

FAMILY GUIDE

This guide is designed to provide students and families with tips for strengthening literacy and activities that support the monthly social-emotional skill.



KCPS LOVES TO READ:

Since September, we've been spreading the joy of reading and developing our students' leadership skills through our KCPS Loves to Read campaign, which is designed to connect literacy and social-emotional learning to motivate students to read. Our students will build on important social-emotional skills and character traits that will develop them as readers and future leaders in their community.

- **Kindergarten - 6th grade students** will participate in monthly classroom lessons and activities that address those social-emotional skills and connect them to the knowledge they are building through the books they are reading in class.
- **7th - 12th grade students** will have designated time during their advisory period for social-emotional learning, personal reading and goal setting.



LITERACY TIPS:

- **Read Aloud Together:** Choose books with brave characters and discuss their actions and feelings. How did the character show courage? What would you do in a similar situation?
- **Create a Courage Diary:** Encourage your child to keep a diary where they write about moments when they felt brave. This can be a great way to practice writing skills and reflect on personal growth.
- **Courageous Characters:** Identify and discuss courageous characters in the books you read. Create a chart with your child listing the characters and their brave actions.
- **Storytelling:** Encourage your child to create their own stories about courage. This can be done through writing, drawing, or even acting out the story.
- **Library Visit:** Visit your local library and find books that focus on courage. Let your child choose books that interest them and discuss the stories together.

SUGGESTED READING:

- K:** *Sheila Rae, The Brave*
- 1:** *Jabari Jumps*
- 2:** *The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet!*
- 3:** *Emma's Rug*
- 4:** *Walking for Water*
- 5:** *The Undefeated*
- 6:** *Esperanza Rising*

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SKILL OF THE MONTH

Courage

Courage: having the strength to stand up for yourself, for others, and to take action when it is needed.



AT-HOME ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT KINDNESS:

- **Courage Collage:** Create a collage of images and words that represent courage to you. Use magazines, newspapers, or printouts.
- **Courage Jar:** Write down acts of courage you see in your family or community on slips of paper and add them to a jar. At the end of the month, read them together.
- **Role-Playing:** Act out scenarios where you might need to show courage, such as standing up to a bully or trying a new activity.

Family Challenge:

- **Courageous Acts:** Each week, challenge your family to do one courageous act. It could be as simple as trying a new food, speaking up in class, or helping someone in need. Share your experiences at the end of the week.

Book Recommendations:

1. **"The Story of Ruby Bridges" by Robert Coles** - A powerful true story of a young girl who showed immense courage during the Civil Rights Movement.
2. **"Brave Irene" by William Steig** - Follow Irene as she braves a snowstorm to deliver a dress for her mother.
3. **"She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World" by Chelsea Clinton** - Stories of women who showed courage and determination in the face of adversity.

Discussion Questions:

- What does courage mean to you?
- Can you think of a time when you had to be brave?
- How do the characters in the books we read show courage?



SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Women's History Month
- National Reading Month
- Disability Awareness Month
- National Read Across America Day - **March 2**, observed on Monday $\frac{3}{4}$
- Read Across America Week - **March 2-6**