

# Character Education

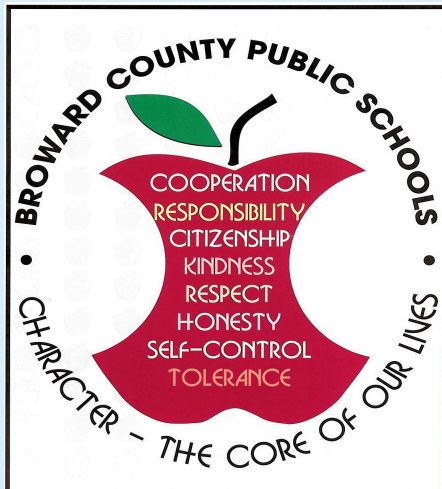
*Suggested Activities  
Middle*



## November

# Citizenship

## Prevention Calendar November 2016



### 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:

- [Lung Cancer Awareness](#)
- [American Diabetes](#)
- [National American Indian Heritage](#)

### Weekly Observances:

- [Anti-Bullying Week](#) (November 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>)
- [American Education Week](#) (November 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>)
- [National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness](#) (November 14 – 22)

### Day Observances:

- November 8<sup>th</sup> - [Election Day](#)
- November 9<sup>th</sup> - [World Freedom Day](#)
- November 11<sup>th</sup> - [Veteran's Day](#)
- November 13<sup>th</sup> - [World Kindness Day](#)
- November 14<sup>th</sup> - [World Diabetes Day](#)
- November 15<sup>th</sup> - [America Recycles Day](#)
- November 16<sup>th</sup> - [International Day of Tolerance](#)
- November 17<sup>th</sup> - [Great American Smoke Out Day](#)
- November 20<sup>th</sup> - [Transgender Day Remembrance](#)
- November 25<sup>th</sup> - [International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#)



## 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.

Demonstrating good citizenship is being a person who is involved in trying to make the community, nation, or world a better place. Good citizens are people who are engaged, in big or small ways, in considering the needs of others in their community. This can involve a variety of activities, from volunteering with a community organization to working with a group that addresses national or international issues. People of character take steps to address needs that are present around them and so are good citizens. Showing good citizenship means being law-abiding and involved in service to school, community and country.

#### Definitions:

- Knowing, understanding, and displaying a high regard for rules, laws, government, heritage and for those who have served and sacrificed for community and country
- Being involved in trying to make the world a better place, engaged in big and small ways in helping others.
- Actions and attitudes which reflect pride in being part of a community; showing good citizenship means being law-abiding and involved in service to school, community and country.
- The state of being vested with the rights, privileges, and duties of a citizen; The character of an individual viewed as a member of society; behavior in terms of the duties, obligations, and functions of a citizen character of an individual viewed as a member of society; behavior in terms of the duties, obligations, and functions of a citizen.

### 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.

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”  
– Mohandas Gandhi

“I find life an exciting business and most exciting when it is lived for others... True happiness is attained through loyalty to a worthy purpose.”  
– Helen Keller

“Do not eat your fill while your neighbor is hungry and share what you have with those in need.”  
– Mohamed

“We all must have some purpose in life; for no person can live for themselves alone.”  
– Ross Parmenter

“Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”  
– Theodore Roosevelt

“You must give some time to your fellow people. Even if it is a little thing, do something for others – something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it.”  
– Albert Schweitzer



# 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.

### *The American Story* by Jennifer Armstrong

Starting with the 1565 founding of St. Augustine and ending with the contested 2000 presidential election, this book tells 100 stories of our country. What a great way to learn about the history of the U.S.!

### *Princess Academy* by Shannon Hale

Most girls hope to marry a prince in the remote mining village of Eskel, but Miri’s intelligence and spunk also allow her to help the village in this Newbery Honor Book.

### *Weedflower* By Cynthia Kadohata

Young Sumiko and her family are moved to a prison camp when Pearl Harbor is attacked. There she befriends a Native American who helps her to understand that their plights are very similar.

### *Letters from Rifka* by Karen Hesse

A young Jewish girl chronicles her family’s flight from Russia in 1919 and her own experience when she is left in Belgium when the others emigrate to America.

### *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by Robert O’Brien

Having no one to help her with her problems, a widowed mouse visits the rats whose former imprisonment in a laboratory made them wise and long-lived.

### *Navajo Code Talkers* by Nathan Aaseng

A group of Indian volunteers developed, learned, and used a complicated coding process to send and receive vital information, even when the Japanese were intercepting the messages.

### *Soldier’s Heart* by Gary Paulsen

Charley was 15 years old when he lied about his age and enlisted in the Civil War. At first he was enthusiastic, but he has a change of heart when he experiences all the horrors of war.

### *Teens with Courage to Give* by Jackie Waldman

The teenagers in these 30 stories overcome great personal odds to reach out and help others. Their courageous stories speak not only of their enormous struggles, but of their newfound sense of purpose.

