feelings, habits, or beliefs that are different from one’s own
- A fair, objective, and permissive attitude toward those whose opinions, beliefs, practices, racial or ethnic origins, etc., differ from one’s own; freedom from bigotry.
- A fair, objective, and permissive attitude toward opinions, beliefs, and practices that differ from one’s own.

Interest in and concern for ideas, opinions, practices, etc., foreign to one’s own; a liberal, undogmatic viewpoint

QUOTATIONS

Ideas on How to Use:

- Display a quote each week. Share on morning announcements.
- Teachers post quotes in classrooms.
- Have students write about what the quote means to them.
- Have primary students draw a picture to go with the quote.
- Encourage students to create their own ‘quote’ that promotes monthly trait.

“Preservation of one’s own culture does not require contempt or disrespect for other cultures.”
– Cesar Chavez

“One can’t make you feel inferior without your permission.”
– Eleanor Roosevelt

“People and their differences make up the foundation of an organization’s ability to develop broad perspectives and to approach problems in new and creative ways.”
– Barbara Walker

“The work of seeing is done. Now, practice heart-work upon those images captive within you.”
– Rainer Maria Rilke

“Tolerance is the positive and cordial effort to understand another’s beliefs, practices, and habits without necessarily sharing or accepting them.”
– Joshua Liebman

“It is thus tolerance that is the source of peace, and intolerance that is the source of disorder.”
– Pierre Bayle



Book List

Ideas on How to Use:

- In media center, designate a character trait “Featured Readings” section where books promoting the month’s theme are displayed and available for checkout.
- Have students read books, and then depict how the book exemplified the character trait.

Activities

- Read *Romeo and Juliet* and/or *West Side Story* with the class. Discuss how the stories might have ended differently if the characters had behaved in a tolerant fashion rather than an intolerant fashion. What were the barriers separating the families in both works?
- Choose a selection from *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul* or something similar that refers to issues of tolerance. Ask students to respond to the passage.
- For U.S. History students, read excerpts of the Civil War novel, *Shades of Gray*. The main character’s father was killed during the war. Discuss how the character learns tolerance through the example of his Uncle Jed.
- Have student’s research the life of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Skim Emerson’s *Self-Reliance*, particularly the section that states, “A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds...” Discuss the importance of speaking out about one’s beliefs.

Buddha Boy by Kathe Koja

Jinsen’s strange appearance, bald head, and adherence to Buddhism make him the subject of scorn and violence by not only his classmates, but a group of bullies.

Getting Away with Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case by Chris Crowe – In 1955, two white men were on trial for the murder of a 14-year-old boy from Chicago. Through court testimony, interviews, and media articles, learn about the events leading up to the murder.

When the Emperor Was Divine By Julie Otsuka

The viewpoints of different members of a Japanese American family help to capture their feelings about their internment in this novel.

Everything You Need to Know About Bias Incidents by Kevin Osborne Osborne believes that group affiliation leads to group superiority and prejudice which can culminate in disastrous events, with wartime stress and economic conditions playing a role. He cites the Ku Klux Klan as an example of a hate group, and Russian pogroms, Nazis, and ethnic cleansing in Bosnia as illustrations of government-supported conditions of bias.

Black Profiles in Courage by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Penned in a conversational tone, this book is meant to “inform, encourage, and inspire” those “young Americans who most need a heritage to embrace.”

Nightjohn by Gary Paulsen

Twelve-year-old Samy’s brutal life as a slave becomes even more dangerous when a newly arrived slave offers to teach her how to read.

Shadow of the Dragon by Sherry Garland

High school sophomore Danny Vo tries to resolve the conflict between the values of his Vietnamese refugee family and his new American way of life.

(Continued)

Earth Day (April 22) [CON'T]

[Nature Works Everywhere](#)

[Science NetLinks Lessons](#)

[National Geographic – Introduction to Earth Day](#)



School-wide [cont'd]

3 Special Events & Programs

Local Government Speakers

Have members of the community address classrooms with the emphasis on, how having tolerance is a key for success.

Debate Series

Have a lunchtime debate series where students debate important social and political issues of the day. Define and debate partisan.

4 Class Activities

Communication: Have students interview parents, relatives, friends, neighbors, etc. asking what tolerance means to them. Then, have students write a paper about what tolerance means to a number of different people using examples from the people interviewed.

Brainstorm: As a class, brainstorm acts of intolerance and write the ideas on the board. Next, write, and define the words “stereotype,” “prejudice,” and “discrimination.” Explain and discuss each. Then have the students work in groups to complete a tri-enn diagram using circles or triangles. Debrief and discuss.





