

# Character Education

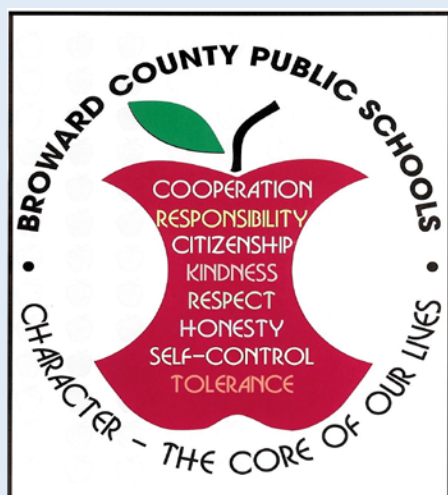
*Suggested Activities  
Elementary*



## CHALK 4 PEACE

## September

## COOPERATION



### 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.

## Prevention Calendar September 2016

### Monthly Observances:

- [Fruit and Veggies More Matters](#)
- [Hispanic Heritage \(Ends Oct. 15\)](#)
- [National Cholesterol Education](#)

### Weekly Observances:

- [National Suicide Prevention \(September 5 -11\)](#)

[Choose Peace/Stop Violence \(September 19 -23\)](#)

### Day Observances:

- September 10 – [World Prevention Day](#)
- September 11 – [Patriotic Day](#)
- September 16 – [Citizenship Day/Constitution Day](#)
- September 21 – [International Day of Peace](#)
- September 24 – [Family Health & Fitness](#)
- September 29 – [World Heart Day](#)



## 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:

- Working with others to accomplish a common purpose
- To act or work with another or others; act together or in compliance
- To associate with another or others for mutual benefit
- A problem-solving interaction among the group members that is largely beneficial to all those participating.
- Working together peacefully.

## QUOTATIONS

### Ideas on How to Use:

- Display a quote each week. Share on morning announcements.
- Teachers post quotes in classrooms.
- Have students write about what the quote means to them.
- Have primary students draw a picture to go with the quote.
- Encourage students to create their own 'quote' that promotes monthly trait.

### Grades K – 2

"It is important to listen and talk to each other in the right way."  
– James Thurber

"We need to listen when people talk to us."  
– William Hazlitt

"The whole world is my family."  
– Pope John XXXIII

"Happiness comes from doing good and helping others."  
– Plato

### Grades 3 – 5

"Use words to speak the truth to each other and you will have success."  
– Confucius

"If we live and work together, we have to talk to each other."  
– Eleanor Roosevelt

"People should work together in the spirit of cooperation."  
– Barbara Jordan

"We can work together like fingers on a hand."  
– Booker T. Washington



# Book List

## Ideas on How to Use:

- In media center, designate a character trait “Featured Readings” section where books promoting the month’s theme are displayed and available for checkout.
- Have students read books, and then depict how the book exemplified the character trait.

## Grades K – 2

*The Enormous Turnip* by Alexei Tolstoy

Everyone must help lift the turnip, which has grown to be enormous.

*The Garden of Happiness* by Erica Tamar

Working with her neighbors to change a trash filled lot into a garden for the community, Marisol is delighted by everyone’s contributions, which include her own sky-reaching planet.

*Me First* By Helen Lester

Pinkerton the pig always makes himself first, until he rushes for a sandwich and what happens next is a surprise.

*Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown

Three hungry soldiers trick the inhabitants of a European village into sharing their food with them by creating a great pot of stone soup.

## Grades 3 – 5

*Enemy Pie* by Derek Munson

Hoping that the enemy pie his father makes will help him get rid of his enemy, a little boy finds that instead he learns how to make a new friend.

*Crickwing* by Janell Cannon

Crickwing never wanted to be a bully. All he wants is to create peace.

*Chester’s Way* by Kevin Henkes

There are two friends who do everything the same way. One day a girl names Lily moves in and teaches them that there are new and different ways of doing things.

*Letters from a slave girl: The story of Harriet Jacobs* by Mary Lyons

Harriet ran away from her mistress, hid for seven years and escaped to the North, where she became active in the abolitionist movement.

*Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen* by Dyanne DeSalvo

Learning from his uncle that there are less fortunate people in the world by doing community service at a soup kitchen.

## Activities

*Swimmy* by Leo Lionni

- Read *Swimmy*
- Discuss and list the different types of animals living together in the sea.
- Discuss how working together can solve problems that one can’t do alone.
- Assign each student a sea creature to research.

*The Little Red Hen* by Paul Galdone

- Read *The Little Red Hen*
- Use the story to discuss how the characters did not cooperate and what would have been the outcome of they had cooperated.