## Activities

- Read the Gettysburg Address to the students. Abraham Lincoln gave this famous speech on November 19, 1863. Ask students to summarize in writing this famous speech and discuss their responses.
- Read Constitutional Amendments throughout the month. Have students write a brief essay on how each amendment impacts their lives. At the end of the month, tell students they now can only choose five of the amendments for a new government being established in a foreign country. Divide the class into discussion groups to choose which five and state why. Bring the group together to report their results.
- [Aesop's Fables](#) to teach citizenship.
- Editorial Cartoon: [Bullying](#)
- [Latinos and the Fourteenth Amendment: A Primary Document Activity](#)
- [African Americans Face and Fight Obstacles to Voting](#)



## Prevention Ideas

### Monthly Observances:

Lung Cancer Awareness

[Lung Disease](#)

[Where's there Smoke: The Effects of Smoking](#)

[Mind Over Matter](#)

American Diabetes

[School walk for Diabetes](#)

[Diseases, Injuries, and Conditions Lesson Plan: Raising Health Awareness](#)

National American Indian Heritage

[Weaving the Threads: Integrating Poetry Annotation and Web Technology](#)

[Battling for Liberty: Tecumseh's and Patrick Henry's Language of Resistance](#)

[Fighting Injustice by Studying Lessons of the Past](#)

[Dramatizing Folktales, Legends, and Myths](#)

[What's in a Name?](#)

### Weekly Observances:

Anti-Bullying Week (November 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>)

Anti-Bullying: [Diversity, Prevention & Intervention](#)

[Lesson Plan Booster: What Message Do Movies Send About Bullying?](#)

[Speak Up: A Video Lesson On Bullying](#)

[Lesson Plan Booster: How Can Students Help a Bullied Peer?](#)

[Using Literature To Teach About Bullying](#)

American Education Week (November 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>)

[American Education Week Fact Sheet](#)

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness (November 14 – 22)

[Project on Poverty and Homelessness](#)

[One Planet, Two Worlds](#)

[What is Hunger?](#)

[Causes and Impacts of Hunger](#)

### Day Observances:

Election Day – November 8<sup>th</sup>

[Election Lesson Plan: I Campaign ad Critique](#)

[If I Were the President](#)

November 9<sup>th</sup> - World Freedom Day

World Freedom Day in the U.S. is observed on November 09, 2016. World Freedom Day is a United States federal observance declared by then-President George W. Bush to commemorate the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of communist rule in Central and Eastern Europe. This text has been taken from [www.cute-calendar.com](http://www.cute-calendar.com)



## School-wide

[Ideas on how to use:](#)

- Use suggested school-wide ideas to create a culture of character and address your schools need for a RTI Tier I – universal strategy.
- Any teacher or staff members that work with students can incorporate classroom ideas.

### 1 PA Announcements

#### Student Interviews

Interview students who are involved in different community or student organizations or students who are engaged in service projects in the community.

#### Community Members Interviews

Interview community members who are actively involved with different local political organizations. Have them discuss the impact individuals can have on their community as they influence government.

### 2 School Displays

#### Making a Better School Display

Have a display highlighting students' ideas and actions for making the school a better place. Have a collection box of suggestions.

(Continued)

November 11<sup>th</sup> - Veteran's Day

[Mapping Your State's Role In the Vietnam War](#)

[The Wall Inspires Letters to Veterans](#)

[The Greatest Sacrifice – Veterans Day](#)

November 13<sup>th</sup> - World Kindness Day

[Random Acts of Kindness](#) (Lesson Plans for 6 - 8)

November 14<sup>th</sup> – World Diabetes Day

[Diabetes](#)

[Obesity](#)

November 15<sup>th</sup> – America Recycles Day

[10 Ideas to Start on America Recycles Day](#)

November 16<sup>th</sup> – International Day of Tolerance

[How Tolerant Are Kids in Your School?](#)

[Totally Us](#)

[Using Editorial Cartoons to Teach Social Justice](#)

[Activism and Legislation](#)

November 17<sup>th</sup> – Great American Smoke Out Day

[Smoking](#)

November 20<sup>th</sup> – Transgender Day Remembrance

[Activities](#)

November 25<sup>th</sup> – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

[“Orange the World: End Violence Against Women and Girls”](#)

[Violence Against Women](#)



## School-wide [cont'd]

### 3 Special Events & Programs

#### Local Government Speakers

Have people involved in local government speak with students about their work and the importance of democratic citizenship.

#### Debate Series

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

### 4 Class Activities

- Have small groups discuss and make a list of the needs and problems in their community:

**homelessness \* crime \* drugs**

- Have students write a short essay or paragraph about what they could do to try to realistically solve one problem in their community.



## 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

### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

#### **What is a Good Citizen?**

Have students write essays describing what they think it means to be a good citizen

#### **Being a Good Citizen**

Have students write about personal experiences they have had making their community a better place and being a good citizen.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

#### **Being a Good Citizen**

Have students interview family members about what they think being a good citizen is. Then have the class design a school bulletin board that features information perspectives about what it means to be a good citizen.

#### **Local Politician**

Invite a local politician or other leader to come to class and talk about what he/she does to help the community.