SUBJECT AREA LESSON PLANS

Ideas on How to Use This Page: Integrate character trait lesson plans into all subject area instruction. Lesson plans are specific to language arts, social studies, math/science, arts, health & physical education

ARTS

- **VISUAL ARTS: Making People Think**

Art can make people think about things in different ways. Art can communicate important social messages about issues of justice, equality and fairness. Have students create a work of art that makes viewers think about the needs of people they may not usually think about (disables, people in poverty, homeless, etc.) Hold an art exhibit of students' work that communicates tolerance for different groups. Let's motivate students to come together for a common cause!

- **PHOTOGRAPHY: Tolerance in Society**

After talking about tolerance and respecting the differences, beliefs, and values of people, assign students a project of creating a photo or video essay on the

- **MUSIC APPRECIATION: Song Analysis**

Play the song They've Got to Be Taught from the musical South Pacific. Ask students to analyze the theme of the song. Summarize the story of show the film version of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical so the students can see how the theme fits into South Pacific as a whole.

BUSINESS & CAREERS

- **BUSINESS: Tolerance**

Have students make a list of the ways that a business can promote tolerance in the workplace. Students will describe why tolerance in a business is important.

- **BUSINESS: Profile**

Have students write a comprehensive profile of a local business by interviewing the owner, employees, vendors, and customers. Have students write about how the business does or does not uphold the principle of tolerance in the workplace.

- **Fictitious Business**

Have students create fictitious businesses that they feel could have a positive impact on promoting tolerance in our society.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

- **Vocabulary**

Introduce students to the following words, which can be used in your daily discussions in class:

* patience * resilience * endurance * fortitude * strength * opposition

- **Cooperation at School**

Have students write a short essay about a time at school where they experience intolerance among students.

Lesson Plans [cont'd]



Activities

- Discuss with students how individuals from different countries who worked in cooperation with each other and continues to do so even today created this country.
- Read to the class the story of how the government was established at the Constitutional Convention. Discuss the compromises made so our government could be founded. Discuss the role of William Sherman of Connecticut, also known as “The Great Compromiser,” during the Constitutional Convention.
- Discuss with the class how countries might cooperate to prevent extinction of animals. One example of this is how China and the USA cooperated on a project involving the giant panda bear. Research other examples of states or countries cooperating to preserve animals and/or their environments.

English

- **Letter to a Character**

Have students write a letter of advice to a character that has no tolerance for others in the story. Have students try to persuade the character with logic and reason to tolerate with others.

- **Social Issues in Literature**

Often literature addresses important social concerns and issues using the backdrop of a dramatic story. Have students look at the social issues that are addressed in the piece of literature they are reading. Have students work in groups to decide the position they think the author is taking on those issues. Have groups present their ideas to the class.

- **“Good For All” Action**

Have student write about a time when they participated in a situation where the “good for all” took precedent over the “good for one”.

MATH

- **Creating Graphs**

“Tolerance” means accepting and including the differences of others. Ask each student to survey 10 peers and/or teachers at school using these questions: 1) Were you born in the United States? If not, in which country in the United States? 2) Were your parents born in the United States? If not, in which country were your parents born? As students gather the data, ask each to create a bar, line, or circle graph that illustrates the results. Have students draw conclusions from their findings. What role does tolerance play in the school culture?

- **Math at Work**

Have students write about how a person in a math related occupation needs to show tolerance on the job.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- **Athletes and Tolerance**

Discuss why professional athletes have to demonstrate tolerance to be successful.

Lesson Plans [cont'd]

SCIENCE

- **Animal Species**

Have a discussion about ways different species in the animal kingdom are tolerant of each other and live together peacefully. Brainstorm ways humans can be more like these animals and learn to be more tolerant of each as well as other species.

- **Science & Character**

Research and compare different countries' lack of tolerance for wild and exotic animals and how that lack of tolerance is leading to the extinction of many species. Discuss what each individual can do in his own life to help save these animals.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- **History**

Using a specific event from history, help students identify how tolerance was a critical part of the resolution and/or decision-making. Examples might be the influx of immigrants to America at the turn of the 20th century; the displacement of Jewish citizens during and after World War II; the migration of Cuban, Haitian and Caribbean people in the mid-20th century through today; etc. What effect did the event have on society? What role did tolerance play in creating a peaceful resolution? Provide texts, articles, and films as needed to support the topic.

- **Science & Problem Solving**

Have students in groups write reports about how science material they have been studying can be used to solve particular social issues. Have the individual groups arrive at a consensus of what social issues they will address.