*Jabberwocky* by Lewis Carroll

- Read *Jabberwocky* (silently and then break into cooperative groups)
- Ask each group to create a short story containing ten made-up words what appear to make sense.
- Share stories
- Ask listeners to tell what the story is about and to define the made-up words.





## Prevention Ideas

### 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.

#### **Hispanic Heritage (Ends October 15)**

[Elementary Hispanic Heritage Instructional Resources](#)

[Hispanic Heritage Month Art Contest](#)

*Grow a Heritage Garden:* Plant staple crops common in many Spanish-speaking countries, such as corn, beans, squash, and peppers. Have students keep a log tracking the growth of the various plants. Extend the project by researching staple foods of other regions.

#### **Famous Hispanics Hall of Fame (3-5):**

Students write biographies of famous Hispanics.

[Celebrate Hispanic Heritage \(2-5\)](#)



### Weekly Observances:

#### **Choose Peace/ Stop Violence (September 19 - 23)**

[Join us for Choose Peace Week](#)

*The Peace Wall:* <http://www.teachpeacenow.org/peacewalllesson.html>

### Day Observances:

#### **Patriotic Day (September 11)**

*Twin Tours:* Have student's research how people in the Twin Towers helped one another escape during the catastrophe on September 11, 2001. Ask if these citizens were heroes or simply working together for the good of everyone in danger. A writing assignment could follow: "Would you

have stopped to help people you didn't know on your way out or would you have been too intent on self-preservation?"

#### **Furry Heroes (K-2):**

[http://www.911memorial.org/sites/all/files/HS\\_Furry\\_Heroes\\_1.pdf](http://www.911memorial.org/sites/all/files/HS_Furry_Heroes_1.pdf)

#### **Members of a Community Help Each Other (K-2):**

[http://www.911memorial.org/sites/all/files/CC\\_Members\\_of\\_a\\_Community\\_0.pdf](http://www.911memorial.org/sites/all/files/CC_Members_of_a_Community_0.pdf)

#### **Remembering Heroes (3-5):**

[http://www.911memorial.org/sites/all/files/HS\\_Remembering\\_Heroes\\_0.pdf](http://www.911memorial.org/sites/all/files/HS_Remembering_Heroes_0.pdf)

#### **The Heroic Actions of the Passengers of Flight 93 (3-5):**



## 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**

- Random Acts of Kindness  
Have students introduce this program to the school. Encourage students to perform "Random Acts of Kindness" throughout the school. Have students plan ways that students and staff can affirm those who show kindness to others. Announcing the students who are recognized on the PA is one idea.

### **2 School Displays**

- Cooperation Collage  
Have students create a collage of pictures that show people cooperating with others. Have students write under each picture a few words that describe what the people are doing that show they are demonstrating cooperation.
- Cooperation Picture Book  
Have students in the class make a booklet or display with drawings of important people in their lives. Have students write a description under each drawing of how they cooperate with the person they drew.

(Continued)

[http://www.911memorial.org/sites/all/files/HS\\_Flight\\_93\\_1.pdf](http://www.911memorial.org/sites/all/files/HS_Flight_93_1.pdf)

### Citizenship Day/Constitution Day (September 16)

**Constitutional Convention:** 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.

#### Bill of Rights:

[http://constitutioncenter.org/media/files/Bill\\_of\\_Rights\\_%283-5%29.pdf](http://constitutioncenter.org/media/files/Bill_of_Rights_%283-5%29.pdf)

### International Day of Peace (September 21)

#### Pinwheels for Peace:

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/dailyp/dailyp/dailyp006.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/dailyp/dailyp/dailyp006.shtml)

**Chalk4Peace:** (Register: to receive a starter kit with chalk register on-line with <http://www.choosepeacestopviolence.org>. Chalk availability is limited! When buying additional chalk, talk to your local art store, tell them it’s for Chalk4Peace, or check with your Dollar Stores.) Group Project: Take some rope and a big piece of sidewalk chalk. Tie the chalk and have someone hold the end of the rope tight to a center point. Pulling the rope tight, draw one big circle, and then repeat a smaller circle 2-3 feet smaller. Get someone who can draw straight lines and create the inner lines with a long 2x4 or a surveyor’s chalk line. Make these lines bold with chalk, white tempera poster paints or marking chalk spray. Scatter some loose chalk pieces inside the lines and watch it happen.

