



VALUES MATTER



HONESTY: Dealing truthfully with people, being sincere, not deceiving them or stealing from them, not cheating or lying.

CONGRATULATIONS KINDNESS STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!



The Elementary Level Student of the Month is Angeline Alvarez, a third grader at Coral Gables Preparatory Academy. Early in the month, one of Angeline's classmates lost all of her possessions in a house fire. After hearing about this tragedy in her classmate's life, Angeline went home, collected some of her favorite toys, shoes, and clothing and asked her mother to help her take the items to her classmate who was in need. Angeline took it upon herself to help her classmate without being prompted to do so. She told her teacher that she just wanted to brighten her classmate's day after she went through something so difficult. This act was truly an act of kindness, and is a testament of how a small kind act can have great impact. Angeline is a special young lady whose demonstration of kindness and empathy are evident to all who know her at Coral Gables Preparatory Academy.

The Secondary Level Student of the Month is Grace Urbina, an eighth grader at Miami Lakes K-8 Center. Grace is a student whose creativity sparked much talk at Miami Lakes K-8 Center. After hearing about kindness being the month's value, Grace went home and reflected on what she could do to support the campaign. The next day, when students and staff returned to school, they found 100 sticky notes with positive and kind messages stuck to the walls. After identifying Grace as the mystery sticky note student, the counselor and Grace worked together to make her stickies into a school wide poster project. They created posters entitled "Spreading Loving Kind Words", where kind messages could be posted. Grace truly found a way to show kindness and encourage others by sharing inspiring and kind-hearted words at Miami Lakes K-8 Center.



**Kindness Students of the Month
Angeline Alvarez and Grace Urbina**



CONGRATULATIONS KINDNESS SCHOOL OF THE MONTH!

The Values Matter School of the Month is John A. Ferguson Senior High School. A group of students in the school felt so inspired by the Sandy Hook Promise, *Start with Hello*, presentations held in January, that they decided to host a *Start with Hello* Week during February as a way to connect this initiative with the District's focus on kindness. With the administration's support, the students planned several events aimed at ending social isolation and cultivating a kinder community in this very large school of 4,200 students.

They created a unique event called "Speed Friending" where several hundred students were brought into the gym and given question cards and the opportunity to learn about others in their school they did not know. They also hosted a "No One Eats Alone Day", a mixed grade level social, and a "Name Tag Day", where all students wore name tags and were encouraged to learn a new person's name. Additionally, they held a sticky note day where like Grace they posted kind and positive messages throughout the school.



**Principal, Mr. Rafael
Villalobos, and staff from
John A. Ferguson Senior
High School**

"Honesty is the first chapter
in the book of wisdom."
-Thomas Jefferson

**Child Abuse Prevention and
Awareness Month
Briefing #18891
[A look at Blue Ribbon Month](#)**

Month of the Military Child

**World Autism Awareness Day
April 2nd
Briefing #19057**

**National Youth Violence
Prevention Week - April 4-8th**

**Alcohol Awareness Month
[Toolkit for Alcohol Awareness](#)**

**Be the One Day
April 22, 2016
[How will You Be the One?](#)**

IDEAS Corner



Activities:

- Have students trace their hands and draw a heart in the palm of the hand. Next, have students write some actions that they are willing to commit to in order to be honest. Student should understand that the hands represent actions they will take and the heart represents an understanding about why it is important to act honestly. The hands can be cut out and posted on a bulletin board or even on the door.
- Divide the class into small groups and have them brainstorm what actions are aligned with honesty. Have the groups create a pictorial response on chart paper to this brainstorming session. Each group can then describe their creation. Encourage class discussion about the information being shared.
- Host a class discussion about the economic impact of shoplifting. Have students research this topic and reflect on their findings. Students may even be encouraged to contact a local retailer to ask questions about stealing and its impact at that particular business.
- Have students write an article for the school newspaper or a letter to the editor that explains why cheating in school really harms the person who is cheating. The article should convince the reader that cheating is a bad practice in school.
- Discuss the importance of accurate data reporting in scientific research and how results can impact our society. Connect this discussion to student's research for their science fair projects. Anonymously poll students to determine if they think it is dishonest to alter the results of their projects. Discuss possible implications of these results.
- Have students interview various members of the community about what characteristics are important to them if they were to hire someone or make someone a friend. Have students report back as to how many times honesty was reported as a valued characteristic. Students may write a reflection on what they learned from these interviews.
- Have students review the campaign promises of the current candidates running for election. Host a discussion about how believable those promises appear to be. An interesting assignment might be to have students write pretend letters to the candidates addressing those promises.