LEAPS

[Leaps Lesson on Tolerance](#)



Classroom Ideas

Class Discussion Topics

- With the class, define prejudice. Discuss where it comes from. What can individuals do to prevent prejudice? Have partners brainstorm Prejudice Dos and Don'ts. The teacher can use outlined fire hats and write student generated tips on them to combat the fires of prejudice. The class can create a bulletin board, "How to Stomp out the Fires of Prejudice."

Creative Expression

- Although tolerance is a trait we want to see each day, create a "Totally Tolerant Day." Have the students create posters and slogans to promote tolerance. Use the school video or television system to share this concept with others on campus.
- Ask students to develop a song that promotes tolerance. Use a variety of items and tools to create sounds and rhythm. Explain that each sound and instrument is unique and different but that each contributes to the joy of the song.

Service Learning

Ideas on How to Use this Section:

- Promote school-wide service learning initiative/campaigns using provided ideas. (Do a 'service day'; encourage classes to do random service acts of kindness to other classes/staff, etc.)
- Engage school clubs/student council to lead service projects.
- **Why Service Learning?** Students need to learn the importance of contributing to their school and community. Building cooperation skills helps students feel that they can be contributors to others and can do work that benefits their community. This shows them that their lives are important now and sets a foundation for becoming cooperative citizens in adulthood.

School Service-Learning

• **Welcome Buddy System**

Have students create a welcome buddy system in the class and design a welcome bag for new students. These bags may include items and information that would make a new student feel welcome. As new students enter, introduce the new student to his or her buddy group and present them with a welcome bag.

• **Pen Pal**

Have students write to Kids Meeting Kids, an international organization that promotes multicultural understanding, peace, fairness, and children's rights. Find out about their pen pal and peace exchange programs. <http://kidsmeetingkids.org/>

• **Unity Chain**

Have the class create a school wide "Unity Chain." Have the student's design a link for a chain on which they write a statement of what they think makes them unique. Display the chain in the cafeteria or some other common area.

Hands-on Activities/Projects

Editorial Cartoon: Introduction

An **editorial cartoon** uses pictures and text to make a statement about something. Editorial cartoons are a way to express opinions about a wide range of topics, such as politics or culture. Cartoonists often use images of well-known people, places and things to send a message. Editorial cartoons can be challenging because you often need background knowledge to understand them. When you are trying to interpret any editorial cartoon, just remember to: look at the picture; then, look at the BIGGER picture!

1. Look at the picture. First, take a look at the images and text in the cartoon, and describe what you see. Is there anything that looks familiar?
2. Look at the BIGGER picture.

Next, think about what has happened in the past and what is happening in the present. What is the artist of the cartoon trying to tell you?

For the complete lesson plan: <http://www.tolerance.org/activity/editorial-cartoons-introduction>

Family Newsletter

Dear Parent:

Tolerance is the character trait of the month of April. This newsletter offers you activities and ideas, which will assist you with helping your child to understand the importance of tolerance. Talking together about tolerance and respect helps kids learn more about the values you want them to have. Giving them opportunities to play and work with others is important as well. This lets kids learn first hand that everyone has something to contribute and to experience differences and similarities.

Ideas to Do as a Family

Things parents can do to help kids learn tolerance include:

- Notice your own attitudes. Parents who want to help their kids value diversity can be sensitive to cultural stereotypes they may have learned and make an effort to correct them. Demonstrate an attitude of respect for others.
- Remember that kids are always listening. Be aware of the way you talk about people who are different from yourself. Do not make jokes that perpetuate stereotypes. Although some of these might seem like harmless fun, they can undo attitudes of tolerance and respect.
- Select books, toys, music, art, and videos carefully. Keep in mind the powerful effect the media and pop culture have on shaping attitudes.
- Point out and talk about unfair stereotypes that may be portrayed in the media.
- Answer kids' questions about differences honestly and respectfully. This teaches that it is acceptable to notice and discuss differences as long as it is done with respect.



Character Education: High

April



Diversity, Prevention & Intervention
Lauderdale Manors Early Learning &
Resource Center
1400 NW 14th Court
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311
(754) 321-1655
Fax: (754) 321-1691

www.browardprevention.org

Email:

Kimberly.Young@browardschools.com

Character Check

- Remember that tolerance does not mean tolerating unacceptable behavior. It means that everyone deserves to be treated with respect – and should treat others with respect as well.
- Help your children feel good about themselves. Kids who feel badly about themselves often treat others badly. Kids with strong self-esteem value and respect themselves and are more likely to treat others with respect, too. Help your child to feel accepted, respected, and valued.
- Learn together about holiday and religious celebrations that are not part of your own tradition.
- Honor your family's traditions and teach them to your kids – and to someone outside the family who wants to learn about the diversity *you* have to offer.