



Character Education

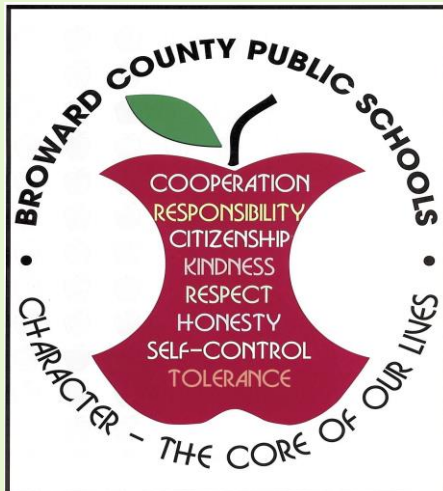
Suggested Activities
High



October

Responsibility

Prevention Calendar



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:

- [National Diversity Awareness](#)
- [National Crime Prevention](#)
- National Family Sexuality Education
- [National Bullying Prevention Awareness](#)
- [LGBT History Month](#)
- [National Disability Employment Awareness](#)

Weekly Observances:

- [America's Safe Schools](#) (3rd full week)
- Character Counts (3rd full week)
- [International Infection Prevention](#) (3rd full week)
- [National Health Education](#) (3rd full week)
- [National School Bus Safety](#) (3rd full week)
- [Red Ribbon Week](#) (October 23 -31)

Day Observances:

- October 1 – [International Day of Non Violence](#)
- October 5 – [Walk to School Day](#)
- October 10 – [Indigenous People's Day](#) (Native American Day)
- October 11 – [Coming Out Day](#)
- October 12 – Stop America's Violence Everywhere
- October 16 – [World Food Day](#)
- October 17 – [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)
- October 22 – Make a Difference Day
- October 24 – [United Nations Day](#)
- October 25 – [National Mix It Up at Lunch Day](#)

Monthly Observances:

Fruits and Veggies More Matters *Plant a fall garden or start fall vegetables in seed pots:* Choose some traditional ones, but see if you can find cool-weather vegetables that are used in other countries. Seed companies and organizations that specialize in preserving select seeds may be helpful. Gardening activities can be linked to many subjects, including math and science.



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 cooperation is being a person who understands that the good of the group is more important than the good of the one. Learning how to cooperate will help with success in school, in relationships with friends and in life over all. Listening carefully to others is the first step in demonstrating cooperation. It is essential to remember that cooperation is a basic life skill that assists us in working together so that collaboration and creativity will ultimately bring about success.

Definitions:

- Meeting obligations by being reliable, accountable, and dependable to self and others
- The state of being the person who caused something to happen
- A duty or task that you are required or expected to do
- Something that you should do because it is morally right, legally required, etc.
- Able to be trusted to do what is right or to do the things that are expected

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 cannot build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must work for his own improvement, and at the same time share a general responsibility for all humanity.”
– Marie Curie

“Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon him, and to let him know that you trust him.”
– Booker T. Washington

“Success on any major scale requires you to accept responsibility... in the final analysis, the one quality that all successful people have... is the ability to take on responsibility.”– Michael Korda

“Stop blaming others. Take responsibility for every area of your life.”
– Unknown

“I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; I will not refuse to do something I can do.”
– Helen Keller



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.

Activities

All the Years of Her Life by Morley Callaghan

- Read *All the Years of Her Life* by Morley Callaghan
- Ask the students how Alfred’s responsibilities in his life will now change.
- Have the class make a list of how their responsibilities have changed as they have matured.

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens

by Sean Covey

- Students will analyze the individual responsibility they have in their life to enhance their health.

<http://www6.grafton.k12.wi.us/shs/teacher/awagner/7Habits.htm>

13 Thirteen Reasons Why

By Jay Asher

- [Curriculum Guide](#)

Book of Virtue [Responsibility](#)

The Sounds of Change

<http://www.tolerance.org/lesson/sounds-change>

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

<http://urbandreams.ousd.k12.ca.us/lessonplans/angelou/>

The Christopher Killer by Alane Ferguson

Cameryn is determined to assist her father, the county coroner, in discovering who is committing serial murders in their small Colorado town.