### **MATH**

#### **Occupations & Citizenship**

Make a list of some of the math skills students have been studying, the different occupations that use those skills, and how people in those occupations can be good citizens in the work they do.

#### **Using Math in a Service Project**

Choose a service project to develop good citizenship in which students need to use math skills to complete the project (e.g., using measuring, dividing, fractions, or decimals).

### **ARTS**

#### **VISUAL ARTS: Dream for the Future**

Have students create a painting or a drawing that shows their vision of an ideal world or community.

#### **VISUAL ARTS: Citizenship Posters**

Have students make colorful posters that encourage students in the school to be good citizens. Display posters around the school.

# 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.

## HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### Rights & Responsibilities

Explain that citizenship involves both rights and responsibilities. Have students make a list of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

### Creating a Healthy Community

Have students discuss in groups what makes a healthy community. Then have students discuss what each individual in the community needs to do to have a healthy community.

What Makes a Healthy Community?	What Do People Need to Do?

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

### Vocabulary

citizenship    compassion    humility    service    kindness  
 empathy    caring    selfish    serve    community  
 vote    politics    election    leadership    democracy  
 contribute

### Helping My Community

Have students write about times when they did something positive for their community. Have students include why they did what they did and how they felt about it.

## LEAPS

[Leaps Lesson on Citizenship](#)

[Leaps Lesson on Bullying](#)



## Classroom Ideas

### Class Discussion Topics

- Discuss and define what it means to be good citizens.
- Discuss examples of efforts in the local community to build a stronger and healthier community.

### Creative Expression

- Draw a picture of you making your neighborhood a better place. Have people in your family add themselves helping your neighborhood in the picture.

### Contests & Awards

- Have a Citizenship Award that recognizes students who are involved with local government and issues in the community.

### Role Plays

- Have students' role play the following scenario and complete the scenario with their response/action.

"In Patti and Marabel's neighborhood, there is always a lot of graffiti. One Saturday, they see some neighbors painting over some graffiti."

# 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 citizenship 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 active citizens in adulthood.

### School Service-Learning

#### **School Beautification (Science)**

Talk to school administration about how you can help beautify the school by choosing appropriate plants or flowers to place throughout the campus.

#### **Helping Others**

Have a speaker from a group that is helping others in the community speak with students about the work they do. Have the class work with the group to help others.

### Community Service-Learning

#### • **Issue of Concern (Social Studies)**

Find a local, national, or international issue that you are concerned about and volunteer with an organization working on that issue. Keep a journal to record your experiences.

#### • **Local Leader & Project**

Have a person involved in local government speak with students about how they can get involved in their community. As a class, decide on a service project to do together.

## Hands-on Activities/Projects

### **The Importance of Voting**

At the beginning of the week, tell students they can vote on a different issue each day that week, that the ballots will be next to the ballot box and both will be in an easily accessible location, and that at the end of the week votes will be tallied and decisions implemented. Do not encourage or remind students to vote.

Report the results and discuss:

1. Did everyone vote?
2. Did students who neglected to vote wish they had?
3. How would the results have changed?
4. Did more students vote on some days or issues than others did? Why?



# Family Newsletter

## Dear Parent:

All of us live together in a society in which each has various rights and responsibilities. Often we can focus on our “rights” while neglecting our responsibilities. These responsibilities include being concerned not with what we can get but rather with what we can give to help others. Enclosed are simple ways to integrate the character skill of citizenship in your home.

### Citizenship Defined:

(1) Being involved in trying to make the world a better place, engaged in big and small ways in helping others. (2) Actions and attitudes which reflect pride in being part of a community; showing good citizenship means being law-abiding and involved in service to school, community and country.

### Service Ideas to Do as a Family

- **Working** on a Current Issue: Find a current issue or problem you are personally concerned about. Discuss this concern with your family and together come up with actions you can do as a family to address the issue.
- **Organize** a used-book sale and donate the money to a group that promotes literacy in your community.
- **Adopt** a section of a highway to clean up litter.
- **Create** a survey asking neighbors about problems they see in their community. Have a meeting to discuss their responses. Circulate a petition to work with local government to address the biggest issues.
- **Volunteer!** Visit <http://volunteermatch.org/> for more information.



Character Education: Middle

November



Diversity, Prevention & Intervention  
Lauderdale Manors Early Learning &  
Resource Center  
1400 NW 14<sup>th</sup> Court  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311  
(754) 321-1655  
Fax: (754) 321-1691  
[www.browardprevention.org](http://www.browardprevention.org)  
Email:  
Kimberly.Young@browardschools.co

### Character Check

- In what ways do you feel that you show the qualities of good citizenship?
- Which quality of citizenship is the most difficult for you? Why?
- How have you helped make your community a better place?
- How can you encourage your child to demonstrate the qualities of a good citizenship?

### Dinner Discussions

As you eat meals together discuss and share:

- What makes people a good citizen?
- What is sometimes difficult about being a good citizen?
- The names of political leaders in your community, state and nation. Discuss positive choices they have made that reflect citizenship.

*You must give some time to your fellow men. Even if it's a little thing, do something for others – something, for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it.*  
~ Albert Schweitzer