

# Character Education

*Suggested Activities  
Middle*

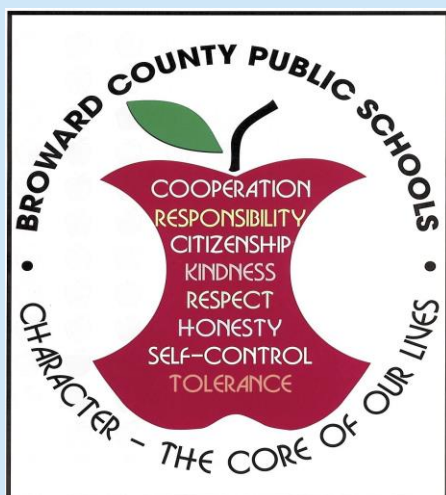


## CHALK 4 PEACE

## September

# Cooperation

## Prevention Calendar September 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:

- [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 Suicide 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:

- A willingness and ability to work with others to accomplish a common goal.
- 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.

## 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.

"It is literally true that you can succeed best and quickest by helping others to succeed."

– Napoleon Hill

"Interdependent people combine their own efforts with the efforts of others to achieve their greatest success."

– Stephen Covey

"In the long history of mankind (and animal kind too) those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed."

– Charles Darwin

"Alone we can do so little." – Helen Keller

"The path to greatest is along with others."

– Baltasar Gracian

"People have been known to achieve more as a result of working with others than against them."

– Dr. Allan Fromme

"Two heads are better than one."

– Polish Proverb



# 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

### Declaration of Independence

- Read Thomas Jefferson’s first two paragraphs in the Declaration of Independence. Write a letter to Thomas Jefferson expressing your views on his ideas about equality and slavery
- Discuss some ideals in the Declaration of Independence. Form small groups to discuss the meaning of the three natural rights that Jefferson identified in the Declaration of Independence: “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.” For each one of the three rights, group members should answer this question: What does this right specifically refer to in our lives today? The groups should then post their answers for the rest of the class to see. Hold a general class discussion and vote to drop or keep the meanings that each group has developed for the three rights.
- *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher  
Curriculum Guide

### Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt

How the events of the civil war changed life on a family’s farm in Illinois.

### A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr. by Martin Luther King, Jr.

### Little Women By Alcott

The life and adventures of four sisters, which takes place in the 19th century, New England while their father is fighting in the civil war.

### Number of the Stars by Lowry

A ten year old girl living in Denmark goes to great lengths to protect and shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

### The Sign of the Beaver by George

A boy living in the 18<sup>th</sup> century becomes friends with another boy from the Beaver Clan who helps him survive in the wilderness.

### Little House in the Bog Woods by Wilder

This is the story told through the eyes of Laura Ingles a young girl living in 1871 in a log cabin as a pioneer. Laura and her family face many difficulties.

### Friedrich by Hans Peter Richter

Best friends, one of who is Jewish, face changes growing up in Nazi Germany.

### Crispin: At the Edge of the World by Avi

Branded as traitors by the king’s authorities, Crispin and his guardian flee to coastal towns in 14<sup>th</sup> century England, where they perform a musical juggling act and bond as a family.

### Deep by Susanna Vance

Two young girls team up to protect themselves against a maniacal kidnapper in the Caribbean.

### Haunting at Home Plate by David Patneaude

Fifty years after Andy Kirk dies, messages signed A.K. appear near the baseball diamond and give the team advice that helps them play life a “team.”





## 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)**

Secondary Hispanic Heritage Instructional Resources

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Hispanic Heritage Month Art Contest

***Plant a Memory Forest:*** Plant a tree in your community for each Hispanic hero your class selects. Tag each tree with a mini biography highlighting that hero's contributions.

*Hispanic Heritage Month begins today.*

Students work in groups to research Hispanic Cultures and present the information.

*Drake's West Indian Voyage 1588- - 1589 (6-8)*

### Latino Heritage: A Discussion Activity

## Latino Americans Series Lesson Plans



**Weekly Observances:**

## National Suicide Prevention (September 5 -11)

## Suicide Prevention and Awareness

Through lessons in Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Math, suicide prevention and awareness can be fully integrated into school curriculum. When students receive a wide scope of information on suicide prevention, they are better able to recognize warning signs, seek out resources, and communicate their needs (or the needs of a

friend) in order to ask for help. The lessons below provide a cross-disciplinary approach to teaching suicide prevention and awareness.

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

Join us for Choose Peace Week

## Seeds of Peace

## Peace building Toolkit

**Day Observances:**

## World Prevention Day (September 10)

(see Suicide Prevention and Awareness)



## 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's Working Together

Have your student council identify “A Day for Change”. This is the day that the entire student body will work together towards helping one selected local or world charity.

## Community Members

## Interviews

Have members of the community address classrooms with the emphasis on, how working together is a key for success.