Firestorm by David Klass

After learning that he has been sent from the future for a special purpose, 18-year-old Jack receives help from an unusual dog and a shape-shifting, female fighter.

A Separate Peace By John Knowles

Gene envies the athleticism and vitality of his friend. Unable to cope with his insecurity, he causes an accident, which sabotages his friend’s career.

Keeper of the Night by Kimberly Holt

After her mother commits suicide, Isabel becomes responsible for the family store and her brother, who is gradually becoming psychologically ill.

Whirligig by Paul Fleischman

Humiliated at a party, Brent tries to commit suicide while driving home, but instead kills a 17-year-old girl. Desperate to atone, Brent builds 4 whirligigs and sets them up in the four corners of the United States as a monument to the girl.

Rough Waters by S. L. Rottman

After their parents’ death in an automobile accident, two teenage brothers are sent to live with their uncle, the owner of the white water rafting business. Their experiences with him help them to mature and accept responsibility for themselves and their actions.

My Sister’s Keeper by Jodi Picoult

Having been conceived as a donor match for her ill sister, Anna has donated her umbilical cord, blood, platelets, and bone marrow. At the age of 13, she hires an attorney when she is asked to donate a kidney.



Prevention Ideas

Monthly Observances:

National Crime Prevention

[The Bully](#)

National Family Sexuality Education

[Introduction to Relationships](#)

National Bullying Prevention Awareness

[Public Speaking Lesson: The Impact of Bullying](#)

[Bullied: A Student, a School and a Case That Made History](#)

LGBT History Month

[Reducing Gender Stereotyping and Homophobia in Sports](#)

National Disability Employment Awareness

Despite the number of people with disabilities in the U.S. and the fact that they represent all races, classes and cultures, many people are unaware of the rich history of the disability movement. For an overview of major milestones in disability history and resources for educators to enhance awareness of it, see [Disability History: An Important Part of America's Heritage](#).



Weekly Observances:

America's Safe Schools

[Should it be considered a crime?](#)

[Introduction to Gender Identify and Gender Expression](#)

Character Counts, 3rd full week

[Got Character!](#)

International Infection Prevention

[Disease Prevention](#)

National Health Education, 3rd full week

[What's Your Balance? eLearning Kit](#)

National School Bus Safety

[National School Bus Safety Week & Poster Contest](#)

Red Ribbon Week (October 23 – 31)

[The Stress-O-Meter](#)

[Drug Free Work Place](#)

[Taking A Stand](#)

[Reading Between The Lines](#)

[Spin & Perform](#)

[Pandora's Box](#)



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 Skits

Have students write a skit that demonstrates campus rules. Emphasize the students' responsibility to follow the rules. Present the skits over the announcements. Encourage students to include humor in the skit. People remember them better when they can laugh; however, explain that when a skit is too funny, people tend to miss the message.

Student Interviews

Have students interview coaches and athletes in your school and or/community. Ask their ideas about responsibility in sports and hare over the announcements.

2 School Displays

Making a Better School Display

Create a Responsibility Bulletin Board to display students' thoughts and writings about responsibility.

(Continued)

World Food Day (October 16)

[World Food Day: teaching the power of school meals – Lesson Plan](#)
[World Food Day: Addressing Hunger Around the Globe](#)

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17)

[A Historical Primer on Economic \(In\) Equality](#)
[Editorial Cartoons: Poverty/Environmental Justice](#)
[Considering Unemployment](#)

Make a Difference Day (October 22)

[Lights! Camera! Take Action!](#)
[Reporting on an Ideal World](#)
[Talk the Talk, Walk the Walk](#)
[Pay It Forward Day to Students](#)

United Nations Day (October 24)

