

## **Classroom Guidance Topics**

### **August/September**

#### **Character Trait: Responsibility**

#### **Guidance Topic: Introduction to the School Counselor and self-identity**

Throughout the month of August and September, we will be focusing on the character trait of responsibility. Students at all grade levels will learn about the job responsibilities of a school counselor. Students will learn that school counselors are helpers who work with all students. School counselors are great listeners, and we often help students solve difficult problems at school or at home. We help connect students and families to resources that they need. Students will also learn about confidentiality and how it applies to a counselor's job. Students will also learn about how being different is ok and learn to identify positive things about themselves. Students will learn about being responsible with their choices and also work on building self-esteem. Feelings and emotions will be incorporated throughout August and September as well as during the schoolyear to meet the social and emotional needs. But It's Not my Fault and That Rule Does Not Apply to me, and I Like Myself will be some of the books that we will read.

### **October**

#### **Character Trait: Kindness**

#### **Guidance Topic: Conflict resolution and problem solving/friendships**

Throughout the month of October, we will be focusing on the character trait of kindness as it relates to solving problems with friends. Kindergartners will focus on learning about anger and controlling anger. First grade will discuss ways to work together to solve problems. Students in second through fourth grade will learn about Kelso's Choices and how to apply those to the ABCD problem solving method. Students will also be taught to use I statements. We will be reading Angry Octopus, Winners don't Whine, and also utilizing BrainPop Jr and EmotionalABC.com.

### **November**

#### **Character Trait: Respect**

#### **Guidance Topic: Bullying Prevention**

In November, classroom guidance will focus on ways to prevent and stop bullying. At all grade levels, students will learn about the power of upstanders and they will recognize the importance of being an upstander, rather than a bystander. Books we will read this month include: Bully Beans, Weird, Tough, and Dare by Erin Frankel, and The Bully Blockers Club.

## **December**

**Character Trait: Integrity**

**Guidance Topic: Being Your best self/Growth Mindset**

Throughout the month of December, students at all grade levels will learn about the importance of integrity and being their best selves (even when no one is watching). We will be discussing similarities and differences using children's literature. Books we will read this month include, Giraffes Can't Dance, Growth Mindset, Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun, Finklehopper Frog, The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes.

## **January -Character Trait: Perseverance**

**Guidance Topic: Goal Setting/Grit/Famous Americans Profile**

In January, students will learn about goal setting. Students will be encouraged to set SMART goals and to persevere as they work to achieve those goals. Goal setting will be tackled using a growth mindset. Students in lower grades will be taught to use statements as: "I can't \_\_\_\_\_YET" when they are setting their goals. Books we will read this month include: Betty Bunny Wants a Goal, Oh the Places You'll Go, Malala's Magic Pencil and other famous American stories.

## **February**

**Character Trait: Citizenship**

**Guidance Topics: Careers**

In February, classroom guidance lessons will focus on career development. Students will be taught to examine their interests and skills as they think about possible careers. Books we will read this month include: Pete the Cat, When I Grow up. Students will be exposed to *Paws In Jobland*

## **March**

**Character Trait: Honesty**

**Guidance Topic: Telling the truth**

During the month of March, classes will discuss the importance of honesty and self-control. We will focus on telling the truth as well as respecting personal space and controlling our own actions. Kindergarteners will also explore the importance of not taking things that are not theirs. Books we will read this month will include: Sam Tells Stories, Ricky Sticky Fingers, The Wolf Who Cried Boy, and Fables that teach lessons

## **April**

**Character Trait: Self-control**

**Guidance Topic: Controlling our own actions**

During the month of April. Students will learn about the value of self-control. Books we will read include: Tattle Tongue, Personal Space Camp, and My Mouth is a Volcano

## **May**

**Character Trait: Positive Attitude**

**Guidance Topic: Test stress/Positive Attitude**

During the month of May, students in grades K-2 will focus on having a positive attitude. Students in grades 3-4 will be taught test stress reduction strategies in preparation for the upcoming EOGs. Books will read this month include: Testing Miss Malarkey, Pout Pout Fish, Pete the Cat and his Magic Sunglasses, Emmanuel's Dream

## **June**

**Guidance Topics: Saying Goodbyes, Self-Care, Summer Safety**

During the month of June, students will learn about self-care and summer safety which includes hygiene and mindfulness activities with art.