

# Character Education

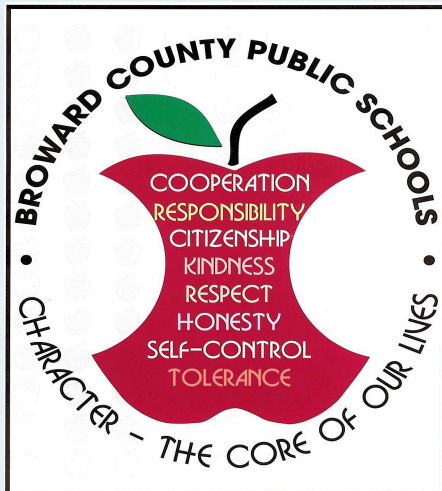
*Suggested Activities  
Elementary*



## 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

### 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.

#### Grades K – 2

“Be the kind of person who makes the world a better place.”  
– Mohandas Gandhi  
“Live your life to help other people.”  
– Helen Keller

#### Grades 3 – 5

“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 neighbors is hungry and share what you have with those in need.”  
– Mohammed  
“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  
“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can.” – John Wesley



# 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.

## Grades K – 2

*All in a Day* by Mitsumasa Anno

This book promotes peace and mutual understanding around the world by pointing out similarities in children

*Mr. Poppers Penguins* by Richard & Florence Atwater

Humorous story of a housepainter and the penguins he trained to make money for his family.

*Old Henry* By John W. Blos

Henry’s neighbors are scandalized that he ignores them and lets his property run down until they drive him away and discover they miss him.

*The Child’s World of Helping* by Jane Buerger

Young readers are shown ways of helping others, such as watering a neighbor’s plants and picking up after themselves.

*The Greedy Python* by Eric Carle

A python is so greedy that he mistakes his tail for a lunchtime treat.

*Five Dog Night* by Eileen Christelow

Cantankerous Ezra keeps rebuffing his nosey neighbor’s advice about how to keep warm on cold winter nights until she finally discovers his dogs are his warmth.

*Leo the Lop* by Stephen Cosgrove

A rabbit teaches children to deal with the challenges of their world with positive solutions.

## Grades 3 – 5

*Nothing But the Truth* by Avi

A ninth grader’s suspension for signing “The Star Spangled Banner” during homeroom becomes a national news story.

*50 Great Americans Every Kid Should Know* by McClanahan Books

Important Americans in the last 400 years and why they’re admirable.

*Bully on the Bus* by Carol Bosh

An excellent book to discuss with children as it allows them to choose alternative solutions for dealing with a bully.

*Becoming a Citizenship: Adopting a New Home* by Fred Bratman

Examines the origins of citizenship and the role of the citizen and discusses immigration, political asylum and other related topics.

*Dinosaurs to the Rescue* by Laurie K. Brown

Dinosaur characters introduce the earth’s major environmental problems and suggest ways children can help.

*Come Back, Salmon* by Molly Crane

Describes the efforts of Jackson Elementary students to clean up a stream, stock it with salmon and preserve it unpolluted so salmon will return to spawn.

*Grade 4-5 U.S. History, Government, and Citizenship* by Marjorie Frank

This book includes student exercises on U.S. history.

## Activities

### *A Man Without a Country* by Edward E. Hale

Read *A Man Without a Country* by Edward E. Hale, have the students discuss how their daily lives would change if they were banned from citizenship in all countries of the world. If there are any students in the class whose families are in the United States on a temporary visa, ask them what privileges their parents are denied that citizens take for granted.

### [Citizenship Lesson plans \(K-5\)](#)

### [Citizenship Books and Activities: 13 Terrific Titles and What to Do with Them](#)

### [Citizenship in Action](#)

*Johnny Appleseed* by Steven Kellogg

Read *Johnny Appleseed* by Steven Kellogg, have the students discuss what makes Johnny Appleseed a good citizen. Have students discuss what makes them a good citizen.

[Aesop’s Fables](#) to teach citizenship.



## Prevention Ideas

### Monthly Observances:

#### Lung Cancer Awareness

Grades 3 - 5

[Smoking](#)

#### American Diabetes

Grades K – 5

[School Walk for Diabetes](#)

Grades 3 – 5

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

#### National American Indian Heritage

[Native American Misconceptions](#) (Pre-K – 5)

Grades K – 2

[Diagram It! Identifying, Comparing, and Writing About Nonfiction Texts](#)

Grades 3 - 5

[Native Americans Today](#)

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

[By the Numbers](#)

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

### Weekly Observances:

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

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

[Using Literature to Teach About Bullying](#)

Grades 4 – 5

[Lesson Plan Booster: What Message Do Movies Send 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)

Grades K – 2

[Homelessness](#)

[Hunger and Homelessness](#)

Grades 3 – 5

[Community Table-Community Ties](#)

[Courageous Voices that Shook the Nation to Action](#)

### Day Observances:

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

[If I Were the President](#)

Grades 1 – 3

[Kid Reporters in Action](#)

#### 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 for suggestions

#### Government Representatives

Have a display highlighting people involved in the local, state, and federal governments, along with the addresses and phone numbers of each representative.