[The United Nations](#)
[The “Right of Return”: Interpreting International Law](#)
[The United Nations Lesson Plan](#)
[United Nations and reform](#)

National Mix It Up at Lunch Day (October 25)

[Get Started in Six Easy Steps](#)
[Mix It Up Activities](#)



School-wide [cont'd]

3 Special Events & Programs

Assisting in the Community
 Encourage students, along with parents or guardians, to survey their neighborhoods and find out if there are any elders who need help with such things as repairing fences, shopping for groceries, painting, doing minor repairs, caring for their lawns, etc. Encourage students to take responsibility and offer assistance with parent or guardian permission/supervision.

4 Class Activities

Game: Play a “What’s Their Responsibility? Game. Make a list of roles or careers in society. Use some of the following examples: artist, bank teller, mother, cafeteria worker, child, coach, weather forecaster, veterinarian, students, teacher, etc. Divide into two or more teams. Give each team the list of roles/careers. The object of the game is for students to list four different or unusual responsibilities for each role or career.



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: Responsibility Collage**

Collages are powerful ways to visually communicate ideas and principles. After students have discussed and understood the concept, have them use images from newspapers and magazines to design a collage on the theme of responsibility. Have them discuss in small groups their collage and describe to each other the feelings communicated in each collage.

- **PERFORMING ARTS: Responsible Teens**

Have students create short, 2-5 minute street theater pieces that in a humorous entertaining way highlight the importance of being a responsible teen. Pieces should be funny, high-action and engaging. Have students perform the pieces in high-traffic areas around the school at lunch and during breaks.

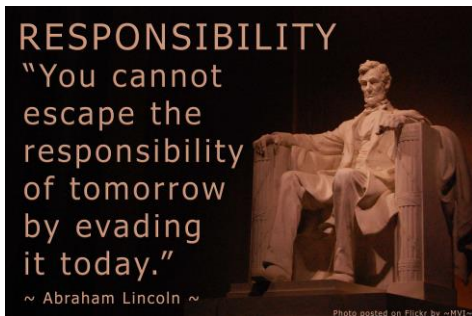
BUSINESS & CAREERS

- Break students into small groups. Have them make a list of different kinds of businesses and what each type of business could do to be responsible or un-responsible.
- Have students interview three employees of different businesses and describe what each person needs to do to demonstrate responsibility on their jobs.
- Have students share experiences where they felt a business was dishonest or deceptive in some way.

English

- Have students write about difficult decisions they have made where they chose to be responsible. Include such questions as... Why was the decision difficult? Why did you make the right decision? What were the results?
- Images and analogies are powerful tools of literature. They can communicate a depth of meaning that may be more difficult than simple descriptions. Have students write a poem that uses imagery on analogy to describe the quality of responsibility.
- Most people consider loyalty to be an important part of responsibility. Break class up into small groups. Have each group discuss and record the following: What is loyalty? Who should be loyal to whom or what, and under what circumstances? When is loyalty appropriate and when might it not be appropriate? Give specific examples.

Lesson Plans [cont'd]



Activities

- Discuss the importance of good health. Explain to the students that we must be responsible for taking care of our body and staying healthy. Have the student's brainstorm how they can take care of their bodies. Ask the school nurse to share ideas for making healthful decisions. Include in the discussion: getting lots of sleep, eating healthy foods (fruits and vegetables), exercising every day, and practicing good hygiene (brushing teeth and hair, bathing).
- Have students observe another student who is practicing being responsible. Ask students to write one or two paragraphs about how the other student was being responsible. Discuss their findings in class.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

- Include students to the following words, which you can use in daily discussion using the second language they are learning: trustworthiness, honesty, reliability, commitment, integrity, loyalty, dependability, and character.
- A responsibility is a broad word that encapsulates different concepts. Have students work in small groups to come up with a list of English words to describe the characteristics of a responsible person. Then teach them some of these words in the foreign language.
- Everyone has a little different understanding of what responsibility means. Have students interview three people outside of school for their definitions of responsibility. Have students translate people's responses and write them in complete sentences.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Each day highlight a different word from the list below that has to do with responsibility. Have students define each word and come up with specific way the word applies to playing sports.
 - Loyalty Honesty Dependable
 - Reliability Trust Faithful
 - Diligence Integrity Courage
- Discuss how sportsmanship and responsibility relate. Have students come up with specific ways they can show sportsmanship. Discuss the times when it is the hardest to show respect or be positive towards others while playing.

