

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Kindergarten - 5th

Draw a picture of a caring adult

Students to draw a picture of a caring adult in their life showing what that adult does best. Ask students to write a caption about how they feel about this important person in their life. For kindergarteners or those who cannot write a complete sentence, have students dictate to you or an aide a sentence they would like to express. Have each student give their picture as a gift to their caring adult.

Create a personal courage journal

Student writes a daily personal courage journal. List at least two courageous things that they did each day. Each courageous activity should be a simple drawing with a caption or longer description accompanied by a simple drawing. This will help them expand their definition of courage as well as recognize their own capacity to be courageous in their everyday lives.

Weathering a personal challenge drawing

Student selects an experience that was difficult for them, and draws a picture of themselves on one-half of the drawing paper showing the challenge, then draws a picture of themselves on the second half of the paper, showing themselves when they had gotten through the tough time and were feeling better. The drawing should be accompanied by a caption describing how they made it through the tough time. Ask students to identify possible personal challenges of a civilian child, military child, and soldier.

Empower a leader for the day

Each student in the class fulfills the role of "Leader for the Day". This is not a privilege that a student earns. But a set of expectations that the student must live up to, specifically, respectful listening, responsibility for oneself and others, demonstration of caring about peers and adults, personal courage, and leadership. The Leader of the Day is designated by a special badge. The Leader of the Day fills the role of "expert" about these values in the classroom and it becomes his or her role to choose the next leader of the day based on who fulfills the expectations. Provide concrete examples of the class of how to honor each value in the classroom.

6th - 8th

Bring a military member to class

Invite a military member/parent to come in to your classroom before a deployment to meet students, and share with them what they enjoy about being a military member, and serving for our country.

- After member has deployed: Skype with the military member over a projector and smart screen, and allow class to ask them a couple questions. The next week, make a care package for said military member. Encourage class to bring in shaving cream, razors, candy, etc. This activity builds pride, and gives class concrete ways to support our military.



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For more information on MMC programming and curriculum please visit www.go.osu.edu/OMK-MMC or contact Candie Glover, Program Manager at (614) 292-3758 or glover.94@osu.edu



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CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

6th - 8th

Weathering a personal challenge

Student selects an experience that was difficult for them, and writes a letter to their teacher describing it and what he or she did to get through this tough time. Teacher writes a brief letter in response that emphasizes the student's courage, resourcefulness, and resilience.

Interview a caring adult

Student interviews a caring adult friend or family member about their life experiences. If possible, use audio tools or video so your student plays the role of a journalist. Student selects the characteristic they most admire and hope to emulate to present to their classmates. The student's presentation should be accompanied by a photograph of his or her adult friend and student together.

Explore the definition of courage

Student writes the definition of courage in the traditional sense from the dictionary. Ask them to expand the definition to include traits or behaviors that are not usually appreciated as courageous. Student then writes a story about him or herself that illustrates "quiet courage" or a non-traditional act of courage.

9th - 12th

Where Are You Going?

Identify places of combat on google maps and illustrate some differences. For example, amount of time to travel, time change, languages spoken, explain difference in currency, typical food, traditional clothing, typical education levels/what they learn in school, etc. The interactive map is a signature activity allowing kids to answer many of their own questions about a parent's deployment. It's important to note that talking about the deployment of a parent with a child or teenager ahead of time has been shown to ease kids' adjustment to this life change. This activity might also spark topics for discussion during phone calls and emails with the deployed parent.

Learn about native customs

Teach activities that local children in foreign countries enjoy and those that American kids would be interested in trying out. They can hear and practice saying common words in various languages and play a matching game with the words they've learned. Arts and crafts with directions for children to create masterpieces from around the world are available. Tasty recipes from different countries can be printed out and prepared right at home. All of these projects serve multiple purposes — they increase a child's understanding of the country the military is deployed, offer kids topics to converse about with military member or their deployed parent, and help kids build resiliency by staying busy while their parent is deployed.

Hold a debate

Have students brainstorm the qualities that define a good leader. Then divide the class in half and have them debate the question, "Are leaders born or created?"



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