### Family Health & Fitness (September 24)

#### K-Activity 2

Explain that there are many different ways family members help each other. Tell each student that there are many ways family members help each other. Tell each student that there are many ways they can cooperate with others in their family. To cooperate is to be helpful and to listen to others. Have students give examples of how they cooperate with their family members. Perhaps they may clean their room. They may help set the table at dinnertime. Distribute the handout “[I Cooperate With My Family](#).” Explain that it is important that family members cooperate with one another. Have students draw a picture of how they cooperate with family members.

They can color their pictures. Then have students show their pictures and tell how they cooperate with other family members. As an assessment you can have students share similarities of different families because it can provide examples of healthful family members help each other regardless of culture. Ask students about ways they might improve relationships and communications within their families.

### World Heart Day (September 29)

#### Choosing Healthful Foods Lesson Ideas (K-2):

<http://www.heart.org/idc/groups/heart-public/@wcm/@global/documents/downloadable/ucm313207.pdf>

#### How do you Choose Snacks and Other Foods (3-5):

<http://www.heart.org/idc/groups/heart-public/@wcm/@global/documents/downloadable/ucm313237.pdf>





## SUBJECT AREA LESSON PLANS

**Ideas on How to Use This Page:** Integrate character trait lesson plans into all subject area instruction. Lesson plans are specific to language arts, social studies, math/science, arts, health & physical education.

### LANGUAGE ARTS

#### Grades K - 2

##### 1. Characters Who understand cooperation

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

Story	Character	How is he/she showing cooperation?

##### 2. What is cooperation?

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

#### Grades 3 – 5

##### 1. How a character demonstrates cooperation?

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

##### 2. How does cooperation help relationships?

Have students in groups make a list of qualities of good, healthy friendships and the characteristics of negative relationships.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

#### Grades K - 2

##### 1. Exchanging Ideas

To develop relationships between students in class, have partner's exchange ideas with each other about different things they like and don't like. Have students share what they learned with the class.

##### 2. Review of Inspiring People

Review interesting people students have recently learned about and discuss how they cooperated with others to build positive relationships.

#### Grades 3 – 5

##### 1. Specific Skills

Discuss the specific skills necessary to cooperate well with others. Listening, sharing, taking turns, compromise and appreciation.

##### 2. Brief Biographies

Have students write brief biographies of important people in history who showed courage, cooperation and honesty.

##### 3. School Survey

Have students take a survey of students in the school about what makes a good friend. Present findings.



Cooperation

## Activities

- Have students research the behavior of ants/or bees. These are some of the insects that work cooperatively together. Why is this important for their survival?
- Labor Day is celebrated this month. Read to the class a short summary on this holiday. Have the students write an essay on why it was so important for people to work cooperatively. Discuss the students' writings.
- Review the definition of cooperation with the class and provide an example in daily life of a behavior that demonstrates cooperation. Ask students to draw a picture of an incident the student remembers in which he/she demonstrated cooperative behavior. Ask students to include the 5Ws (who, what, where, when and why) of literary questioning in the drawing.
- Discuss quotations on cooperation listed on page 2. Have students create their own quote on this topic. Share and use for a class bulletin board.

# Lesson Plans [cont'd]

## MATH/SCIENCE

### Grades K – 2

#### 1. Working cooperatively on Math Problems

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

#### 2. Cooperating in Science

Have students in small groups on Science activity. Encourage cooperation and discuss how it went.

### Grades 3 – 5

#### 1. Scientists Need to Cooperate

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

Occupation	Description	The Benefits of Cooperating

#### 2. Math & Cooperation

Have students in groups make a list of when they have had to use a math skill to cooperate or work together with others.

## ARTS

### Grades K - 2

#### 1. Visual Arts: Cooperation

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

#### 2. Visual Arts: Cooperation Collage

Have students in small groups on Science activity. Encourage cooperation and discuss how it went.

### Grades 3 – 5

#### 1. Visual Arts: Our world is better when we cooperate

Have students create a painting or a drawing showing people making the world a better place by cooperating.

#### 2. Visual Arts: Class Mural

Invite a local artist to help the class create a large mural showing people helping others by cooperating in your community.

## HEALTH

### Grades K - 2

#### 1. Benefits of Cooperation

Make a list of jobs or responsibilities that students cooperate with others on. Have students explain how they cooperate with others and the benefits of cooperating.

#### 2. Being Healthy

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





## Lesson Plans [cont'd]

### Grades 3 – 5

#### 1. Cooperating with Others

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

Examples	Benefits to Others	Benefits to Myself

#### 2. Cooperating is Good for Everyone

Students need to take the list from the activity above and write a paragraph, which explains why using the positive behaviors listed are good for themselves and others.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### Grades K - 2

#### 1. Making a Game More Cooperative

Discuss different sports and how students need to cooperate as team members in each sport.

