

Character Education

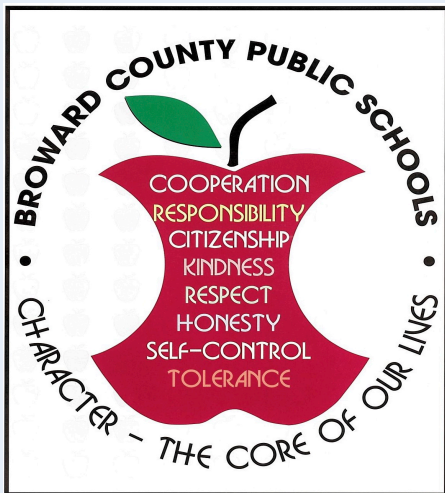
*Suggested Activities
Elementary*



February

HONESTY

Prevention Calendar February 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:

- [American Heart](#)
- [Black History](#)
- [National Children's Dental Health](#)
- [National Teen Dating Prevention & Awareness](#)

Weekly Observances:

- [National Condom Week](#) (February 14th – 21st)
- [National Eating Disorders Awareness](#) (Last Week)
- [National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention](#) (2nd Week)

Day Observances:

- February 1 – [National Freedom Day](#)
- February 2 – [World Wetlands Day](#)
- February 7 – [National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness](#)
- February 14 – [Race Relations Day](#)
- February 15^t – [Susan B Anthony Day](#)
- February 20 – [President's Day](#)
- February 20 – [World Day of Social Justice](#)



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.

The original meaning of honesty had more to do with honor than truthfulness, although the two are naturally linked. The trait of honesty has been prized for centuries, and Shakespeare once wrote, "Honesty is the best policy. If I lose mine honor, I lose myself." The honesty flower, sometimes called the money plant, is so named because its coin-shaped seedpods are translucent, the idea of transparency symbolizing integrity.

Definitions:

- Being truthful, trustworthy and sincere
- Fairness and straightforwardness of conduct
- Adherence to the facts
- The quality or state of being honest

Synonyms

- Integrity
- Probity
- Truthfulness
- Veracity
- Verity

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

"Being truthful, even when your friends are not, takes real courage."
– Donna B. Forrest

"One reason for doing the right thing today is tomorrow."
– Unknown

"Always speak the truth and you'll never be concerned with your memory."
– Unknown

"No matter what you believe it doesn't change the facts."
– Al Kersha

"Two wrongs don't make a right." - Unknown

Grades 3 – 5

"Truth is not a matter of a personal view point."
– Vernon Howard

"For here we are not afraid to follow the truth wherever it may lead."
– Thomas Jefferson

"There is no right way to do a wrong thing."
– Unknown

"If everyone were clothed with integrity, other virtues would be well nigh useless."
– Moliere

"Honesty is the best policy."
– Miguel de Cervantes

"If people are good only because they fear punishment, and hope for a reward, than we are a sorry lot indeed."
– Einstein



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

A Big Fat Enormous Lie by Marjorie Sharmat

A small lie becomes a monster that haunts a youngster until he tells the truth.

A Day’s Work by Eve Bunting

When Francisco, a young Mexican American boy, tries to help his grandfather find work, he discovers that even though the old man cannot speak English, he has something even more valuable to teach Francisco.

The Principal’s New Clothes by Stephanie Calmenson

In this version of the Anderson tale, two tailors persuade the vain principal of P.S. 88 that they will make him an amazing, one-of-a-kind suit that will be visible only to intelligent people who are good at their jobs.

Abraham Lincoln by Christy DeVillier

In this book about Abraham Lincoln, our sixteenth president, we learn why he is so famous, how and where he grew up, his education, family, and role in the Civil War and Emancipation Proclamation. It is noted that he was nicknamed “Honest Abe” because he “never cheated anyone.”

Grades 3 – 5

Making Plum Jam by John Stewig

When Jackie spends a week at his aunt’s home, he learns that they are taking plums from their neighbor’s tree. When the neighbor discovers their habit, Jackie tries to make amends.

Angel in Charge by Judy Delton

Ten-year-old Angel and her little brother are left with an incompetent babysitter while their mom is on vacation. A number of situations arise during her absence. Angel had to deal with these events. She finds herself lying to her mother and teacher because she is afraid that she and her brother will be placed in foster care,

Maya Angelou: Greeting the Morning by Sarah King

This overview of Angelou’s life touches on events that shaped her destiny. Details of her writing career and civil rights activities round out this biography.

On My Honor by Marion D. Bauer

When his best friend drowns while they are both swimming in a treacherous river that they had promised never to go near, Joel is devastated and terrified at having to tell both sets of parents the terrible consequences of their disobedience.

