

# Character Education

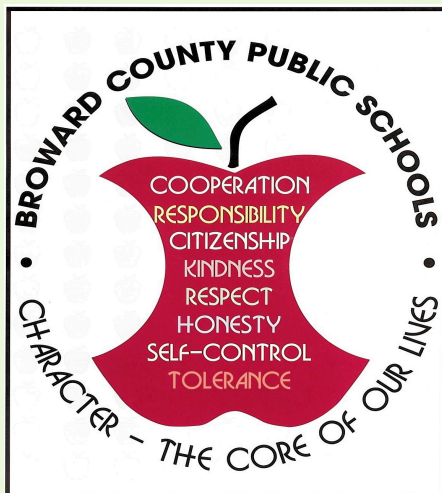
*Suggested Activities  
High*



## 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.

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” – Edmund Burke

“When you were born you cried and the world rejoiced... Live so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice.” – Cherokee saying

“He who wishes to secure the good of others has already secured his own.” – Confucius

“There is no shortage of good days. It is good lives that are hard to come by.” – Annie Dillard

“Service to one another is the rent we pay for taking up space on earth.”  
– Marian Wright Edelman

“The value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not in what he is able to receive.”  
– Albert Einstein

“If you would not be forgotten, as soon as you are dead and rotten, either write things worth reading or do things worth writing.” – Benjamin Franklin



# Book List

## Activities

- *The Unknown Citizen* is a poem by W. H. Auden that deals with individuals who are programmed like machines. Read the poem to the class or instruct them to read it silently. After they have read the poem, discuss the following questions: What is the poet criticizing in this seemingly ideal citizen? Can unquestioning conformity to rules and regulations be a negative trait? Why?
- Read to the class an excerpt from *Letter from an American Farmer* by Michel-Guillaume Jean de Crèvecoeur. Brainstorm; by writing all of the students' ideas on poster paper, what it is to be an American today. Display the poster paper in the room as a reminder.
- Read the poem *Frederick Douglass* by Robert Hayden to the class. Discuss the concepts of freedom and liberty as used in the poem and what they mean today. Prepare a chart with the class comparing and contrasting their responses.

### 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.

***Pay It Forward*** by Catherine Hyde – Trevor, a 12-year-old boy, is challenged by his social studies teacher to do something that will change the world for the better. His ingenious plan is to do three people a favor, have them pay him back by doing three favors for someone else, and they in turn would do the same until there are thousands of people helping each other by "Paying It Forward."

***Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis*** by Peter Nelson – An eleven-year-old boy's social studies project on the sinking of the USS Indianapolis at the end of World War II helped the survivors set the record straight fifty-five years later.

***Estrella's Quinceanera*** By Malin Alegria – Embarrasses by her mother and home, Estrella's world closes in on her when she tries to hide them from her wealthy friends and denies her heritage, even as her family is planning her quinceanera (15<sup>th</sup> birthday party).

***Ask Me No Questions*** by Marina Budhos – Nadira, 14 and an illegal alien in the U.S., tells the story of how she must "Never let anyone know. Never." As a Muslim she feels prejudice, as an alien she feels fear, but through it all she shows resolve.

***A Step from Heaven*** by An Na – First Young Ju wonders why her parents talk about America as "heaven," and then once there, questions why they don't want her to become too American. Young Ju survives her father's abuse through the strength of her mother.

***Shutting Out the Sky: Life in the Tenements of New York, 1880-1924*** by Deborah Hopkinson – Using primary sources, photographs, and individual stories, the author follows five young individuals who journeyed to America, entering through Ellis Island, and their lives in the tenements and streets of New York.

***African American Military Heroes*** by James Haskins – Haskins highlights the lives and contributions of 30 African American individuals who served in the military from the Revolutionary War to the present day.

***Frankly Fitz!*** By James E. Fitzmorris – James E. Fitzmorris was a man of integrity who resisted the temptation to compromise his values in order to win elections. This book tells the story of positive leadership.

***The Man Without a Country*** by Edward Everett Hale – After renouncing his country, Nolan was sentenced to live the remainder of his life on board a naval vessel and never to hear news of the United States again. This is the story of that countryless prisoner and the torment he suffered.



