

September – Good Character

The Isabella County CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition wants you to know that September is the month that we celebrate having GOOD CHARACTER. Please add one of the statements below to your daily PA announcements. They may be used in any order. Below is suggested language for incorporating the statement, but please feel free to introduce and expand on the statement in a way that has meaning for you and your students. They also make excellent additions to newsletters, flyers, and other printed materials that go to students, parents, or up for public display.

Example: "Always be respectful, caring, responsible, fair and trustworthy. Tell your friends to do the same. September is a month that we celebrate good character."

-OR-

September is a month that we celebrate good character. Show that you have good character by always being respectful, caring, responsible, fair and trustworthy.

1. Always be respectful, caring, responsible, fair and trustworthy.
2. Be honest, always tell the truth, and play by the rules.
3. Be compassionate and show you care.
4. Do your part to make your school and community a better place.
5. A person with good character knows the difference between right and wrong and always tries to do what is right.
6. "Character, in the long run, is the decisive factor in the life of an individual and of nations alike."
— *Theodore Roosevelt, 20th-century American president*
7. "Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing." — *Abraham Lincoln, 19th-century U.S. president*
8. "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically... Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education." — *Martin Luther King Jr., Nobel Prize-winning 20th-century American civil rights leader*
9. "The measure of a man's character is what he would do if he knew he never would be found out."
— *Baron Thomas Babington Macauley, early 19th-century English historian*
10. "Good character is more to be praised than outstanding talent. Most talents are to some extent a gift. Good character, by contrast, is not given to us. We have to build it piece by piece—by thought, choice, courage and determination." — *John Luther*
11. "Dreams are the touchstones of our character"— *Henry David Thoreau*
12. "Leadership is the capacity and will to rally men and women to a common purpose and the character which inspires confidence." — *Bernard Montgomery*
13. "The respect that leadership must have requires that one's ethics be without question. A leader not only stays above the line between right and wrong, he stays well clear of the *gray areas*."— *G. Alan Bernard*
14. "Never, for the sake of peace and quiet, deny your own experience or convictions."— *Dag Hammarskjold*
15. "Character is destiny."— *Heraclitus*
16. "You can not dream yourself into a character; you must hammer and forge yourself one."— *James A. Froude*
17. "Character is the indelible mark that determines the only true value of all people and all their work."— *Orison Sweet Marden*
18. "Character is power; it makes friends, draws patronage and support and opens the way to wealth, honor and happiness."— *J. Howe*
19. "The best portion of a person's life is the little nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love."— *William Wordsworth*
20. "Actions form habits. Habits decide character. Character fixes our destiny." — *Tryon Edwards*
21. Be the kind of friend that you want to have.
22. "I do the very best that I know how – the very best I can; and I mean to keep on doing so until the end." — *Abraham Lincoln*
23. "It's nice to be important, but it is more important to be nice." — *John Markds Templeton*
24. Good character consists of knowing the good, desiring the good, and doing the good.
25. There is no nobility in being better than another. Nobility lies in being better than one's former self.