

Richland School District One



MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD - LET'S CELEBRATE!

Throughout the Nation educators and communities will take time in April to recognize the contributions of children whose parents serve in the military. Frequent moves, family separations through deployments, and reintegration following deployments can make school, home, and community-life challenging for military children. Yet, even in such circumstances, these students continually demonstrate resilience and courage.

R1 encourages schools to use this collection of resource materials and ideas in planning their own Month of the Military Child activities throughout the month of April:

“Wall of Honor” Recognition - Schools are encouraged to display a “Wall of Honor” as a visual depiction of the school’s military student population. These bulletin boards typically display pictures of military-connected students, or different color graphics (based on military branch) representing the number of military students in the school.

Build Military Connected Student Awareness - Schools are encouraged to provide opportunities for military connected children and peers who support them to share their stories. Allow a military connected student or a member of the peer transition support program to share how being a military connected student has shaped them. Peer support members can talk about how they support military connected children and recruit new members. Lastly, there are a number of famous military connected individuals. Provide time for students to highlight the accomplishments of these individuals. Examples include: Mrs. Nora McDonald, Shaquille O’Neal, Kris Kristofferson, Christina Aguilera, Reesse Witherspoon, Tia and Tamera Mowry, Mia Hamm, Wiz Khalifa, Jessica Alba and Michelle Rodriguez to name a few.

Invite Service Member Parents to a Recognition Event - Schools are encouraged to set time aside to recognize parents who serve in the military. Student across your campus would benefit from witnessing the affirmation shared to these service members by the school community. Whether it’s a simple “parent coffee” or more orchestrated affair both would deliver the same message; that the community values the contributions of these service members and their families.

Purple in Power - Get a local policy making body (city council, district school board, business partner) to wear purple as its April meeting. Take pictures and post them on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or in the local newspaper

Paint the School Purple - Put purple wreaths, ribbons, bows, etc. throughout the school building during Purple Up Week.

Kick-Off Breakfast - Kick off the Month of the Military Child with a breakfast or lunch for military children in the school. Include their parents or other family members associated with the military.

Special Announcements - Have a military child do the announcements and share an interesting fact about their life as a military child.

Daily Factoids - Have a daily or weekly announcement with military-connected student facts. Start with the national facts and move into school facts.

Light it Up! - Find a landmark (e.g., School court yard, cafeteria,) lit up purple.

Purple Up Day - Observe Purple Up Day Challenge students, faculty, and staff to wear purple. Class with the most purple wins a prize.

Dress Up Theme Day - Have a dress-up theme for each week in April. Ideas include favorite service logo day, patriotic day, etc.

Military Memorabilia - Decorate display cases and bulletin boards through April with military focused memorabilia, or items brought by military children reflecting their experiences (where they have live or traveled, family members' service memorabilia, parts of a uniform, patches, coins, etc.)

Where in the World? - Create a world map and pinpoint where students and staff have lived because of their military lifestyle.

Poster Contest - Decorate the school. Have a group of kids design posters thanking military children and their parents for their services. Have military children make poster reflecting their experiences. Have a contest for students to choose their favorite poster. .

Adopt a Soldier (or Sailor or Airman or marine or Coast Guardsman) -Adopt a deployed service member or unit. Send cards, letters, and care packages to deployed troops.

Adopt a Family - Adopt a family whose military member is deployed. Find out what the family needs help with – yard work, in home technology, childcare, tutoring, homework help, etc. – and have a class or club step in to help out.

Guest Speaker - Ask a military member (a parent or sibling of someone in the class) to be a guest speaker and share their perspective on life in the military as well as their profession.

Wall of Heroes - Create a Hero Wall to honor members. They could be family members of students or historical figures.

Wall of Heroes - In a main hallway set up a series of clocks showing the time in different countries where military children’s family members are deployed.

Show-n-Tell - Have students bring in something military related, such as memorabilia from an installation or service branch, favorite airplane, or a book.

Wall of Heroes - Hold a LIVE SKYPE/FACETIME session with a deployed service family member in the classroom or at an assembly.

Web Site Feature - Promote the Month of the Military Child on the school web site. List activities that will take place on different days during the month.

Salute to Military Children at Sporting Events - Have the announcer make a special announcement before, during or after sporting events recognizing all military children. Have them raise the flag, sing the National anthem or recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Military Family Liaison - Name a faculty member as the school's "go-to" person to help military families. Post the liaison's information on the school web site.

Field Trip - Take a class trip to a military installation. This could be an active duty installation, a National Guard Armory, or an armed forces reserve center or complex. Meet with some of the service members and learn about what they do.

"Share Your Story" Project Whether a military dependent yourself, classmate, friend, or neighbor of a military student, we are all impacted by the military community in Richland One. R1 encourages teachers to incorporate Month of the Military Child recognition their instruction by having students share their military-connection story through the visual arts, creative writing, musical composition, poetry, etc.

Sports Tournament - Organize a field day or sports tournament. Divide the students into teams representing different branches of the military. Encourage the participants to wear the color of the military branch they represent. Invite the local media to cover the event.

District School Board Meeting - Invite military families to attend the April meeting of the district school board. Read a brief biography of each family and present the families to the board. Have the board chairperson formally thank the military families for the services and sacrifice.

SAVE THE DATE FOR
APRIL 23, 2021
PURPLE UP DAY!
FOR MILITARY KIDS



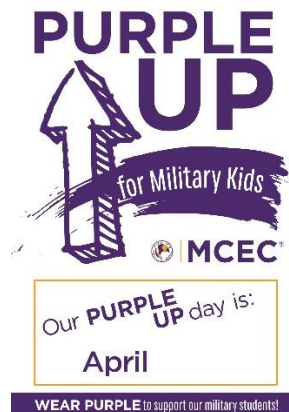
“Purple Up! For Military Kids.”

April is set aside for everyone around the Nation to show their support for military connected students. Richland One encourages the entire school community – teachers, principals, students, parents, bus drivers, etc. – to wear purple on **April 23, 2021** to show support for our military students and appreciation for their strength and sacrifices.

Purple represents the blending of the colors of the five branches of our armed forces. Here in South Carolina, we are proud to be home to Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, National Guard and Reserve families. Please display this flyer in your school for the Purple Up! Celebration:

Purple Up Flyer:

https://www.militarychild.org/upload/images/2020%20MOMC/PurpleUp_2021_11x17.pdf



PURPLE UP



Our **PURPLE
UP** day is:

April _____

WEAR PURPLE to support our military students!