Zeely by Virginia Hamilton

Greeder’s summer at her uncle’s farm is made special because of her friendship with a very tall, composed woman whom she thinks is really a queen.

Activities

- Read *The Emperor’s New Clothes* by Hans Christian Anderson to the class. Discuss orally with the class the idea that honesty never goes out of style. Ask the students to give some examples from their own lives or those of their families that prove that honesty never goes out of style.
- Read to the class the African folktale *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People’s Ears* by Verna Aardema. Ask each student to write the moral of the story in a complete sentence on a piece of paper. Younger children will need to be taught the definition of a moral. Then read the American folktale *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* by Ellen Schecter. At the completion of this second story, again ask the students to write a sentence telling the moral. Discuss the similarities of the two stories and talk about how both cultures want their children to learn that lying is wrong.
- Read aloud to the class the book *Chicken Sunday* by Patricia Polacco. Notice that the children are falsely accused of throwing the eggs. Discuss whether the children handle the situation correctly. What would have happened if they decided to get even with the character for telling what he thought was the truth?



Prevention Ideas

Monthly Observances:

American Heart

[American Heart Association](#)

Black History

[Diversity, Prevention & Intervention](#)

[Black History Month Lessons & Resources, Grades K - 5](#)

[Black History Month: Everything You Need](#)

[PBS: Black History Month teaching resources](#)

National Children's Dental Health

[PBS Learning Media](#)

National Teen Dating Prevention & Awareness

[Diversity, Prevention & Intervention](#)

Guest Presentations from [Women In Distress](#) on Health Relationships

Weekly Observances:

National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention (2nd Week)

See above lessons and ideas under National Teen Dating Prevention & Awareness

Day Observances:

National Freedom Day (February 1)

[Freedom Day Lessons](#)

Race Relations Day (February 14)

[Upon the Clouds of Equality](#) (Grade K – 2)

[What Can we Learn from a Crayon Box](#) (Grade K – 2)

[Family Tapestry](#) (Grades K – 5)

[Words Can Hurt](#) (Grades K – 5)

[Everybody is Unique: A Lesson in Respect for Others](#) (Grades K – 5)

[Anti-Racism Activity: 'The Sneetches'](#) (Grades 1 – 5)

Susan B Anthony Day (February 15)

[Susan B Anthony Day \(Grades 3 – 4\)](#)

[Marching with Aunt Susan \(Grades 2 – 4\)](#)

Presidents' Day (February 20)

[Presidents' Day Activities](#) (Grades K – 5)

[Presidents' Day: Everything You Need](#) (Lessons Vary)

[Presidents' Day: Executive Branch](#)

[Presidents Day Activities](#)

[Presidents Day Lessons and Teacher Resources](#) (Lessons Vary)

World Day of Social Justice (February 20)

[10 Social Justice Activities to try in class](#) (Lessons Vary)

[Teaching Tolerance](#)



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

- Write and perform a weeklong series of public service announcements on honesty.
- Have students create and teach a lesson on kindness to younger classrooms.

2 School Displays

- Create a bulletin board in the class with the words “honest” and “dishonest” at the top. Have students look through magazines and find advertisements that are honest and dishonest. Have students come up individually with their ad, share it, and then place it on the correct side of the bulletin board. Discuss.
- Create a Honesty bulletin board in the classroom. Have students add to the board by finding articles in the newspaper or magazines that exemplify the motto “Honest is the best policy.”



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 understand cooperation**

Discuss how character in stories are reading or have recently read, show the importance of honesty.

Story	Character	How is he/she showing honesty?

2. **What is honesty?**

Have each student write a few sentences about what he/she could do to show what it means to be honest with others. Compile students' writings into a booklet or display on a bulletin board.

Grades 3 – 5

1. **How a character demonstrates honesty?**

Have student choose a character in a book they are reading and write their own story about how that character demonstrated honesty.

2. **Conflicts**

Using a piece of literature featuring conflict between characters. Ask students to identify outcomes if either character had failed to be honest. Discuss the importance of honesty in interpersonal relations and intrapersonal issues (within one's self). Ask students to contrast characters in previous reading passages who exhibited honesty with those who did not. In what ways did honesty affect the outcomes within the story?

SOCIAL STUDIES

Grades K - 2

1. **Review of Inspiring People**

Review interesting people students have recently learned about and discuss how they showed honesty with others.

Grades 3 – 5

1. **Specific Skills**

Discuss the specific skills necessary to be honest with others.

2. **Brief Biographies**

Have students write brief biographies of important people in history who showed honesty.

