



# Character Education

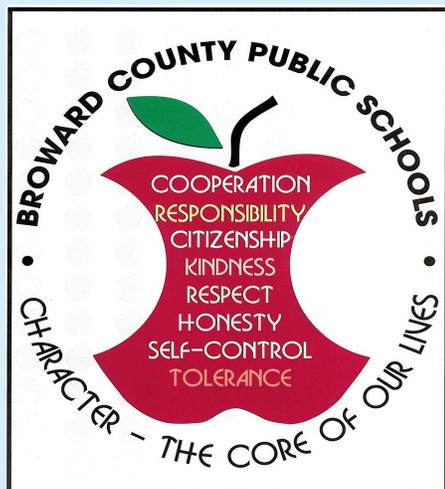
*Suggested Activities  
Middle*



## 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 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>)
- [National Eating Disorders Awareness](#) (Last Week)
- [National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention](#) (2<sup>nd</sup> 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<sup>t</sup> – [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.

"Characters do not change – Opinions alter, but characters are only developed."

– Benjamin Disrail

"The shortest and surest way to live with honor in the world, is to be in reality what we would appear to be; all human virtues increase and strengthen themselves by the practice and experience of them."

– Socrates

"The fastest way to lose what we call our good character is to loose our honesty."

– Aesop

"Every lie you tell litters your life with land mines that could explode at any time."

– Michael Josephson

"Once you tell a lie, you need to create a whole bodyguard of lies to protect it." - Winston Churchill

"Being honest means practicing the habit of telling the truth."

– Mohammed



# 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.

### Blackwater by Eve Bunting

This story deals with tragedy, sorrow, and consequences. Thirteen-year-old Brodie Lynch, in a fit of jealousy, plays a serious joke on two of his friends and causes them both to drown. He must decide between maintaining his silence or admitting his involvement in the deaths of the two teenagers.

### On My Honor by Marion Bauer

A lesson in upholding one’s “honor” unfolds in this tragic story. After swimming incident in a treacherous river near which two boys had promised not to go and which costs Tony his life, Joel is terrified to tell both sets of parents the terrible consequences of their disobedience.

### Smoke Screen By Amy Koss

Mitzi discovers that one lie leads to others in order to substantiate the original one. One day, when her eye becomes teary because there is something in it, Mitzi tells a boy on whom she has a crush that she is crying because her mother is seriously ill. As the result of the lie, the whole school becomes concerned about her mom’s health.

### J.P. Your Move! by Lois Lowry

Twelve-year-old J.P. Tate is in love with a beautiful Angela who has just arrived from London. In an effort to attract her attention, he finds himself entangled in a series of white lies which culminate in actual deception. In the end, it is too late to extricate himself from self-imposed predicament.

### Hush by Jacqueline Woodson

“Evie” participating in the witness protection program, is really 12-year-old Toswiah. She has to move and live a different life, experiencing the problems of fitting in.

### Colibri by Ann Cameron

A man kidnapped 4-year-old Tzunun Chumil in contemporary Guatemala. At age 12, she attempts to escape the dishonest lifestyle in which she finds herself.

## Activities

- Have each student read a biography about Abraham Lincoln. After a class discussion about the former president, have students write essays explaining why they think he was nicknamed “Honest Abe.”
- Have the class read the short story *The Necklace* by Guy deMaupassant. Discuss the meaning of theme. In one sentence or more, ask the students to state what they think is the theme of the story. Have the students read the themes orally. Then ask the students whether or not they believe this theme still applies to life today. Have the students write a new ending to *The Necklace*. What is Madae Loisel had told the truth about losing the necklace? Or think of another suitable ending for the story.
- Read Aesop’s fable *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*. Discuss the idea that the best way to lose our good character is to lose our honesty.



## Prevention Ideas

### Monthly Observances:

#### American Heart

[American Heart Association](#)

American Heart Association ([Play 60 Challenge Lesson Plans](#))

#### Black History

[Diversity, Prevention & Intervention](#)

[Black History Month Lessons and Resources, Grades 6 - 8](#)

[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

[Loveisrespect, National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline \(Student Council Toolkit\)](#)

### Weekly Observances:

#### National Eating Disorders Awareness (Last Week)

[Body Image and Eating Disorders](#)

#### National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention (2<sup>nd</sup> Week)

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

### Day Observances:

#### National Freedom Day (February 1)

[Freedom Day Lesson](#)

#### National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness (February 7)

[National Toolkit](#)

#### Race Relations Day (February 14)

[Words Can Hurt](#)

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

Character Education: Respect ([Grade 6](#)) ([Grade 7](#)) ([Grade 8](#))

[Culture Ads](#)

[We Are One World](#)

[Racial Profiling](#)

#### Susan B Anthony Day (February 15)

[Susan B. Anthony, Activist](#)



## 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 Performances

Write and perform a weeklong series of public service announcements on honesty. Send to feeder elementary schools to show on their morning announcements.

### Lessons

Create and teach a lesson to elementary students about the importance of being honest and trustworthy.

