The month of August had turned into a griddle where the days just layed there and sizzled.
- Sue Monk Kidd  The Secret Life of Bees

August Events to Share with your Students

Character Related Weekly Events:
Week 1 National Simplify your Life Week
Week 2 National Smile Week
Week 3 Friendship Week
Week 4 Be Kind to Humankind Week

August Event Calendar for Educators
The Last Diary Entry of Anne Frank

8 Resources for the 8th Month


Eight Traits of Character Education:

**Courage:** Having the determination to do the right thing even when others don’t; having the strength to follow your conscience rather than the crowd; attempting difficult things that are worthwhile.

**Good judgment:** Choosing worthy goals and setting proper priorities; thinking through the consequences of your actions; and basing decisions on practical wisdom and good sense.

**Integrity:** Having the inner strength to be truthful, trustworthy, and honest in all things; acting justly and honorably.

**Kindness:** Being considerate, courteous, helpful, and understanding of others; showing care, compassion, friendship, and generosity; and treating others as you would like to be treated.

**Perseverance:** Being persistent in the pursuit of worthy objectives in spite of difficulty, opposition, or discouragement; and exhibiting patience and having the fortitude to try again when confronted with delays, mistakes, or failures.

**Respect:** Showing high regard for authority, for other people, for self, for property, and for country; and understanding that all people have value as human beings.

**Responsibility:** Being dependable in carrying out obligations and duties; showing reliability and consistency in words and conduct; being accountable for your own actions; and being committed to active involvement in your community.
Self-discipline: Demonstrating hard work and commitment to purpose; regulating yourself for improvement and restraining from inappropriate behaviors; being in proper control of your words, actions, impulses, and desires; choosing abstinence from premarital sex, drugs, alcohol, and other harmful substances and behaviors; and doing your best in all situations.

Eight (8) 21st Century Skills:
(1) creativity
(2) critical thinking
(3) problem solving
(4) decision-making
(5) communications technology and information literacy
(6) citizenship
(7) life and career
(8) personal and social responsibility.

8 Strengths of Character School Self-Assessment and Planning Template
http://www2.cortland.edu/centers/character/assessment-instruments.dot

8 Proactive Classroom Management Tips for New Teachers
https://www.edutopia.org/article/8-proactive-classroom-management-tips

8 Great Ways to Use Formative Assessment in Your Class
http://www.teachercreated.com/blog/2015/10/8-great-ways...

8 Ways to Make Teacher Evaluations Meaningful and Low-Stress
https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2019/10/16/feedback-for-teachers-8-ways-to-make.html

8 Keys to End Bullying
https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/eight_keys_to_end_bullying

8 Behaviors of Character
1) Character is learned
2) Character is about traits and virtues
3) Character is about choices
4) Character is about decision-making
5) Character is about relationships
6) Character is about social skills
7) Character is about “emotional” self discipline
8) Character is about accountability
10 Ways to Help Students Avoid the COVID-19 Slide
Tara Dusko, (blog, Teach Without Tears), June 2, 2020,

Since it’s summer, the students aren’t going to want to do hours of school work each day. That’s why it’s so important to find meaningful resources that practice important skills without taking a lot of time. These 10 activities fit the bill.

1. **Daily Warm-Ups**: Students read a short passage and answer questions or solve a few math problems to review important concepts. This daily practice will make sure they don’t forget key concepts while they’re away from school.

2. **Choice Boards**: A great way to motivate students to practice important skills -- give them choices. Some students like to use art to show what they’ve learned while other students prefer to do research and write about it.

3. **Math Games**: Your students can practice their basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division facts with flashcard races. They could also play math games, like Prodigy, online.

4. **Summer Math Activities**: TeacherVision has a whole collection of summer math activities that your students will love.

5. **Independent Reading**: Your students should be reading every day. They should set aside 20 to 30 minutes each day for independent reading. You can track their reading progress with a reading response journal. They (should) read poetry, a novel, nonfiction, a play, a short story, or a myth.

6. **Writing Prompts**: By providing your students with lots of different writing prompts, they can choose ones they like.

7. **Scoot Games**: Your students’ parents can cut apart the cards and hide them around the house. Then, your students can find the cards and answer the questions.

8. **Scavenger Hunts**: Your students will love searching for items around their houses and in their neighborhoods. Just give them a topic and a list of things to find.

9. **Science Experiments**: They help students practice important skills, like making predictions, making observations, and drawing conclusions while learning about important science topics.

10. **Spelling Practice**: Give your students a list of high frequency words for your grade level and some different ways to practice spelling. **Bonus:**

Project-Based Learning: Kids can make glow-in-the-dark slime, fidget spinners, biographical infographics, and design tiny homes. While many of these projects are geared towards groups, they can easily be modified for independent work.
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Character • Leadership • Service

In these times, it is crucial to remind readers to cultivate and demonstrate the character traits and services that this Center has been promoting since 1995. The Center’s staff and advisory committee seeks to help school leaders and others deepen their understanding of character education and to integrate character education into every aspect of the student’s school experience.

Our Motto: If we don’t have it, we can get it, or create it.
Our Vision: We believe that education for human service must be grounded in the public’s desire for ethical, civic-minded, character-based leaders and citizens.

Our Mission: It is the Center’s responsibility to provide services and resources to schools, families, communities, K-12 educators, students, teacher educators, community agency leaders and others interested in educating the “hearts and minds” of children and youth.

What do you think of this month’s NUCU? We’d love to hear your thoughts, questions and feedback: character@sandiego.edu

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