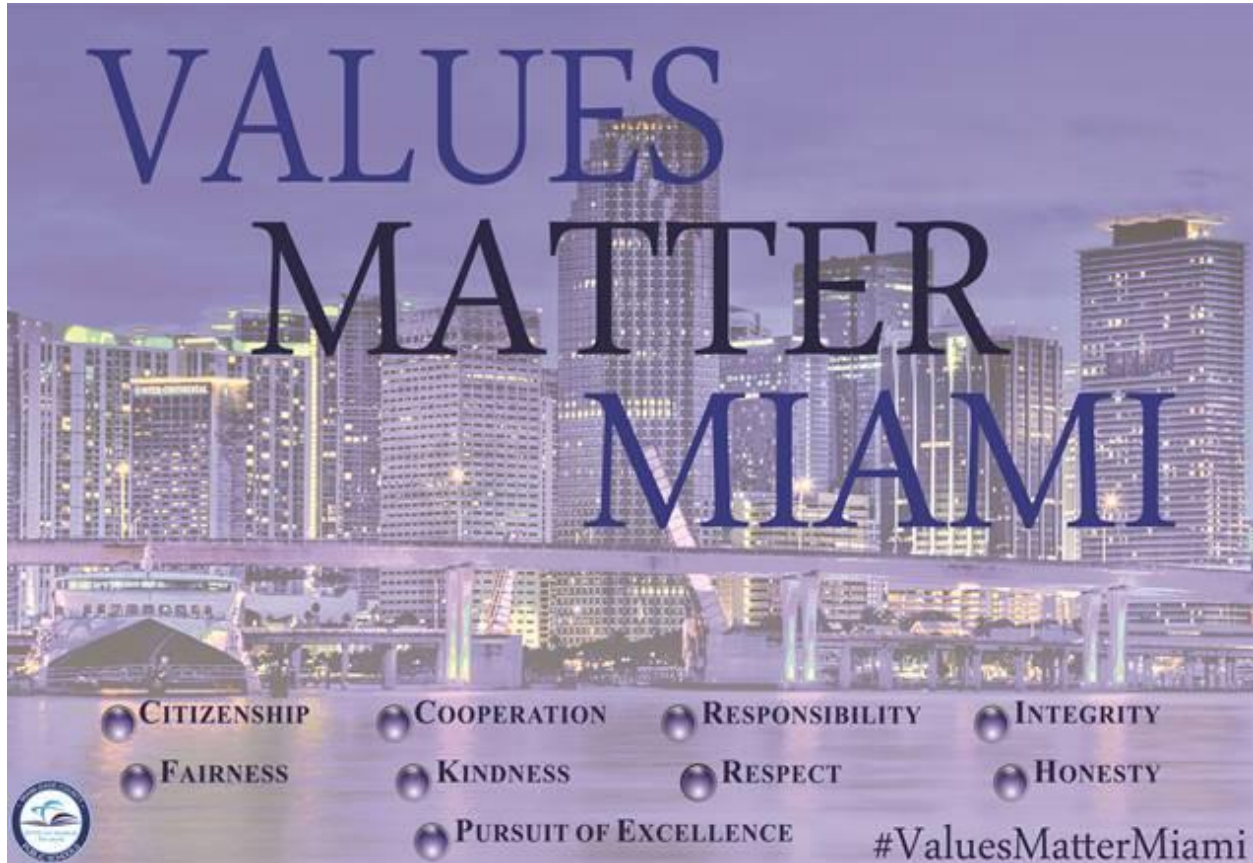


Values Matter Miami

Suggested Kick-off Activities



“Open your arms to change, but don’t let go of your values.” -Dalai Lama

August 2017
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Division of Student Services