### 2 School Displays

- **Building a Community**  
Have a contest where each classroom designs a poster, which depicts our school as a community. All posters will be displayed at the school. Student council reaches out to dignitaries who will select the winning posters. Contact your Partners in Education for donation.

(Continued)

**Presidents' Day (February 20)**

[Presidents' Day Activities](#) (Grades 6-8)

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

[Presidents' Day: Executive Branch](#)

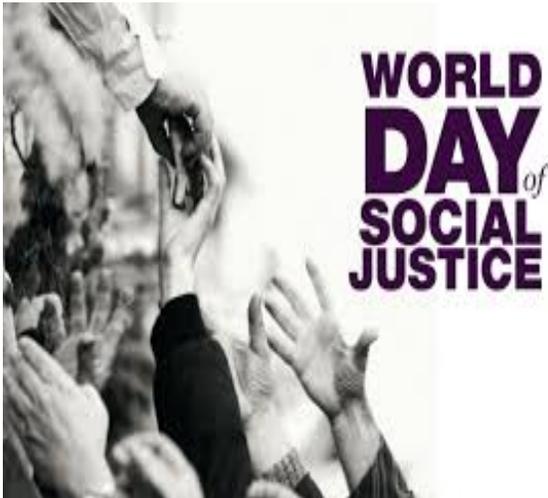
[Presidents Day Activities](#)

[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 [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

### LANGUAGE ARTS

- Have students create a poem using seven different words for honesty and integrity.
- Have students choose an author whose work or style you believe is honest and/or in integrity. Using that author's style, write an entertaining story about and rank the honesty and integrity of each of the punctuation marks, including the history of each and the criteria you use to rank them.
- 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.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

- Organize a group discussion and discuss the question: How do white lies in terms of encouraging others in times of struggle (compliments, praise, etc.) correspond to honesty and integrity? Afterwards gather ideas and create info graphic about white lies.
- Have students create pros and cons comparison chart of social norms and their types to show whether or not always being bluntly honest by expressing you opinion creates possible conflict.

### MATH

- Have students analyze the reasoning of the flat world model and round world model in terms of area, surface area and volume and why for a long time the flat model was perceived as an honest representation of the world's form.
- Have students evaluate the probability model of overpopulation and its effects on economic, infrastructural and supply numbers. Do a honest estimation of the change that would be possible in terms of cause and the upcoming change of numbers.

### ARTS

#### • 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.

#### • PERFORMING ARTS: Musical Instruments

Have students do an analysis of 10 types of musical instruments and create a multimedia presentation that creates an 'argument' for what instrument type and the specific instrument you feel produces the most 'honest sound', including an info graphic ranking of instruments on a scale of the honesty of their sound. In students paper, support arguments with the sounds they produce, mechanics of how they work on their own, how their sound works with other instruments, and the history of the instruments and music they have produced.

## Lesson Plans [cont'd]



### Activities

- Discuss with students the importance of a business in honestly portraying its product. Have them research landmark cases in which a “whistle-blower” exposed the unethical practices of a corporation or other institution.
- Ask the class to write a response to the question: “If someone lies to you, would you ever be able to trust that person again? Explain why or why not. Is there something that person could do to regain your trust?”
- Brainstorm with the class different ways to “talk the talk and walk the walk” about being honest. Give examples of how students can do what they believe in.
- Presidents’ Day is celebrated this month. Have students write about why it is so important for the president to have the character trait of honesty.

### HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Have students interview five different people on how they think complimenting, praising and encouraging others in an honest way is a win-win situation for everyone in terms of emotional health.
- Have students review commercials on different exercise practices/products and their effects that are greatly advertised but might be false advertisement and not in the alignment of honesty and integrity.

### 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.
- 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.

### Science

- Have students make honest predictions based on researching observed patterns (not random guessing) concerning the natural resources of water and its scarcity in the future.
- Have students make two lists one of what you feel are the ten most ‘honest’ animals, and one of what you feel are the least ‘honest’ animals, and list 1 – 2 behavioral traits to support each of your choices.

### LEAPS

Leaps Lesson on Honesty



## Classroom Ideas

### Class Discussion Topics

- Discuss with the class the following quote from Shakespeare: "To thine own self be true." Is it easy to be honest with yourself? Is it important? Why is it important? What happens when people aren't honest with themselves? Do you think it is true that if you are honest with yourself, you cannot be false to anyone else?
- Discuss with students that when someone is called to testify in a trial and that person takes an oath and says, "I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." What do you think that means? What does it mean to them personally? Why are people asked to take an oath?

### Creative Expression

- Have students write a story about a person who showed honesty. These can be published in the school newsletter or submitted to a local paper.

# 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.

### 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

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 your 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: Middle

February



Diversity, Prevention & Intervention  
Lauderdale Manors Early Learning &  
Resource Center  
1400 NW 14<sup>th</sup> Court  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311  
(754) 321-1655  
Fax: (754) 321-1691  
[www.browardprevention.org](http://www.browardprevention.org)  
Email:  
Kimberly.Young@browardschools.com

## Character Check

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?