#### Expressing Views Through Art

Have art students create pieces that express their concerns about school, local, national or international.

(Continued)

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

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

[The Wall Inspires Letters to Veterans](#)

**Grades 3 – 5**

[Wartime Poetry: Working with Similes](#)

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

[Random Acts of Kindness](#) (Lesson Plans for K – 5)

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

[Kids Walk to Cure Diabetes](#)

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

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

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

[Words Can Hurt](#)

[Everybody is Unique: A Lesson in Respect for Others](#)

**Grades 3 - 5**

[“Bursting” Stereotypes](#)

[Teaching About Tolerance Through Music](#)

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

[The Great American Smoke out](#) (Grades K – 5)

**Grades 3 – 5**

[Smoking](#)

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

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





## 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

#### Grades K - 2

##### 1. Characters Who are Good Citizens

Discuss how character in stories are reading or have recently read, demonstrate the qualities of a good citizen.

Story	Character	How is he/she a Good Citizen?

##### 2. Being a Good Citizen

Have each student write a few sentences about what he/she could do now to be a good citizen. Compile students' writings into a booklet or display on a bulletin board.

#### Grades 3 – 5

##### 1. How a character could have been a good citizen

Have student choose a character in a book they are reading and write their own story about how that character could have shown good citizenship.

##### 2. Being a Good Citizen

Discuss how characters in stories students are reading demonstrate good citizenship.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

#### Grades K - 2

##### 1. Guest Speakers: Good Citizens

Have parents find guest speakers who are active in the community. Have speakers talk about how they are being good citizens in their communities.

##### 2. Field Trips

Take field trip to place in the community where students trip can see and meet people helping others and being good citizens.

#### Grades 3 – 5

##### 1. Being a Good Citizen

Have students in groups make a list of things they can do to be a good citizen in school, at home, and in their neighborhood.

##### 2. Brief Biographies

Have students write brief biographies of historical figures they have studied who demonstrated the qualities of good citizenship throughout their lives.

##### 3. Solutions to Problems

Have students write an essay about their ideas for solutions to important problems such as pollution, the homeless, drug abuse.

### MATH/SCIENCE

#### Grades K – 2

##### 1. Using Math to Prepare Lunch

As a class, prepare a special lunch for parents. As students prepare the meal, have them use addition and subtraction in combining and using different ingredients.

# Lesson Plans [cont'd]



## Activities

- Have students research the behavior of ants/or bees. These are some of the insects that work cooperatively together, Why is this important for their survival?
- Labor Day is celebrated this month. Read to the class a short summary on this holiday. Have the students write an essay on why it was so important for people to work cooperatively. Discuss the students' writings.
- Review the definition of cooperation with the class and provide an example in daily life of a behavior that demonstrates cooperation. Ask students to draw a picture of an incident the student remembers in which he/she demonstrated cooperative behavior. Ask students to include the 5Ws (who, what, where, when and why) of literary questioning in the drawing.
- Discuss quotations on cooperation listed on page 2. Have students create their own quote on this topic. Share and use for a class bulletin board.

## MATH/SCIENCE [Cont'd]

### Grades K – 2

#### 2. Science Project & Citizenship

As students are involved with a science project or activity, emphasize how the science information they are learning could be used to benefit others. Make a list on the board.

### Grades 3 – 5

#### 1. Occupations & Citizenship

As a class make a list of math-related occupations and how individuals in each job could demonstrate the qualities of a good citizen in the work they do.

Occupation	Description	How could someone in this job be a good citizen?

#### 2. Using Math in a Service Project

Create a project that promotes good citizenship and that students need to use math skills to complete. (e.g., measuring and cutting out cards, using multiplication tables, using fractions.)

## ARTS

### Grades K - 2

#### 1. Visual Arts: Being a Good Citizen

Have students draw themselves doing actions that show they are good citizens. Display drawings on a bulletin board.

#### 2. Visual Arts: Citizenship Collage

Have students cut pictures from magazines of people being good citizens by doing things to help others. Have students arrange pictures as a collage.

### Grades 3 – 5

#### 1. Visual Arts: Making Our World Better

Have students create a painting or a drawing showing people making the world a better place.

#### 2. Visual Arts: Class Mural

Invite a local artist to help the class create a large mural showing people helping others in your community.

## HEALTH

### Grades K - 2

#### 1. Citizenship Review

To review the qualities of being a good citizen, have students describe specific ways they can demonstrate citizenship at home and in school.

#### 2. Being Healthy

Discuss how showing the qualities of a good citizen are important for students' health. Have students write a few sentences about how showing compassion and humanity and doing service for others helps them be healthy.



