

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Guide to teaching the pillar of responsibility at home

Do what you are supposed to do • Plan ahead • Be diligent • Persevere • Do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act • Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes • Set a good example for others

Dear Parents and Families,

This month we are focusing on the Character Counts Pillar of Responsibility. Our district believes that every child has the potential to be responsible and we will do all that we can to promote this pillar, but we need your help! Below is a list of ideas to work through with your family!

What CAN YOU DO at home?

- Communicate unconditional love and approval regardless of whether or not your child makes responsible choices.
- Be more concerned with the process of making good choices; how they come to their decisions rather than the outcome of their decisions. Praise and encourage the good things, the effort and the decision making process that they went through.
- Offer choices with limits that you find acceptable. This helps to elicit responsibility without threats or demands.
- Trust your child's ability to make good decisions. Offer choices they can handle to help build their experience in making decisions and choices.
- Allow your child to experience the consequences of their poor choices in order to help them learn. Children learn from mistakes and will gain confidence in the act of being responsible for their choices.
- Encourage responsible television watching. Watch programs with your children and encourage discussions on how characters handle situations and if they would choose to do things differently if they were in that situation.
- Limit video game playing to a certain amount of time or link it as a reward for responsible behavior. Children can learn that following structure and routine is a part of being responsible.



R