Unit 5: Responsible Decision-making

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Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Belleville Public Schools

Curriculum Guide

K-6 School Guidance

Unit 5: Responsible Decision-making

Belleville Board of Education

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Unit Overview

Unit 5 will cover five topics:

- Decision-making
- Making smart choices
- Being responsible
- Goal-setting
- Reflection of the character education word-of-the-month and related quotes

Enduring Understanding

Definition: Responsible Decision-making

Responsible decision-making is a process in which making proper choices includes thinking about the positive and negative outcomes of choices presented.

Definition of Character Education Word-of-the-Month: Responsibility

Responsibility is being dependable and making good choices.

Essential Questions

- How do I accept responsibility for my behaviors?
- Why is it important to look at the negative and positive outcomes when making decisions?
- How do I make good choices?
- How do I use decision-making skills and problem solving skills to reach my academic goals?
- How do I set attainable goals for myself?

- How do I display/demonstrate responsibility?

Exit Skills

By the end of Unit 5, students will be able to:

- Students will demonstrate decision-making skills and problem solving skills
- Students will identify and utilize strategies for reaching a goal
- Students will be able to accurately identify their strengths and weaknesses
- Students will understand the importance of thinking before making decisions
- Students will understand the meaning of the word responsibility

New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS-S)

New Jersey School Counselor Association Framework

1.2	Self-confidence in ability to succeed
2.A.1	Demonstrate critical-thinking skills to make informed decisions
2.A.9	Gather evidence and consider multiple perspectives to make informed decisions
2.B.1	Demonstrate ability to assume responsibility
2.B.4	Demonstrate ability to delay immediate gratification for long-term rewards

Interdisciplinary Connections

CAEP.9.2.4.A.1	Identify reasons why people work, different types of work, and how work can help a person achieve personal and professional goals.
CAEP.9.2.4.A.4	Explain why knowledge and skills acquired in the elementary grades lay the foundation for future academic and career success.
CAEP.9.2.8.B.3	Evaluate communication, collaboration, and leadership skills that can be developed through school, home, work, and extracurricular activities for use in a career.

Learning Objectives

Students can:

- Use problem solving and decision-making skills to reach an academic goal
- Students will take responsibility for their actions
- Understand the positive and negative outcomes faced when making decisions and choices

Suggested Activities & Best Practices

School counselors will conduct age-appropriate lessons and activities each month for assigned grade levels. Lessons will be based on monthly themes and the character education word-of-the-month.

Assessment Evidence - Checking for Understanding (CFU)

- Compare / Contrast
- Do Now
- Exit Tickets
- Higher-order Questioning / Rich Discussion
- Illustration
- Journals
- Learning Center Activities
- Pre-tests and Post-tests
- Questionnaires
- Quick Write
- Self-assessments
- Surveys
- Teacher Observation Checklist
- Turn-and-Talk / Share-out
- WIK / WINK

Primary Resources & Materials

- District Policies
- NJ School Counselor Association Resources
- Student / Parent Handbook
- Teacher-created Curriculum

Ancillary Resources

Consider www.bccls.org to borrow books from cooperating libraries; requested books are sent to your local library

Anchor Texts for this Unit:

- Franklin Wants a Pet by Paulette Bourgeois

- A Chair for My Mother by Vera Williams

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- Read-aloud Stories
- Teacher-created Handouts

Technology Infusion

- Google Classroom
- SMART Board Tech

Alignment to 21st Century Skills & Technology

TECH.8.1.5.A	Technology Operations and Concepts: Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems and operations.
TECH.8.1.5.A.CS1	Understand and use technology systems
TECH.8.1.5.B.CS1	Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes.
TECH.8.1.5.B.CS2	Create original works as a means of personal or group expression.

21st Century Skills/Interdisciplinary Themes

- Civic Literacy
- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical thinking and Problem-solving
- Cultural Awareness
- Health Literacy
- ICT (Information, Communications and Technology) Literacy
- Life and Career Skills
- Media Literacy

Differentiation

- Small-group instruction
- Centers-based instruction
- Multisensory approaches
- Problem-based learning
- Goal-setting with students
- Tiered open-ended activities

Special Education Learning (IEP's & 504's)

Use the Pacer Center Action Information Sheet for research-based ideas on accommodations and modifications

- Allow for open-note/open-book assessments
- Check classwork frequently for understanding
- Conduct preview of content, concepts, and vocabulary
- Consider behavior management plan
- Implement accommodations/modifications as dictated in the student's IEP/504 plan
- Modified test content/format
- Modified written assignments
- Multi-sensory presentation
- Pre-annotate text
- Preferential seating
- Promote pair work
- Provide extended time on various assignments
- Provide printed/online copies of lesson notes
- Secure attention before providing instruction/directions
- Use assistive technology

English Language Learning (ELL)

- Allow for multiple student revisions
- Allow for open-note / open-book assessments
- Allow multiple forms of student products (projects, models, slide-shows, etc.) to demonstrate student learning
- Ask and give information using key words
- Demonstrate listening comprehension by responding to questions
- Develop basic sight vocabulary
- Differentiate assessments to reflect selected objectives
- Express ideas in single words
- Leverage computer spell checker
- Modify reading assignments to correlate with lexile level
- Peer tutoring / Peer note-taking
- Speak using content area vocabulary in context
- Teacher-created Study Guide
- Use prior experiences to understanding meanings

- Use videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify

At Risk

- Allow for multiple student revisions
- Allow for open-note / open-book assessments
- Allow multiple forms of student products (projects, models, slide-shows, etc.) to demonstrate student learning
- Allow students to select from given assignment choices
- Differentiate assessments to reflect selected objectives
- Mark students' correct and acceptable work, not the mistakes
- Peer tutoring / Peer note-taking
- Promote student collaboration on in-class / outside class assignments
- Reduce lengthy outside reading assignments
- Teach key aspects of a topic - eliminate non-essential information
- Teacher-created Study Guide
- Use authentic assessments with real-life problem-solving
- Use videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify

Talented and Gifted Learning (T&G)

- Allow gifted children to create and publish a class newspaper to distribute
- Allow students to work at a faster pace
- Allow students to work at a faster pace
- Complete activities aligned with above grade-level text using Benchmark results
- Create a plan to solve an issue presented in the class or in a text
- Debate issues with research to support arguments
- Involve students in academic contests
- Promote advanced problem-solving
- Set individual goals
- Utilize exploratory connections to higher-grade concepts
- Utilize project-based learning for greater depth of knowledge

Sample Lesson

Unit 5: Responsible Decision-making, Lesson 5-1

Character Education Trait: Responsibility

Objective: Students will identify and use decision-making skills

Learning Activity:

K-3: What does it mean/look like to be responsible?

4-6: Scenarios demonstrating responsible decision-making skills

Summary/Closure: