

Alpine County Choose Civility Campaign

(An initiative of the County Superintendent of Schools)



September Focus:

Be Inclusive

One of our strongest yearnings as human beings is to be accepted by others. Students often complain that one of the worst uncivil behaviors is when others “snub” them by excluding them from games, conversation, birthday parties and other activities. This is a common complaint when children feel bullied. They say others won't play with them, don't like them or won't let them be part of the group. Even as adults we are hurt when we aren't invited to gatherings to which we'd expect to be invited.

Here's a list of things to try as you develop an inclusive mind-set:

1. When several people are listening to you, turn to each of them when you speak. Be sure to look at each person.
2. Choose conversation topics that can be enjoyed by all who are present. Even try asking other's opinions and thoughts.
3. Summarize the conversation for a newcomer, such as “We were just talking about the game. Are you planning to go?”
4. Welcome new students, colleagues and neighbors by introducing them to others, giving tips and sharing ideas.
5. Try speaking to someone you don't know, haven't liked in the past or have not found interesting before. Asking about their ideas, opinions and experiences is a good “icebreaker”.