## Prevention Ideas

### **Monthly Observances:**

#### Lung Cancer Awareness

[Science Education Enhances Knowledge \(SEEK\) About Tobacco](#)  
[Where There's Smoke: The Effects of Smoking on the Human Body](#)

#### American Diabetes

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

#### National American Indian Heritage

[The Nez Perce and the Dawes Act](#)  
[Making Connections to Myth and Folktales: The Many Ways to Rainy Mountain](#)  
[Dramatizing Folktales, Legends and Myths](#)

### **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](#)  
[Public Speaking Lesson: The Impact of Bullying](#)  
[Lesson Plan Booster: How Can Students Help a Bullied Peer?](#)  
[A High-Interest Novel Helps Struggling Readers Confront Bullying in Schools](#)

#### 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)

[Hunger Hurts](#)  
[Hunger: Facts and Responses](#)

### **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)

#### 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](#)



## 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 works 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.

(Continued)

November 13<sup>th</sup> - World Kindness Day  
[Random Acts of Kindness](#) (Lesson Plans for 9 -12)

November 14<sup>th</sup> – World Diabetes Day  
[Diabetes](#)

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  
[Madres de Plaza de Mayo](#)  
[Women Making Change, Women Forging Hope](#)  
[How Tolerant Are Kids in Your School?](#)  
[Using Editorial Cartoons to Teach Social Justice](#)

November 17<sup>th</sup> – Great American Smoke Out Day  
[Smoking](#)

November 20<sup>th</sup> – Transgender Day Remembrance  
[Take Action](#)  
[Activities](#)

November 25<sup>th</sup> – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women  
[“Orange the World: End the 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.

**Newspaper Series**  
 Have a newspaper series that highlights important local issues being discussed in your community.

### 4 Class Activities

**Being a Citizen:** Discuss what it means to be citizens of a country – that it involves *rights* and *responsibilities*.

**Rights & Responsibilities:**  
 Make a list of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Have students' discuss a celebrity or music artist who demonstrates good citizenship in his/her personal life.

**Discussion:** Discuss what it means to be a good citizen—that it is more than just obeying laws and voting but involves doing positive things that contribute to your community

**Writing:** Have students write about experiences they have had helping their community. “Why did you do it? How did you feel? What impact did the experience have on you?”

**Small Groups:** Have students brainstorm different problems in their community. Discuss the issues as a class and have students come up with possible solutions to these problems.



## 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: Melting Pot Mural**

The United States is one of the most diverse societies on earth, with a variety of ethnicities and cultures. The concept of democratic citizenship in our country evokes the idea of a melting pot of people learning how to work and live together. Have students draw Americans from different ethnic groups and put up students' work wither separately or as one mural in the school.

- **ART APPRECIATION: Art Statements**

Art and music have often been used to advance a social cause or express an opinion on an issue. Have students look at and discuss works of art and music that address a social concern (Pablo Picasso's "Guernica," Bob Dylan's "Blowing in the Wind," etc.). Discuss how each piece impacts students and why.

- **PERFORMING ARTS: Town Meeting**

A traditional town meeting is the ideal of democracy in action. For an improvisational exercise, simulate a town meeting where residents are dealing with a critical issue facing the town (a polluting factory, business going bankrupt, a new development, etc.). Assign different roles to students – city council members, parents, business leaders, neighbors, etc. Have a town meeting public hearing where the issues are discussed and voted on.

### BUSINESS & CAREERS

1. **Business Citizenship**

Have students make a list of the areas where a business can demonstrate citizenship and social responsibility in a community. Include the benefits of each area to the larger community,

2. **Going "Beyond the Call of Duty"**

Discuss how being a good employee sometimes means going "beyond the call of duty" and doing things to help others or the company even when there may be a personal cost. Have students share about things they can do at their jobs that they are not required to do but could be very helpful.

3. **Business Interviews**

Have students interview 3 owners of local businesses, asking them how their business, or the activities the business supports, helps make the community a better place.

4. **Local Organizations**

Have students learn about local charities and non-profit organizations in their community that are supported by local businesses. Have students learn about exactly how the businesses are involved with the organizations.

# 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

### • Good Citizens in Literature

Being a good citizen involves considering the needs of others, including one’s community and nation, and doing something to meet those needs. Ask students about the qualities of characters in literature they are reading. Highlight those characters that display concern for others. Have students decide whether those individuals are models of good citizenship and what they would be concerned about today.

### • 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.

### • Citizen Action

Have student write about a time when they acted on their convictions to help others – either in school, for their family, or in the community. Have students include what happened as a result of their actions.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

### • Vocabulary

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

- |             |             |               |              |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| * service   | * democracy | * environment | * voting     |
| * community | * election  | * compassion  | * leadership |

### • Foreign Government

Explain to students how the government of the country whose language they are studying is organized (e.g., democratic structure, the voting age, the national leader.)

### • Section Review

Review vocabulary students have learned in the section. Have students write a short paragraph about issues and areas related to the concept of *citizenship*.

## MATH

### • Societal Problems

Developing good citizenship involves being a person who faces problems and works to solve them, whether in a school, neighborhood, community, or nation. Math is a significant tool to use when working to solve problems in our society. Have students discuss current issues or problems for which math could be used to help solve.

# Lesson Plans [cont'd]

## MATH(Con't)

- **Solving Local Problems**

Have students make a list of issues and problems in your local community. Then have groups discuss how mathematics can be used to help solve those problems.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- **Citizenship & Sports**

Discuss with students how sports can be used to promote good citizenship. Encouraging good citizenship through sports can involve having students use athletic skills to help others, such as running a marathon, biking, or jogging to raise money for an organization they support. Many professional athletes have created sports camps for children who may not have had an opportunity to attend a camp. Encourage students to think about other ways they can use their athletic skills to help others.

- **Supporting a Local Cause**

Have students choose an organization they want to support in the community. Then have them get people to sponsor them during PE class for one week, paying them a certain amount of money each time they performed athletic task (shooting a basket, hitting a ball, scoring a goal, etc.). Devote an entire week for students to do as much as they can and then collect the money to give to the organization.

## SCIENCE

- **Science & Citizenship Manifesto**

Statements of principles are good tools for establishing clear values and convictions. It is important that students understand that science must advance consistent with sound moral and ethical principles. Have students write a manifesto describing how they think science should work alongside the principles of good citizenship.

- **Science & Democracy**

As a science and technology become more and more a part of our daily life, many are concerned that our scientific advances have outpaced our social and moral advances. Have students address the issue of whether or not our democracy is compromised when more and more far-reaching decisions are being made by scientists and researchers who are not accountable to the public the way a democratically elected leader is.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

- **Citizenship Qualities**

Discuss the idea of citizenship in a democracy—being a person who is concerned about the health of his/her community and nation and takes action to promote the common good. These actions can be large or small. As a class, make a list of the qualities that being a good citizen comprises.

- |              |               |             |                |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| * initiative | * cooperation | * courage   | * perseverance |
| * patience   | * compassion  | * tolerance | * honesty      |

- **Citizenship in History**

We all live in a particular historical situation that provides unique opportunities to consider the needs of others and be a good citizen. Have students choose a historical event they are studying and write about what they would have done to be a good citizen in that situation.

## LEAPS

[Leaps Lesson on Citizenship](#)  
[Leaps Lessons on Bullying](#)



## Classroom Ideas

### Class Discussion Topics

- **Good Citizenship**

“What does it mean to be a good citizen?”

- **People You Know**

“Who do you know who is a good citizen? What makes this person a good citizen?”

“What can you do to be a good citizen at school?”

### Creative Expression

- Create a mural depicting what good citizenship in your school; neighborhood and community would look like.
- Display a “word wall” in the hall where students could submit examples of citizenship to be posted.

### Contest & Awards

#### Citizenship & Awards

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

# 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

- **Working with the Student Council** (Social Studies)

Being a good citizen starts with serving your high school. Make yourself available to the student council as a volunteer to help with any work it needs.

- **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 involves community members to lunchtime gatherings. Have speakers provide practical ways for students to get involved and demonstrate good citizenship.

- **Conflict Resolutions Lessons**

Have students prepare and teach to younger students lessons about powerful conflict resolution. Students can include role-plays about cooperation in their lessons.

- **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.

### Community Service Learning

- **City Council Meeting** (Social Studies)

Familiarize yourself with both sides of important local issues. Attend a city council meeting and listen closely to the issues that are addresses. 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. There 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 interviews, highlighting the similarities and differences of the people interviewed.

# 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



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

### **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*