



Character Education

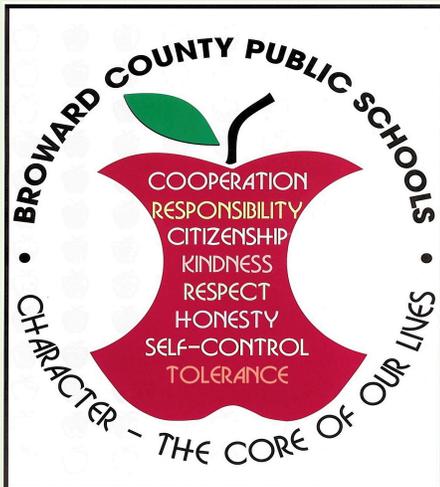
*Suggested Activities
High*



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 15th – [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.

"How many times do you get to lie before you are a liar?"
– Michael Josphson

"Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom."
– Thomas Jefferson

"Watch out when you stretch the truth, it could snap back at you."
– Unknown

"Trust is a treasured item and relationship. Once it is tarnished, it is hard to restore to its original glow."
– Unknown

"No legacy is so rich as honesty."
– Shakespeare

"The word you choose to tell the truth area s important as the decisions to be truthful."
– Sophia Bedford-Pierce

"You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late."
– Ralph Waldo Emerson

Book List



Activities

Paper Towns

by John Green

- Lesson Plans and activities http://www.penguin.com/satic/images/yr/pdf/JohnGreen_Guide_june_2014.pdf

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens

by Sean Covey

<http://www.franklincovey.com/download/7habits-teens-activityguide.pdf>

Crucible by Arthur Miller

After students have completed Arthur Miller's *Crucible*, have them discuss Goody Proctor's lie. She had a reputation for telling the truth. What made her lie? What makes most people lie?

Love is Fallacy

Ask the class to read the story, *Love is a Fallacy* by Max Shulman. Examine letters to the editor in a recent newspaper and identify the logical fallacies.

Jose Marti and Abraham Lincoln

Have students read and compare writings of patriots Jose Marti and Abraham Lincoln, both known to be paradigms of honesty.

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.

Dead Girls Don't Write Letters by Gail Giles

Sunny sinks slowly into mental illness as she tries to unravel the mystery of why a girl comes to her home claiming to be her sister who was supposedly killed in a fire.

The Hero by Ron Woods

Although Jerry's father has made him promise not to take off on a raft without adult supervision, the raft is pulled down river with others aboard. Jerry manages to swim away, but it leaves him with a decision about telling the truth.

The First Honest Book of Lives By Jonni Kincher

Teenagers gain insights into the reasons and ways in which their peers, family, media, and advertisers deviate from the truth. The concept of truth is clarified and reads learn to tell the difference between truths and lies via games, activities, and investigation. Determining motivations and agendas becomes a challenge.

The Giver by Lois Lowry

Read about a perfect world where illness, crime, poverty, and pain are non-existent, where no one has choices or memories, and where only one person stores all of the memories of the community. Jonas is chosen to be the receiver of memories and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

Nothing But the Truth by Avi

The reader must listen to all the evidence about an event and determine the truth. Ninth grader Phillip Malloy disobeys the "respectful, silent attention" rule during the playing of the national anthem. This leads to a confrontation with homeroom teacher, suspension, and finally to media involvement. Discover who wins in the end.

Amy by Mary Hooper

When her former friends shun Amy, she turns to Internet chat rooms, where she meets Zed. She lies to her mother and meets Zed at the beach, where she falls asleep for three hours, only to learn that she had been drugged.

(Continued)

Presidents' Day (February 20)

[Presidents' Day Activities](#) (Grades 9 -12)

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

[Center for Civic Education's Presidents' Day](#) (Lessons Vary)

[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 [cont'd]

3

Special Events & Programs

Local Government Speakers

Have members of the community address classrooms with the emphasis on, honesty.

Newspaper Series

Bring in current events, which are happening in our community, which demonstrate how honesty means success or how the lack of honesty brought about negative consequences.

4

Class Activities

Community: Honesty can be expressed in our commitment to a cause or belief. Ask the class to identify and discuss the individuals in their community that have shown honesty through their commitment to a cause.

Interview: Students will interview other students to share personal experiences in which they feel others treated them dishonestly or unfairly. What happened? How did they feel as a result of their treatment? How might they have handled things differently? Are young people sometimes treated unfairly by adults?



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: Honesty 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 honesty. Have them discuss in small groups their collage and describe to each other the feelings communicated in each collage.

- **PERFORMING ARTS: Trustworthy Teens**

Have students create short, 2-5 minute street theater pieces that in a humorous entertaining way highlight the importance of being a honest 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

- **BUSINESS: Teamwork**

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 honest or dishonest.

- **BUSINESS: Interview**

Have students interview three employees of different businesses and describe what each person needs to do to demonstrate honesty on their jobs.

- **Small Groups**

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 honest. 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 or analogy to describe the quality of honesty.
- Most people consider credible to be an important part of honesty. Break class up into small groups. Have each group discuss and record the following: What is credible? Who should be credible to whom or what, and under what circumstances? When is credibility appropriate and when might it not be appropriate? Give specific examples.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

- Introduce students to the following words, which can use in your daily discussion using the second language they are learning: trustworthiness, honesty, reliability, commitment, integrity, loyalty, and dependability, character.

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.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE [Con't]

- Trustworthiness is a broad word that encapsulated different concepts. Have students work in small groups to come up with a list of English words to describe the characteristics of a trustworthy person. Then teach them some of the words in the foreign language.
- Everyone has a little different understanding of what honesty means. Have students interview three people outside of school for their definition of honesty. 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 honesty. Have students define each word and come up with a specific ways the word applies to playing sports.
* reliability * truthfulness * honesty * trust
* faithful * integrity * courage
- Discuss how sportsmanship and trustworthiness relates. 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 our thinking*”. Have the class discuss what this quote means to them and how it related to the importance of science.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- While honesty is a universal value common in many cultures, there may be certain differences and emphases in different places and among different peoples. As you are studying different countries and/or cultures, have them research the character trait honesty.
- 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 trustworthy.

LEAPS

[Leaps Lesson on Honesty](#)



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 trustworthy. Print a list of students’ ideas in the school newspaper or on the announcements.

Family Service Learning

- Discuss with you family during dinner why some adults feel that the younger generation cannot be trusted and 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 trustworthy. 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 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

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 come 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: High

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?