#### 2. Encouraging Cooperation and good Sportsmanship

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

### Grades 3 – 5

#### 1. Making a Game more Cooperative

Have students create a way to change a competitive game into a noncompetitive one. Have the class play the game and compare it to the original one.

#### 2. Cooperation in sports

Have students make a list of specific ways team members need to cooperate when playing a sport. Discuss what negative consequences occur when not cooperating as a team.



## LEAPS

[Leaps Lesson Plans – K-2](#)

[Leaps Lessons – 3 -5](#)

## SEL

[SEL Cooperation](#)



## School-wide [cont'd]

### 3

### Special Events & Programs

#### • Peer Presentations

Have older students present to younger students': examples in their life where cooperation has assisted them in being successful.

#### • Classroom Presentations

Arrange for high school athletes to present to students why teamwork is important and how cooperation equates winning.

#### • Role Play Presentations

Have students create skits that will be presented and depict cooperation. Have older students write the role-plays.

### 4

### Class Activities

- Have each student interview one adult to find out how they have to cooperate with others at their job.
- Have students share about problems they have had cooperating with others. Discuss the difficulty of cooperating with others and the importance of compromising.
- Have groups make lists of what to do and what not to do when cooperating with others.





## Classroom Ideas

### Class Discussion Topics

- Discuss and define what cooperation means. Identify the specific skills that are necessary for cooperation.
- Have students share about projects they have worked on where they successfully cooperated with others. Discuss what helped students to cooperate with others.
- Explain and discuss the 3C equation: Consideration + Compromise = Cooperation.

### Creative Expression

- Write about a project you worked on and how you cooperated with others.
- Write about two ways you can cooperate with others better.
- Make a list of all the different people you have cooperated with and what you did.
- In groups, write a story about cooperation where each student adds one or two sentences.

# 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.

### School Service-Learning

#### • Working Together

Have students with partners or in groups to make something special for local hospital patients a nursing home, etc. As a class deliver the gift.

#### • Writing Pen Pals

Have students become pen pals with students from a different region or country. Introduce the possibilities that the class can reach out to and allow the students as a group determines which region or country they will write to.

### Community Service-Learning

#### • Stone Soup by Ann McGovern

Discuss the main problem in the book. Why did the villagers treat the soldiers poorly? How do you treat people that are different from you? Help the students understand the importance of tolerance, cooperation and the common good.

#### • Supporting Our Community

Discuss how we can bring about positive change in our school community by tolerating our difference and cooperating with others. Talk about ways that we, as a class/community can help bring about positive change towards people that are different than ourselves. This activity may lead to students planning a service project in their community, celebrating respect through understanding diversity and cooperation.

## Hands-on Activities/Projects

### Picture This

#### Grades K – 5

- Students will be paired with a partner. One student will have their eyes closed and a pencil and piece of paper ready. Their partner will become the group's eyes. The teacher will either draw or project an image from the board. The groups will have ten minutes to create a drawing that is as close to the image on the board as possible.
- Ask the class to line up silently by height. After they finish, ask why they chose to go from shortest to tallest to tallest to shortest. Next, have them line up by birth dates without talking. Observe their means of communication. When they are finished have them go down the line and tell the dates of their birth to see if they lined up accurately. Ask how they devised their means of communication.

# Family Newsletter

## Dear Parent:

Cooperation is the character trait of the month of September. This newsletter offers you activities and ideas, which will assist you with helping your child to understand the importance of cooperation. Learning how to cooperate will help with success in school, in relationship with friends and in life over all. 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.

### Ideas to Do as a Family

- Have your child share with you about times they worked with someone else to make or do something. Emphasize that working together requires compromise and listening to others' ideas.
- Share with your child about something you did that required cooperation. Explain how you worked together with others.
- Schedule household chores at a time when all members of the family can work together to finish them.
- "Catch" your child cooperating and offer your encouragement by verbally showing your appreciation.
- Initiate a family project or activity that all family members can have a role.
- Select a hobby that interests the family and invite all family members to work together.
- Watch a movie or TV program together and discuss how the characters cooperated with each other.
- 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: Elementary

September



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

- What do you have to do so that you listen carefully to others?
- Can you name a time that you compromised during conflict?
- How can you encourage your child to do the very best?
- Ask yourself; is my child able to get along with others? How can I help him/her approve?
- Observe or ask the teacher whether your child participates well in-group activities.