

## CELEBRATING CC! WEEK AND RED RIBBON WEEK TOGETHER

Many schools and organizations celebrate CHARACTER COUNTS! Week and Red Ribbon Week together. Here are some ideas for activities and discussions to combine the two celebrations:

### **MONDAY: DECORATION DAY**

Get your school or organization in the mood by decorating doors and halls red. This is also the color of the Pillar of Caring.

#### **Activities:**

Distribute red ribbons to students and encourage them to wear them this day.  
Hold a school-wide, door-decoration contest.

#### **Discussions:**

Caring means showing solidarity, and being kind, compassionate, empathetic, charitable, forgiving, and grateful. Have a class discussion on what it means to be caring. Who are their role models that show caring? What could you do to show caring to people who were using alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs?

### **TUESDAY: INFORMATION DAY**

Find out what it means to be drug-free and combine this with the Pillar of Responsibility.

#### **Activities:**

Assign students research projects to find out the negative effects of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Have them create informational posters to display in the school or community.  
Set up a campus club fair and membership drive where students can learn about various groups promoting good character and safe and healthy living (e.g., Key Club, D.A.R.E. program, Habitat for Humanity, etc.).  
Invite speakers (e.g., healthcare professionals, case managers, advocates, etc.) to present information to the students on the dangers of using drugs.

#### **Discussions:**

Responsibility means being accountable and exercising self-control. Create role-play scenarios involving students in situations where they may be tempted to try drugs. Who would your decision impact (i.e., who are the stakeholders)? To whom are you accountable? Role-play the different responses they can make to help them exercise self-control in real situations.

### **WEDNESDAY: SPORTS DAY**

Drug-taking in sports repeatedly makes headline news. Today is a great day to gather all student-athletes and involve them in the drug awareness campaign. Help them be role models for good character and help everyone make better decisions about their health.

#### **Activities:**

Host a staff vs. students sports event and distribute Six Pillar wallet cards for participants to review to encourage good sportsmanship and healthy choices.

Start the day with a student-athlete pep-rally.

#### **Discussions:**

The best possible result of a tough decision is one which is legal and effective, and achieves the best outcomes for all stakeholders. Have students think of a tough decision they recently had to make and create a picture illustrating all the stakeholders who were affected by their choice. Teach them to consider the values of the Six Pillars when they have to make a tough decision, and to think of the effects on all stakeholders.

### **THURSDAY: RECOGNITION DAY**

Get everyone involved and celebrate good character by recognizing those who demonstrate it.

#### **Activities:**

Have teachers nominate those who exemplify good character and are drug-free to be recognized during morning news, afternoon announcement, or the like.

Have an anonymous good-character reporting box in each classroom. Ask teachers to read out the recognition at the end of the day.

#### **Discussions:**

What does good character mean to you? Ask the students to choose a behavior showing good character and demonstrate it.

### **FRIDAY: WEAR RED RALLY DAY**

Friday is typically a celebration of all the Six Pillars of Character. Don't just stop at red!

#### **Activities:**

Encourage all students and staff to come to school dressed in the Pillar color of their choice.

Have a school-wide assembly with invited guest speakers, student presentations, and speeches to celebrate the importance of being drug-free and having good character.

## **Discussions:**

Pillar Friday offers ample opportunities to celebrate good character. Here is a short explanation of all the Pillars to guide your discussions on this celebration day:

**Trustworthiness:** Be honest • Don't deceive, cheat, or steal • Be reliable — do what you say you'll do • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal — stand by your family, friends, and country

**Respect:** Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant and accepting of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don't threaten, hit, or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements

**Responsibility:** Do what you are supposed to do • Plan ahead • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act — consider the consequences • Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes • Set a good example for others

**Fairness:** Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don't take advantage of others • Don't blame others carelessly • Treat all people fairly

**Caring:** Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need

**Citizenship:** 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