SCIENCE

- Being committed to honesty involves being willing to acknowledge that your hypothesis was wrong. Honest scientists are able to recognize when the direction they have been going is incorrect. Have students learn about scientists and/or research projects where the hypotheses were incorrect and leading them in the wrong direction.
- Read the following quote from Albert Einstein – "The world we have created is a product of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing out thinking." Have the class discuss what this quote means to them and how it relates to the importance of science.

Lesson Plans [cont'd]

SOCIAL STUDIES

- While responsibility is a universal value common in many cultures, there may be certain differences and emphasis in different places and among different peoples. As you are studying different countries and/or cultures, have them research the character trait responsibility.
- Divide class into groups. Have them develop and create a power point on the importance of honesty in the government (national, state and local). Give examples of what can happen when political leaders are not responsible.

LEAPS

Click here for LEAPS lesson plans!

SEL

[Access SEL related lessons](#)
and tools.



Classroom Ideas

Class Discussion Topics

- Have students share about projects they have worked on where they successfully cooperated with others.
- Discuss the specific skills necessary for cooperating with others.

Contest & Awards

Recognizing Students: It is critical that students are recognized for working well with others. Schools that reinforce this message within the school environment have a healthier school climate, which supports academic success. It is important to create a school environment where, the “good for all” is more important than the “good for one”. Utilize the quotes listed in this curriculum or have students identify other quotes, which depict cooperation. The school will then recognize students who have demonstrated cooperation associated with the chosen quote.

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

Start a school wide campaign to promote honesty by having a box on campus for students to describe specific ways people can be responsible. Print a list of students’ ideas in the school newspaper or on the announcements.

Family Service Learning

Discuss with your family during dinner why some adults feel that the younger generation cannot be trusted and that they have lost the values from past generations.

Community Service Learning

With a team of students, write a few radio spots that express the importance of being responsible. Contact a local commercial or non-commercial radio station and ask them if they will record some of your comments and play them on air.

Write a 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.

Hands-on Activities/Projects

Changing the Rules

Have the class discuss, debate, and compromise on rules they would like to see enforced in their schools. Is a rule they want to change in School Board Policy? If so, have them determine what needs to be done to get the rule changed.

Family Newsletter

Dear Parent:

Responsibility is the character trait of the month of October. This newsletter offers you activities and ideas, which will assist you with helping your child to understand the importance of responsibility. Responsibility is essential for becoming a healthy, happy, and productive person, and it is the basis for a free and civil society where each person does what he or she is expected to do. This belongs at home where children learn to take care of their belongings, clean up after themselves, do chores with a good attitude, finish their homework and resolve conflicts peacefully. Encourage your children to take responsibility in "little things" so they are ready for greater opportunities in the future!

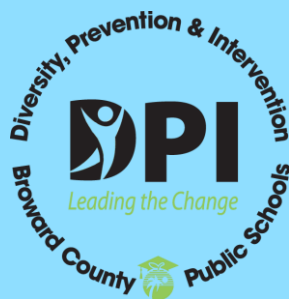
Ideas to Do as a Family

- Have your child share with you about times they are responsible. Emphasize that being responsible requires knowing what is expected and not making excuses.
- Share with your child about something you did that required responsibility. Explain how you are responsible.
- Schedule daily household chores that your child will be responsible for.
- "Catch" your child being responsible and offer your encouragement by verbally showing your appreciation.
- Watch a movie or TV program together and discuss how the characters are being responsible.
- Volunteer as a family to do a community service project together.
- Remember that the best teaching tool is to always model the behavior you want your child to learn.



