

Be Responsible – Make Your Own Good Luck!

Overview

Students learn about the history of St. Patrick's Day and the meaning of the phrase, "Luck of the Irish." This lesson focuses on the Pillar of Responsibility, which is represented by the color green. Students reflect on taking responsibility to make their own good luck. They complete the Make-Your-Own-Luck Shamrock handout and describe how they are responsible for making their own luck in these categories: family, school and friends.

Materials:

- Copies of handouts

Handouts:

- History of St. Patrick's Day
- Make-Your-Own-Luck Shamrock

Procedure:

1. Have students reflect individually for a few minutes on the significance of St. Patrick's Day. What do students know about this holiday?
2. Ask students to share some of their thoughts and understanding about St. Patrick's Day.
3. Distribute the History of St. Patrick's Day handout and read together as a class or in small groups.
4. Make sure students understand the meaning and origin of the phrase, "Luck of the Irish."
5. Tell the students that they can make their own luck. Discuss what this means with the class. You might introduce this quote from Thomas Jefferson to illustrate the point: "I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it."
6. Introduce the Pillar of Responsibility. Point out that the Pillar color is green, like the color of St. Patrick's Day. Then explain that it is the individual's responsibility to make his or her own luck.
7. Distribute a copy of the Make-Your-Own-Luck Shamrock handout to each student.

8. Have students reflect on making their own luck and then complete the Make-Your-Own-Luck Shamrock handout.
9. Display the completed Shamrocks on the bulletin board or around the classroom.

Sources:

<http://www.history.com/topics/who-was-saint-patrick>

<http://www.history.com/topics/st-patricks-day>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Patrick's_Day

McREL standards

Life Skills

Standard 6. Applies decision-making techniques.

Level III, Benchmark 1. Identifies situations in the community and in one's personal life in which a decision is required.

<http://www2.mcrel.org/compendium>