Values Matter at Kendale Lakes Elementary School

- Have students draw a character that is honest and truthful. Have them name their character and share information about why this character is a good role model for honesty.
- Have the class share stories about what happened when they told the truth and it helped solve a problem or kept them out of trouble. Follow up that discussion with an assignment where students are asked to create fictional stories where a person was chose honesty and the results of that choice.
- Divide the class into groups and have each group make a large sign. This project will be a visual reminder of how students can practice the "I Wills" for honesty. Give each group a large sheet of paper and markers. When they are finished collect the five posters and string them together to form one large banner. (See activity in the free on-line resources at <http://talkingtreebooks.com>)
- Abraham Lincoln is one of the most prominent historical figures who is known to represent honesty. Have students research Abraham Lincoln and reflect on how he got the title "Honest Abe." A follow-up activity might be to have students name a current public figure who deserves a similar title and why.
- Create a bulletin board with a spring theme and incorporate honesty. Perhaps a title such as "Spring is the Season for Honesty" or "Spring into Honesty" would be appropriate. Students can each create a flower where they write what honesty means to them or how they pledge to be honest. Let students be creative and then post their creations on the board.



JOURNAL ENTRIES

Grades K-2: Draw or write to tell about something that you have been honest about.

Grades 3-5: Honesty is dealing truthfully with people. Is it important to tell the truth, even if it places you in a difficult situation? Why or why not?

Grades 6-8: Have you ever been dishonest about something? What were the results, and how does this compare with the character's experience with honesty/dishonesty. Cite specific details from the text to strengthen your response.

Grades 9-12: Have you ever been dishonest about something? What were the results, and how does this compare with the character's experience with honesty/dishonesty. Site specific details from the text to strengthen your response.



Miami Springs Senior High School students spread the word that values matter.



Character Lessons

Login to your employee portal and click on the Discovery Education icon. Use the search term **Honesty** to find videos and lessons.



- Host a family discussion about values and discuss which character traits are most important for adults to possess. Follow up that discussion with your best effort to show your children those traits in yourself. Children are likely to imitate the attitudes and behaviors of the adults closest to them. If you make a bad decision when it comes to being honest or sincere with your child watching, take responsibility for your failure and don't make excuses.
- If you catch your child being dishonest, use the event as a teachable moment. Have a conversation with your child about what they said and how they could have handled the situation if they had been honest. Never ignore the lies your children tell.
- Talk about dishonesty in the media. Look for examples in television programs, commercials, internet stories, newspapers, and magazines. Discuss the consequences of the dishonesty and how the story might be changed if honesty was used.
- Make a family pact to keep promises. Insist that all members of the family keep their promises to each other or to friends. Design a family honesty pledge or credo and post it in a prominent place.
- Be constructive when you respond to mistakes your child makes. If your child expects you to act angry, then he/she will be more likely to lie to cover up mistakes. Try to respond to mistakes in a calm manner and focus on the behavior and consequences so that your child is more likely to be truthful in the future.

HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY!

Students: Make Honesty a Part of Your Education

Honesty is an important choice to which students need to make a commitment. It is important to understand that honesty should not be a choice in only a particular situation, but should become a part of the way you live your life. When you make this commitment people will view you as a truthful and dependable person and will value your opinion and input.

Honesty is also very important part of your education. If students copy or plagiarize other's work, they are denying themselves the opportunity to learn and grow. Students will not be prepared for the next level of work, if they do not learn the basics. The only way to learn is to do one's own reading, problem solving, or paper writing.

