

Community Calendar

Overview:

Students discuss community membership and work together to create a calendar focusing on good citizenship. This calendar might be printed and sold for school fundraising, emphasizing a commitment to the school community.

Materials:

- Legal-size paper, pencils, markers, crayons, rulers
- Paints and other art supplies (optional)

Procedure:

1. Discuss the importance of caring for one's community and the different kinds of communities there are. One that students need to be responsible for and care about is their school. Have the students list ways these needs are met: by whom, how, etc. Mention the fiscal responsibilities associated with meeting these needs. Ask what improvements they would like to see at their school. Settle on an issue that the class will focus on to improve the school community.
2. Explain that the class is going to show their commitment to the school by making a calendar about good citizenship that can be sold to help raise money to support a school improvement project.
3. Divide the students into groups and have each group come up with 10 things that will improve their community. Develop a comprehensive list and divide the suggestions evenly among the groups.
4. Assign each group a particular month (or months) of the calendar to create. Distribute several sheets of legal-size paper to each group. Tell them to save one sheet for their final draft.
5. Have them place the paper vertically and divide it in half horizontally. Explain that the top half will display artwork that represents good citizenship, and the bottom half will display their month of the calendar. (Display a sample page from a real calendar to use as a model.)
6. Tell each group to incorporate the community-improvement tips from their list in the boxes of the calendar. Have them show you a rough draft before they finish.
7. Compile all the groups' work and piece together the entire year's calendar. You can either photocopy it or make arrangements with a printing company to produce a large quantity to be sold to the school and community.
8. Use the funds you raise to carry out your school-improvement project.

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Inspired by the “Garden of Virtues” calendar by Christina Bondurant Keffler and Rebecca Ott Donnell from Homegrown Inc. (www.virtuescalendar.com).

This lesson is from the *Good Ideas book*, available for purchase from the CHARACTER COUNTS! online store: <http://www.charactercounts.org/materials>

McREL standards

Civics

Standard 10. Understands the roles of voluntarism and organized groups in American social and political life.

Level III, Benchmark 3. Knows volunteer opportunities that exist in one’s school and community.

<http://www.mcrel.org/Standards-benchmarks/>