

Alpine County Choose Civility Campaign

(An initiative of the Alpine County Superintendent of Schools)



March Focus:

Be Agreeable

To be agreeable means to be prepared to agree or consent; being in harmony with others. It means you might need to be flexible or to compromise. The opposite of being agreeable is to be inflexible, disagreeable or to dissent or confront. I know we shouldn't always agree with everyone on every point. The idea here is to approach a person prepared to agree rather than ready to judge, be harsh or disagree. It means to take a civil stance when listening to others and quite frankly, sometimes we simply agree to disagree, but at least we should approach situations ready to agree.

According to Dr. P.M. Forni, author of Choosing Civility: The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct, there are two abilities to cultivate in order to be agreeable in conversation: 1) the ability to consider that you might be wrong, and 2) the ability to admit that you don't know. Accepting these limitations about ourselves can make us more accepting of others. This helps us to listen to learn rather than listening to judge or doubt the good intentions of others. Of course we won't always agree but let's look for the possibilities of agreement. Look for similarities in views and keep yourself open to new ideas. Looking for opportunities to agree is a foundation for social harmony and is therefore a civil thing to do. Being agreeable is one way of being pleasant.