## 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)

### Patriotic Day (September 11)

- *Everyday Heroes and Heroines*
- *The Heroic Actions of the Passengers of Flight 93*
- *Days of Infamy*
- *Sacrifice*

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

- *Project Citizen*
- *Celebrate Constitution Day*

Have students work in groups. Have each group select one of the rights protected by the Bill of Rights [first 10 Amendments to the Constitution, see previous activity]. If you wanted to make sure all ten are covered you may want to have students draw from a hat. Then have each group write a commercial promoting one of the amendments. Commercials may include songs, jingles, skits, or

“sales pitches” and should creatively demonstrate how these rights are important to people today. Each group will present its commercial to the class.

### International Day of Peace (September 21)

#### *Pinwheels for Peace:*

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/daily1p/daily1p/daily1p006.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/daily1p/daily1p/daily1p006.shtml)

**Chalk4Peace:** (Register: to receive a starter kit with chalk register online 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



## School-wide [cont'd]

### 3 Special Events & Programs

#### • **Mix it up Day**

Have your school participate in the National, “Mix it up at Lunch” day. Students identify the lunchrooms as the most segregated place in the school. Cafeteria tables are designed as cities around the world. Students are randomly assigned a city to visit for their lunch period. They meet new students and learn about the city. The Internet has more information about this national school activity.

### 4 Class Activities

- Have students learn how to brainstorm. Remind them what group dynamics and rules are necessary for group brainstorming. Students will learn how to come to a consensus.
- Have students write a short essay or paragraph about what they could do cooperatively to try to realistically solve one problem in their community.



## 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

- **School or Community Unity**

Have students write essays, which suggest ways, their school or community could be more cooperative.

- **Resolving Conflicts**

Have students write stories where characters have disagreements with each other yet they cooperate to resolve their conflicts.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

- **Cooperation and Exploitation**

Discuss how the principle of cooperation is essential in all human societies. Discuss how cooperation can often be replaced by exploitation.

- **Current Events**

Have students' research and share about current events where issues are being discussed and resolved cooperatively.

### MATH

- **Solving Difficult Math Problems**

Have students work together in small groups to solve a difficult math problem. Have students assign people different responsibilities as they work together to solve the problem. After the groups solve the problem, discuss how well students cooperated. Have students explain how the principles of cooperation allowed them to problem solve.

### ARTS

- **VISUAL ARTS: Cooperation**

Have students paint or draw an illustration of people doing something positive together.

- **VISUAL ARTS: Portrait**

Have students photograph the people in their lives that support them. Include something that illustrates how this person helps and supports them.



## Lesson Plans [cont'd]

### HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- **Resolving Conflicts**

In small groups have students discuss conflicts they have resolved while playing a sport or game. Emphasize cooperation strategies used.

- **Creating a Cooperative Community**

Have students discuss in groups what makes a cooperative community. Then have students discuss what each individual needs to do to build a positive community.

What Makes a Cooperative Community?	What Do People Need to Do?

### FOREIGN LANGUAGE

- **Current Events**

Have students research a current social issue or problem in the country whose language they are studying. Have students include information about efforts that were used to cooperate with others to try and solve the problem.

### 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.

### LEAPS

[Leaps Lesson on Cooperation](#)

### SEL

[SEL Cooperation](#)





## 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.

### Creative Expression

- Students will explore how conflict can be negative and positive. Have students do this in small groups and present to the entire class. Students will create a class mural, which shows how conflict can be beneficial or detrimental.

# 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

#### • Relationships with Younger Students

Throughout the year, have students build buddy relationships with younger students in the school. Have students tutor, read with students and lead games.

#### • Sponsor a Child

Have the class sponsor a child in a developing country, learning about the child's needs, culture, and background. Have students write to the child. Have students in small cooperative groups determine which child sponsorship they want to pursue. Class consensus is obtained.

#### • 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.

#### • Working with Local Group

Have a guest speaker who works for a local non-profit agency describe specific needs the agency has. Then set a goal for how the class can help and together meet that goal.

#### • Building Bridges

Have classes get involved with an ongoing service project where they are building relationships with people who are different from them, such as the elderly, disabled, etc.

## Hands-on Activities/Projects

### Human Knot

Divide the class into two groups of about fifteen students each. Have the students in each group form a tight circle facing inward. Each person is to reach across the circle and take the right hand of someone in the circle not next to him or her and then the left hand of someone else not next to them. No one should be holding both hands of another person and no one should have his own arms crossed. The cooperative task is to untangle himself or herself without anyone in the circle letting go of a hand. They will end up back in a circle if they are successful. Some of the participants may be facing out instead of in. If they succeed, ask if a natural leader emerged and why the group automatically followed or challenged the natural leader. If no natural leader took over, ask the group to describe the process of untangling through equal suggestions.



# 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: Middle

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.