

# VALUES MATTER MIAMI

April 1, 2018

Volume 2, Issue 8

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

**Integrity:** Standing up for your beliefs about what is right and what is wrong and resisting social pressure to do wrong.

## Honesty

When we teach children the value of honesty, we are helping to develop their moral and emotional strength. Early on, students are taught that “honesty is the best policy.” Most students are taught about “Honest Abe” or they are familiar with Pinocchio, but it is often a challenge to get children to put honesty into practice on a daily basis. Although most children have been told to tell the truth, many children have never been taught the importance of being trustworthy or the negative effects of being a dishonest person.

Many students’ dishonest behavior is a product of fear or shame. Adults should always refrain from shaming students when they make mistakes so they will not feel compelled to lie about transgressions. When we make a choice to be honest or dishonest, we are regulating our moral compass and thus affecting the kind of person we become. Honesty is an important value and practicing honesty is a choice that matters. As you continue to make values matter at your school, be sure to teach students about why honesty is essential for self-respect and productive relationships.



Agenoria S. Paschal/Olinda Elementary School

## Integrity

Integrity is one of the most important values, but it is often the most difficult to teach because it is sometimes hard to understand or explain what it really means. Integrity is displayed in a person’s entire character and not just in one act of good will. When one teaches students to understand the concept of integrity, it is important to encourage them to think about their choices. We may need to teach some children what the right thing to do is and how to actually do the right thing. As the Values Matter Miami 2017-2018 campaign draws to a close, please ensure that you are working with your school community to understand that not all of their choices are going to be popular with everyone, but choices that are aligned with our District’s nine core values are vital to living with integrity. Let’s end the year continuing to make values matter and help our students do what is right and hold their heads high while doing so.



Child Abuse, Neglect, and Sexual Abuse Prevention Month

Blue Ribbon Month  
Briefing #22692

[http://briefings.dadeschools.net/files/96331\\_Blue\\_Ribbon\\_Activities\\_Guide\\_2018.pdf](http://briefings.dadeschools.net/files/96331_Blue_Ribbon_Activities_Guide_2018.pdf)

Month of the Military Child

Alcohol Awareness Month  
<https://www.ncadd.org/about-ncadd/events-awards/alcohol-awareness-month>

World Autism Awareness Day  
April 2, 2018  
Briefing #22706

Holocaust Remembrance Days  
April 11-12, 2018

Earth Day  
April 22, 2018



Haitian Heritage Month

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

National Melanoma Skin Cancer Awareness Month

Fathers in Action & Advocacy Week  
May 5-11, 2018

Fathers in Education Day  
May 10, 2018

Values Matter Miami Awards Ceremony  
May 9, 2018

National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day  
May 10, 2018

Mother’s Day  
May 13, 2018

*Congratulations*

*Honesty School of the Year 2016-2017*

*Henry S. West Laboratory School*



*Congratulations*

*Integrity School of the Year 2016-2017*

*Marjory Stoneman Douglas Elementary School*



# Idea CORNER



Honesty

- 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. Students 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 on the door.
- 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 on that particular business.
- 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.



Honesty is the  
best policy.

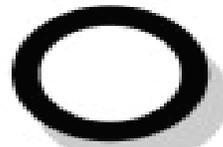
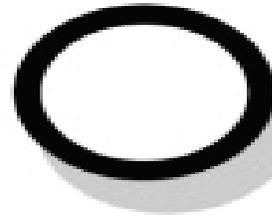
Benjamin Franklin

- 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 make a poster about being honest and truthful. They can choose to draw or create a collage using cutouts. Create an honesty hallway by displaying their artwork.
- 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.
- Have the class share stories about what happened when they told the truth and how 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 about a person who chose honesty and the results of that choice.

# Idea CORNER



- Divide your class into groups of 3-5 students. Ask each group to create an integrity do's and don'ts list where they will list what people who live with integrity do and don't do. Have students then discuss how those who act with integrity and those who don't affect the community.
- Ask students to share a time when they stood up for their beliefs. Have students reflect on how it felt to do so and share what the outcome was.
- Have students design integrity pins or pennants by thinking of sayings that reflect integrity. Examples may include: "Put Your Best Foot Forward," "Do the Right Thing," or "Stand Up for What You Believe In."



- 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 integrity. Give each group a large sheet of paper and markers. When they are finished collect the posters and string them together to form one large banner.

(See this activity in the free on-line resources at <http://talkingtreebooks.com> )

- Use the "What is Conscience" super computer activity to work with students on the concept of a conscience and how your conscience helps direct your actions.

(See this activity at <https://talkingtreebooks.com/docs/worksheet/character-ed-worksheet-what-is-conscience-1.pdf> )

**INTEGRITY**

is doing the right thing  
even when no one  
is watching.

# Congratulations!

## Values Matter Miami Honesty Winners 2016-2017



2016-17

Otis Guyton

Poinciana Park Elementary



2016-17

Owen Campbell

Miami Norland Senior High School



2016-17

Tereka Jennings-Lawrence

Norland Elementary School

# Congratulations!

## Values Matter Miami Integrity Winners 2016-2017



2016-17

Ashley Ramirez

Caribbean K-8 Center



2016-17

Brandon Merat

Homestead Senior High School



2016-17

Ms. Davalyn Suarez

Miami Senior High School

# Values Matter Miami in Action March



## COOPERATION



Riverside Elementary School



Jane S. Roberts K-8 Center



Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School



North County K-8 Center



Redland Middle School



Henry S. West Laboratory School