

Responsible Decision-Making

The ability to make constructive choices about personal behavior and social interactions based on ethical standards, safety concerns, and social norms. The realistic evaluation of consequences of various actions, and a consideration of the well-being of oneself and others.

- Identifying Problems
- Analyzing Situations
- Solving Problems
 - Evaluating
 - Reflecting
- Ethical Responsibility

Students will be able to:

Recognize and understand their obligation to engage in ethical, safe and legal behaviors.

Identify and develop one's values to promote honesty, reliability, and accountability.

Consider ethical standards, safety concerns and social norms as they impact decision-making.

Apply a shared norm of treating others as you would want to be treated to decision-making.

Make effective decisions and choices following a systematic process.

What teachers can do in lessons and instruction:

Teach students a formula for making good choices (ex. Stop, calm down, identify the problem, consider the alternative, make a choice, try it out, re-evaluate).

Give students problem scenarios (ex. A friend who asks you to let them copy your homework) and ask them to work in groups or pairs to decide how to deal with the situation.

Explicitly identify the steps for solving a problem. Walk through the steps of problem solving in response to hypothetical situations.

Define responsibility and related terms (ethical, safe, values, honesty).

With middle and high school students, discuss higher order values - impact on the environment, being a good citizen, ways to help the community or ways to give back to the school.

Read current events and discuss if the decisions made are ethical and evaluate against a clearly defined ethical criteria.