MATH/SCIENCE

Grades K – 2

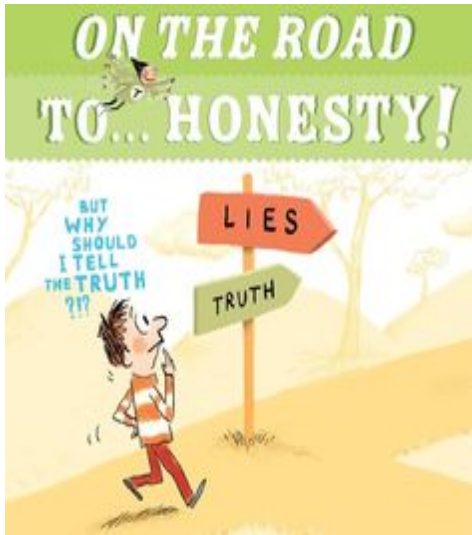
1. **Working cooperatively on Math Problems**

Have students work together in groups on various math problems. Have each member of the group do one part of the whole problem.

2. **Animals**

Have students make two lists, one of what they feel are the ten most 'honest' animals, and one of what they feel are the least 'honest' animals, and list 1-2 behavioral traits to support each of your choices.

Lesson Plans [cont'd]



MATH/SCIENCE [CON'T]

Grades 3 – 5

1. Scientists Need to work Honesty

Make a list of some science occupations, what it is they do and how their work can benefit from being honest.

Occupation	Description	The Benefits of Being Honest

2. Math & Time

Come up with three different time and money comparison charts and compare different values of time and different values of money to draw honest conclusions how time money could dictate your and other people's time.

ARTS

Grades K - 2

1. Visual Arts: Honesty

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

2. Visual Arts: Honesty Song

Have students draw a picture or sing a song that you think represents honesty or integrity.

Grades 3 – 5

1. Visual Arts: Honesty Collage

Have students make a collage of pictures that you feel represent 15-20 words that are synonyms of honesty and integrity, and include a key that lists the word for each picture.

2. Visual Arts: Class Mural

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

HEALTH

Grades K - 2

1. Benefits of Honesty

Have students describe two examples of how being honest could improve your social relationships and emotional health.

2. Being Healthy

Discuss how showing the qualities of honesty helps build healthy friendships. Have students write a few sentences about how showing honesty and caring about others helps them be healthy.

Grades 3 – 5

1. Honesty with Others

Have students list what behaviors are necessary so that honesty is occurring. They will describe how that benefit is good for themselves and others.

Examples	Benefits to Others	Benefits to Myself

2. Honesty is Good for Everyone

Have students create five new specific honesty practices for yourself and explain how you would impact your social relationships and emotional health.

Activities

- Discuss with the class the meaning of “white lies”. Ask students if it is ever appropriate.
- Have students design and write an advertisement that is honest about a product.
- Honest is the best policy [Think, Pair, Share]. Ask students to make a list of situations in which they were honest. Then have them work with another student to compare their situations. After they have discussed these in pairs, have students share with the class. A class discussion can take place after which the students can write an essay, “Assess the value of being honest.” Use the information from the class discussion to support your view.
- Discuss with the class why it is important to admit mistakes and seek to correct them. Discuss how and why mistakes are a learning experience.
- Many students look the other way when there is a problem at school, such as bullying. Although they know it’s wrong, they prefer to not get involved. Facilitate a discussion about honesty in one’s convictions to “right” a “wrong”.



Lesson Plans [cont'd]

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grades K - 2

1. Rules of One Sport

Make a list on the board of the main rules of one sport that children play. Have students discuss why it is important to be honest about the rules.

2. Honesty & Teamwork

Before students play a game, encourage them to build healthy relationships by showing good sportsmanship and honesty with their teammates and other teams. As they are playing affirm students who are showing good sportsmanship and honesty.

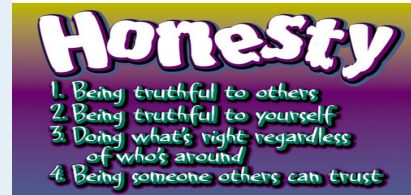
Grades 3 - 5

1. Winning the Game

Discuss with students the meaning of competitive behavior in sports. Upon completion of the discussion have students break into small groups and list what the rules are in sports, which show honesty, and to the rules of the game.

2. Caring in Sports

In small groups have students select a specific sport. Students will list all the rules that are related to that sport. Have students write next to each rule why it is important to be honest about specific rules and the consequences of not caring about the rule they identified



School-wide [cont'd]

3

Special Events & Programs

• Peer Presentations

Have older students present to younger students': examples in of long-term effects of being dishonest.

• Classroom Presentations

After discussing with the class why being honest leads to good decision-making, have the class create slogans about the benefits of honesty.