Character Education: High

October



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

- Do your friends encourage you to be responsible?
- In what ways do you feel you are responsible?
- What are three ways you can be more responsible?

"Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands."
- Anne Frank



Once a week at a family meal, have family members tell about their responsibilities.

Grades K-3 Lessons

Leaps Modules

Calming Down - Transitions (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Self Control & Confidence)
Learning to be Patient (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Self Control & Confidence)
Learning to do Schoolwork - Task Completion (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Self Control & Confidence)
Paying Attention - Distractions (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Self Control & Confidence)
Paying Attention - Listening (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Self Control & Confidence)
Paying Attention to Instructions (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Self Control & Confidence)
Self Control - What it Means (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Self Control & Confidence)
When you Become a Bully (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Friends and Classmates)
Friends in the Classroom (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Friends and Classmates)
Getting Along with a Group (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Friends and Classmates)
How Friends Should Treat You (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Friends and Classmates)
Making a New Friend (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Friends and Classmates)
Saying No to a Friend (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Friends and Classmates)
Standing Up to a Bully (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Friends and Classmates)
Being a Caring Classmate (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Emotions and Actions)
Conflict Resolution (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Emotions and Actions)
When I Hurt Someone's Feelings (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Emotions and Actions)
Where Problems Occur (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Emotions and Actions)
When Someone Hurts My Feelings (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Emotions and Actions)
Having a Good Attitude (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Respecting Myself and Other)
Respecting Other People's Stuff (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Respecting Myself and Other)
Talking Respectfully (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Respecting Myself and Other)
Why I Share (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Respecting Myself and Other)
When I Make a Mistake (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Making Good Decisions)
How to Make a Good Decision (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Making Good Decisions)
I am Responsible for Me (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Making Good Decisions)
Solving a Problem (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Making Good Decisions)
Stop the Tattling (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Making Good Decisions)
Appropriate Conversations (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Talking and Listening)
Communicating with Classmates (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Talking and Listening)
Listening to My Teacher (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Talking and Listening)
Talking to My Teacher (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Talking and Listening)
This is My Space (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Talking and Listening)
Using Manners (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Talking and Listening)
When Someone Says No (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Talking and Listening)
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Friends in the Classroom (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners - Friends and Classmates)

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When Someone Says No (B)	(K - 3 / Beginners -Talking and Listening

Grades 4-12 Lessons

Leaps Modules

Defining Serious Misconduct	School Rules
The Authority of the School	School Rules
Standards of Conduct: Dress and Personal	School Rules
School Discipline / Accountability	School Rules
Stress of the Classroom	Stress & Anxiety
Understanding Respect	Respecting Self & Others
Showing Respect for Other People	Respecting Self & Others
Using Language to Convey Respect	Respecting Self & Others
Respecting Someone Else's Property	Respecting Self & Others
Having a Better Attitude	Respecting Self & Others
Controlling Yourself	Anger & Emotional Management
Recognizing and Avoiding Potential Problems	Anger & Emotional Management
Personal Space	Communication & Presentation
Appropriate Conversation	Communication & Presentation
How Your Appearance Communicates Your	Communication & Presentation
Using Manners in a Crowd	Communication & Presentation

Being Aware of Other People	Communication & Presentation
Decision Making Process	Decisions & Consequences
Decisions & Consequences	Decisions & Consequences
Understanding Personal Responsibility	Decisions & Consequences
Reactions Leading to Consequences	Decisions & Consequences
Balancing Fun and Work	Managing Time & Attention
Goal Setting for Task Completion	Managing Time & Attention
Self Discipline	Managing Time & Attention
Setting Personal Goals for Social Life	Social Life
Public Expectations for Behavior	Social Life
Societal Expectations for Physical Communication	Social Life
Societal Expectations for Verbal Communication	Social Life