

# FAMILY CONNECTIONS

## Guide to Teaching the Pillar of Citizenship at Home

Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment • Volunteer

Dear Parents and Families,

This month we are focusing on the Character Counts Pillar of Citizenship. Our district believes that every child has the potential to be good citizens 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?

- Minimize waste. Recycle and conserve.
- Reinforce the importance of school rules and that they must be followed.
- Reinforce the importance of sportsmanship.
- Reuse boxes and shopping bags.
- Notice nature around you. Watch a sunrise or sunset. Look for animals. Appreciate the flowers and trees around you.
- Plant a garden with your children. Allow them to help with the yard work and gardening. Grow your own herbs or vegetables.
- Plant a seed or tree and watch it grow.
- Turn the water off while you are brushing your teeth or doing the dishes.
- Participate in a beach clean up day or plan your own for your family for an hour. If not the beach, use your neighborhood park.
- Carpool or walk instead of using a car.
- Encourage your children to watch shows on nature, science, or animals to broaden their knowledge and appreciation.
- As a family, research and select a charity to donate to. Encourage your children to donate a portion of their allowance. Plan to participate as a family to help at the local shelter, senior center, food kitchen, or for an elderly neighbor.
- Have discussions about current events so that your children can become aware of what the important issues are and how politicians or community officials are handling them. Have your children see you reading the newspaper, watching the news and getting involved in community services.
- Observe and follow traffic rules.
- Show and explain to your children how the election process works and how to utilize resources to stay informed of the issues before you vote.
- Model citizenship behaviors and notice when your children are being good citizens in order to reinforce those desired behaviors.

