

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.

Ideas to Do as a Family

- **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://www.volunteermatch.org/> for more information.

Media Watch

Understanding Media Messages

1. **Good Citizen Characters?** Discuss whether TV/movie characters demonstrate the qualities of a good citizen.
- **Songs That Inspire:** With your child write down the lyrics of a song that promotes citizenship.



Character Education: High

November



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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

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?

“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