• Role Play Presentations

Have students write a skit on how to say "no" to a friend or classmate who asks to cheat or copy homework. Perform the skit for peer groups or younger classes.

4

Class Activities

- Have each student write a newspaper article for the school on the topic of honesty. Submit the best articles.
- Brainstorm words that relate to honesty. Create a word wall in the classroom. Using the definitions of the words on the word wall, students may create a crossword puzzle. Place these puzzles in a learning center for independent work.
- Have groups create a rap using the saying "Honesty is the best policy" or a rap about honesty in general.

LEAPS

[Leaps Lesson on Honesty \(Beginning\)](#)



Service Learning



Classroom Ideas

Class Discussion Topics

- Engage the students in a classroom discussion about the meaning of honesty. Lead them to realize honesty is important in the classroom, school, home, and community. On the chalkboard, write the sentence start, "Honesty is...". Make a list of student-generated endings.
- Discuss with the class how being dishonest to others ends up deceiving yourself.

Creative Expression

- Have the class write a skit on how to say "no" to a friend or classmate who asks to cheat or copy homework. Perform the skit for peer groups or younger classes.
- Have students create posters about the virtues of honesty. Distribute the posters throughout your school during February.
- Have the class work in groups and create comic strips on honesty.
- Have the class, as a group, create a rap using the saying, "Honesty is the best policy" or a rap about honesty in general.

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.

Community Service-Learning

Write a school pledge regarding honesty. It can be turned into a banner and posted in the media center or cafeteria for all students and staff to sign. [Below is an example of an honesty pledge.]

We, the students and staff of _____ School, in order to form a more unified society, promise to be honest with ourselves and with others, to not make excuses for our actions, honor all of our commitments, make truthful academic decisions, and embrace all of our differences.

*We pledge to not cheat ourselves by copying others' work.
We will strive to work our hardest at all times.
We, at _____ will be known as trustworthy.*

We affirm and declare ourselves honest, noble citizens with integrity and dignity.

*Signed,
The Students and Staff of*

Est. 2017

Hands-on Activities/Projects

Telephone

Grades K – 5

- Children of all ages enjoy playing "telephone." Explain to the class that the students are to listen carefully and try to repeat the story as accurately as possible. Whisper into the first student's ear, "Tillie Turtle went walking west one afternoon and found herself surrounded by flowers and fauna. Before she knew it, she had wandered onto the warm pavement and was threatening to cause auto accidents as driver's dodged this way and that trying not to hit her. Have you ever tasted turtle soup?" Then instruct that student to pass it on to the next person and so on until every student has heard the story. If the class is large, you can send the same message down each row. The last person(s) to hear the story is/are to repeat what they heard out loud. Work your way back to the beginning by having each person recall what s/he said. See if anyone will admit to purposefully changing the story. Talk about how the same process happens with real stories and becomes gossip and rumors that are usually not true and definitely are not kind.

Family Newsletter

Dear Parent:

Honesty is the character trait of the month of February. This newsletter offers you activities and ideas, which will assist you with helping your child to understand the importance of honesty. Honesty, is taking responsibility for one's conduct and obligations, and being loyal so people can trust you. People who are honest have integrity and the moral courage to do the right thing and to stand up for their beliefs even when it is difficult to do so. We ask that you continue to encourage honesty with you child.

- How can you tell if your teen is being dishonest with you? There are some key things to look for that are signs of being dishonest.
 - Defensiveness – Teens may become defensive when you ask them where they have been or where they are going. A teen with nothing to hide does not mind offering their parents a way to get in contact with them. Teens that get defensive when asked are most likely hiding something.
 - Eye Contact – If your teen makes constant eye contact without blinking this can be as alarming as the teen that won't make eye contact with you at all. Usually a teen will not look at you if they are lying to you unless they realize this. Then they over compensate by starting you in the eye and they end up not blinking. (Understand that some cultures however do not promote eye contact with adults.)
 - When people are making stories up they often look down. When someone is telling a story that is honest and true they look up like they are remembering it just as it happened.
 - The long pause – this is especially useful when you are having a phone conversation and you ask where your teen is or what is going on. There will often be a pause as they come up with a story to tell you.
 - Body Language – when someone is being dishonest, they are often nervous and have physical twitches or they will touch their face.



Character Education: Elementary

February



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

Make sure your child is reflecting on these questions in order to keep itself in check.

- If I want to borrow something, do I ask the person who owns the property?
- Do I always do my own work and not cheat myself out of learning?
- Am I striving to earn my parent's and friend's trust?
- Is lying comfortable for me?
- Does my current social circle consist of people that I can be honest and true to myself with, that I can rely on and I feel can rely on me?