2017-2018

Suggested Activities

<p>Announcing the Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host a contest where students are asked to write morning announcements that highlight the importance of each of the nine core values or use the announcements that are available on the Values Matter Miami website to highlight a value of the day.
<p>Goal Setting for Excellence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give students goal setting worksheets and have them determine what goal they will pursue during this school year. Also, have students express what type of self-talk they will use to ensure that they stay committed to their desired goal. Goal sheets can then be displayed. • Goal sheets can be given to all students as an assignment to reflect upon and then students can keep the goal sheet in their notebook and refer back to it throughout the year. • Activity can be done without the goal sheets and students can write their goals directly on banner paper. • Students can create their own goal sheets either on the computer or using construction paper and markers.
<p>I Pledge To</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have students use the I Pledge To template to write a pledge which states how they will use the nine core values to eliminate hate and discrimination.
<p>Key to My Success</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give students “keys” and have them write what the key to their success is when thinking of behaviors associated with a particular value. Make sure students understand that the behaviors that align with the value are necessary for their success as a student and as a human. Have students think about behaviors that have been a problem for them in the past that they want to work on this year. • Activity can be done without the handout. Students can just write their keys to success on a banner which has a picture of a key. • Students may want to create their own keys.
<p>Many Thanks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give students thank you notes as they enter school in the morning. Ask them to write a short “thank you” to someone who they feel is deserving of a thank you. Encourage them to think of people who do not often get thanked (office staff, custodians, bus driver, crossing guard, mom, principal). • This activity can be done without the handouts. Students can be asked to write a few words of thank you to someone. They can do this on paper or through email. • A thank you board can be created and students can write who they want to thank and why on the board. Hang it in a prominent location where everyone walking by will see when they re-

My Best Self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have students complete the My Best Self template to reflect on which values help them be their best self. This template can also be used to guide a discussion about the student's goals for the
School Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While discussing classroom rules with students, connect the core values to the rules. For exam-
The Word Is..	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cut out the letters that spell out the selected value and place them on a wall in a prominent location in your school or classroom. Have students write how they will demonstrate the selected value both in school and at home.
Turning Negative into Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post a piece of banner paper and place post-it notes on it with words which are the opposite of the day's value. When students enter the cafeteria or designated area, they will see a poster with many negative words. The title of the banner should be "How do you want to be remembered?" Have students take the negative word of their choice off the wall and throw it in the trash can that you will have strategically placed next to the banner. Give the students the opportunity to write a word which positively demonstrates the value directly on the banner. Each classroom can have a poster with the negative words on them and the students will erase the words before they enter the classroom.
Values Chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each time student is "caught" doing something that exemplifies the value of the day, have the teacher give him/her a colored strip of paper and have him/her tape or staple the ends together to create a circle or link with it. The teacher will create a chain in the classroom. At the end of the day, see which teacher's chain has the most links and announce the winner. You can create links everyday with different color paper for each value. At the end of the week, see which value was seen in action the most. Have students create a chain by writing what they will do to behave in a manner which portrays the targeted value. Students can see their chain of good intentions as a reminder to exhibit these behaviors.
Values Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will assess themselves in terms of their values. Students should be given the opportunity to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses and set goals for themselves in areas of weakness. Schools may use the What's Your Value template or the When You See Me template to express the value that represents their strength.
Values Hallways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assign each hallway in the school a different value. Have classes located in that hallway create
Values Matter in Our Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have students reflect on how values matter in our community now more than ever and have
Values Matter Rewind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rewind is about reviewing the District's nine core values and reflecting on what was learned last year. Schools should plan additional activities that review the nine core values throughout the day and should challenge students to reflect on something they learned. Schools should create a display where students can write their reflections or host a lunch time challenge. You may use the Values Matter Taught Me template to tweet pictures about your students' reflections: Don't forget to tag #ValuesMatterMiami in your tweets.

Values Report Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the Values Report Card template to have students rate themselves on each of the nine core values. Ask students to reflect on areas that need improvement both at home and in school. Ask
Values Venue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a values venue in your school for the kick-off week. The cafeteria or a prominent hallway is a great place for this venue. Use your values venue to display the many wonderful creations that your students make for each value throughout the week. Feel free to use any of the Values Matter Miami templates in your values venue.
Walk a Mile in My Shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give student a Walk a Mile in My Shoes handout in the morning. Have the first class teacher explain that each student is being asked to reflect on the statement, “Don’t judge someone until you have walked a mile in his shoes.” Have the student’s last teacher of the day collect the handouts and select the best ones to be read the next morning or post in your Values Venue. • Create a banner that says, “Walk a Mile in My Shoes” and have students reflect their thoughts directly on the banner.
Who Do You Respect?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give students “Who Do I Respect” Cutouts. Have them write who they respect and why on the handout. Display the student’s cutouts on your banner in your values corner or in designated areas throughout the school. • Create a big banner entitled “Who Do You Respect?” and have students write the names of who