## Lesson Plans [cont'd]

### HEALTH [cont'd]

Grades 3 – 5

#### 1. Benefits of Citizenship

Have students list the specific benefits to others and themselves of demonstrating *Citizenship*.

Examples	Benefits to Others	Benefits to Myself

#### 2. Being a Good, Healthy Citizen

Have students write a short paragraph about why they think it is good for their health to have the qualities of a good citizen.

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grades K - 2

#### 1. Working with Partners

Have students, when working on a specific sports skill work with a partner to help them develop the skill.

#### 2. Citizenship & Teamwork

Discuss ways students can demonstrate the qualities of a good citizen while playing sports by working with their team and not just thinking about themselves. Define teamwork and discuss how important it is to work together as a team and not just focus on yourself.

Grades 3 – 5

#### 1. Working with Partners

Have students work with partner to help each other improve in a particular sports skill.

#### 2. Helping Others Through P.E.

Discuss how students can use sports and physical education to help others in your community. Have students visit a classroom of younger students in a special education and help them perform a variety of physical exercises.



### LEAPS

[Leaps Lessons on Citizenship K-2](#)

[Leaps Lessons on Citizenship 3-5](#)

[Leaps Lessons on Bullying K - 2](#)

[Leaps Lessons on Bullying 3 - 5](#)



### School-wide [cont'd]

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#### 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.

##### Citizenship Award

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

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#### Class Activities

- Have groups discuss how students can be good citizens by making their school a better place [murals, planting flowers, painting, etc.] As a class, decide on one project, get parents to help, and go do it!
- Have students write short essays or paragraphs about what they could do to try to realistically solve one problem in their community.
- In groups, have students create skits showing people being good citizens.

#### Higher Order Thinking Questions:

Grades 3 – 5

How do the people you respect show good citizenship?

What does your behavior look like when you show compassion for others?

How can people make their community a better place?

How would you determine if someone should win a Good Citizen's Award?



# Service Learning



## Classroom Ideas

### Class Discussion Topics

- Make a list on the board of problems in students' neighborhoods.
- Explain that good citizens try to come up with solutions to problems in a community or a whole country.
- Share with student's examples of efforts in the local community to build a better community. Have students share about people they know who are good citizens. Discuss what these people do that makes them good citizens.

### Creative Expression

1. Make a list of things you can do to be a good citizen.
2. Write about one way you have been a good citizen.
3. **Role Play. Have students act out this scene to show good citizenship:** There is a vacant lot in Tina and Leslie's neighborhood. One Saturday, they see some neighbors cleaning up the lot.

### 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.

### School Service-Learning

#### • **Making Things Better (Social Studies)**

Discuss ideas for making the school or neighborhood a better place. Make a list on the board. Discuss options for service projects, decide on one, get parents involved, and do it!

#### • **Citizenship Week (Social Studies)**

With a team, organize a Citizenship Week to educate students about issues in their community, the nation and the world. Invite speakers such as concerned teachers, local leaders, and involved community members to lunchtime gatherings. Have speakers provide practical ways for students to get involved and demonstrate good citizenship.

### Community Service-Learning

#### • **City Council Meeting (Social Studies)**

Familiarize yourself with both sides of an important local issue. Attend a city council meeting and listen closely to the issues that are addressed. Try to understand all the factors involved in this issue. Write a report on the issue and the council meeting.

#### • **Interviewing Local Leaders (Social Studies, Careers)**

Interview two or three people who are actively involved in local issues in your community. These can include business leaders, educators, politicians, directors of nonprofit organizations, and others involved in decision-making. Ask them about what they enjoy about the area, their concerns for the future, and what teenagers can do to get involved. Write a paper describing your interview, highlighting the similarities and difference of the people interviewed.

## Hands-on Activities/Projects

### Grades K – 5

#### **Right to Vote**

Without comments, divide the class into two groups in a nondiscriminatory way, such as birthdays. Gove one group voting rights but not the other. Have students vote on something that impacts the entire class, but only allow one group to vote. Carry out the decision. If possible, later reverse the roles. Discuss:

- How did it feel having the right to vote?
- How did it feel not having the right to vote?
- Who were the first U.S. citizens given the right to vote?
- What groups later gained that right?
- What could happen if apathetic citizens continue choosing not to vote?

#### **Rewarding Citizenship**

Have students create a "Good Citizenship" card for someone they know who really deserves one. The card should list the reasons that this student deserves such an award.

# 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.
- **Family of Good Citizens:** Good citizenship involves doing things that show care for your community. Have all family members discuss what they do or have done in the past to be good citizens.
- **Choosing an Issue:** As a family, discuss various issues or needs that family members are concerned about. Make a list of the issues and some possible actions your family could take to try to help solve the problem. As a family, decide on one issue and start working on it!
- **Volunteer!** Visit <http://www.volunteermatch.org/> for more information.



Character Education: Elementary

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.com

## 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 that qualities of good citizenship?

## Dinner Discussions

### Discussion Ideas for Meals Together

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