Students should not be afraid to make errors and receive feedback from their teachers. These mistakes will show teachers that they need more practice and correcting mistakes is an important part of your learning process. Cheating truly denies students the opportunity to learn even if they don't get caught.



Values Matter at Sylvania Heights Elementary School

Putting Honesty into Action:

- ❖ Do not leave out parts of the story or twist the truth.
- ❖ If you find something, turn it in so the owner can get it back.
- ❖ Show appreciation to friends or family members who are honest with their feelings.
- ❖ Always turn in original work. Do not plagiarize and never let others copy your work.
- ❖ Admit your mistakes and accept responsibility for your words and actions.
- ❖ Tell information without exaggeration or embellishment.
- ❖ Refuse to engage in negative talk or gossip.
- ❖ Make sure your actions and your words match.
- ❖ Think before you answer. Consider the consequences of lying.

IF YOU WANT TO **BE** TRUSTED,
BE HONEST.

IF YOU WANT TO **BE** HONEST,
BE TRUE.

IF YOU WANT TO **BE** TRUE,
BE YOURSELF.

IF YOU WANT TO **BE** YOURSELF,
**BE SOMEONE WHO DOES WHAT'S RIGHT
REGARDLESS OF WHO IS AROUND.**



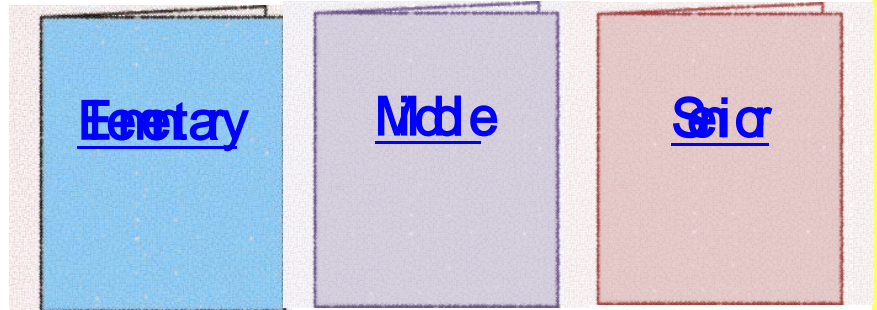
**I can BEE
HONEST**



Broadmoor Elementary School students are proud of their cooperation quilt.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Grade Lessons



HONESTY

Recommended Reading List

K-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooper, Helen. <i>Pumpkin Soup</i> Daywalt, Drew. <i>The Day the Crayons Quit</i> Galdone Paul. <i>The Little Red Hen</i> Ernst, Lisa Campbell. <i>Sam Johnson and the Blue Ribbon Quilt</i> Nolen, Jerdine. <i>Raising Dragons</i> Rathmann, Peggy. <i>Officer Buckle and Gloria</i>
3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avi, <i>Nothing But The Truth</i> Bunting, Eve. <i>A Day's Work</i> Bunting, Eve. <i>Smoky Night</i> Ernst, Lisa Campbell. <i>When Bluebell Sang</i> Cocca-Leffler, Maryann. <i>Princess Kim</i> Meddaugh, Susan. <i>Martha Blah Blah</i> Ness, Evaline. <i>Sam, Bangs & Moonshine</i> Schur, Maxine Rose. <i>The Peddler's Gift</i> Soto, Gary. <i>Too Many Tamales</i>
6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willard, Nan. <i>Cheating Lessons</i> Dudley, David L. <i>The Bicycle Man</i> Almond, David. <i>The Fire-Eaters</i> Goldman Koss, Amy <i>Strike Two</i>
9-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosseini, Khaled . <i>The Kite Runner</i> Morgan, Sally. <i>My Place</i> Lopez, Barry. <i>About this Life</i>



- <http://www.characterandcitizenship.org>
- <http://www.beyondifferences.org/>
- [character first education resources](http://characterfirsteducationresources.com)
- <http://www.trueaimeducation.com/values/children-teach-honesty/>
- <http://talkingtreebooks.com/character-education-worksheets.html#honesty>