

The First Day of School

Our core ethical values are respect, responsibility, honesty, and compassion. **If we want our students to be respectful, responsible, honest, and compassionate, we need to help them know what these things look and sound like.**

On the first day of school, follow the guidelines below in an effort to establish the importance of understanding and adhering to our core ethical values.

Homeroom/Advisory

Have your students define **good character**. Use the following questions as discussion starters.

- If all the students and teachers in this school had good character, what would school be like, look like, and sound like?
- If all the students and teachers in this school had bad character, what would school be like, look like, sound like?
- Which school would you rather attend, the one with good character or the one with bad character? Why?
- How can you make this school a school of good character?
- Why is it important for schools to focus on teaching and expecting good character?

1st period

Have students define **respect**. Then create a class list of 5–10 ways that would help us all to know if someone is respectful.

2nd period

Have students create a Respect Scoring Guide. Discuss. Ask your students to consider where they think they would be on the continuum.

3rd period

Have students define **responsibility** and **honesty**. Then create a class list of 5–10 ways that would help us all to know if someone is responsible and/or honest.

4th period

Have students create a Responsibility Scoring Guide. Discuss. Ask your students to consider where they would be on the continuum.

5th period

Have students create an Honesty Scoring Guide. Discuss. Ask your students to consider where they would be on the continuum.

6th period

Have students define **compassion**. Then create a class list of 5–10 ways that would help us all to know if someone is compassionate.

7th period

Have students create a Compassion Scoring Guide. Discuss. Ask students to consider where they would be on the continuum.

SOURCE: Francis Howell Middle School