

**National Inclusive Schools Week**  
**Daily Messages for Elementary Schools**

**Monday**

This week is National Inclusive Schools Week. \_\_\_\_\_ School tries to make sure that every child in our school feels welcome and is learning, including children with disabilities. Every child needs to be loved, accepted, and respected. Every child wants to belong. Talk with your teacher today about what you can do to make other children in our school feel welcome.

**Tuesday**

Today is the second day of National Inclusive Schools Week. \_\_\_\_\_ School knows that every child is unique, special, one-of-a-kind. We know that every child in our school learns differently. We try to make sure that you know how special you are. Talk with your teacher today about how to make sure that all the children in your class feel special.

**Wednesday**

Today is the third day of National Inclusive Schools Week. \_\_\_\_\_ School knows that sometimes people make fun of people who are different from them. It's never okay to make fun of another child or person, especially if it's because of that person's race or disability. Talk with your teacher today about how to make sure that no one feels left out or hurt because someone is making fun of them.

**Thursday**

Today is the fourth day of National Inclusive Schools Week. \_\_\_\_\_ School knows that our families are important to us. Our families help us do better in school. Talk with your teacher today about how your family helps you.

**Friday**

Today is the last day of National Inclusive Schools Week. \_\_\_\_\_ School believes that every child, including children with disabilities, can learn. Talk with your teacher today about how important learning is to you and to all the students in your class, and how you can help to make sure that every child in your class is learning.

**National Inclusive Schools Week**  
**Daily Messages for Middle Schools and Montclair High School**

**Monday**

This week is National Inclusive Schools Week, which celebrates including students with disabilities in our nation's schools and learning communities. Before the passage of the federal law protecting the right of students with disabilities to go to school, most schools excluded children and youth with disabilities. It was 20 years after the historic decision in Brown vs. Board of Education opening schoolhouse doors to African-American students that a federal law was finally passed guaranteeing students with disabilities the right to a public education.

\_\_\_\_\_ School tries to make sure that every student in our school feels welcome and is learning, including children with disabilities. We know that each one of you needs to be loved, accepted, and respected. We know that every student in our school wants to belong. Talk with your friends, classmates, and teachers today about what you can do to make other students in our school feel welcome. Let someone know that you feel they are special, too. If you have ideas on how to make our school more welcoming to all of our students, especially students with disabilities, please share them with your teachers.

**Tuesday**

Today is the second day of National Inclusive Schools Week, which celebrates including students with disabilities in our nation's schools and learning communities. \_\_\_\_\_ School knows that each of our students is unique, special, one-of-a-kind. We know that each one of you in our school learns differently. We want you to know how special you are, and we want you to help other students understand that they are special, too. Sometimes in our society we focus so much on the stars, the athletes, the performers, that we forget to recognize that we all make a contribution to our society. People with disabilities are often invisible in our schools and our community. Talk with your friends, classmates, and teachers today about how to make sure that all the students in our school, including students with disabilities, feel special.

**Wednesday**

Today is the third day of National Inclusive Schools Week, which celebrates including students with disabilities in our schools and learning communities. \_\_\_\_\_ School knows that sometimes people make fun of people who are different from them. It's never okay to make fun of another student or person, especially if it's because of that person's race or disability. Each and every one of us deserves to be treated with respect, regardless of what we look like on the outside, how we speak, or what our grades are. Pay special attention today to how your classmates are talking about each other. Is someone being made fun of? What can you do to stop disrespect in our school? How can you help others in our school feel that they are respected? Tell someone what you like about them. Talk with your friends, classmates, and teachers today about what respect means to you, and how to make sure that no one feels left out or hurt because someone is making fun of them in our school.

## **Thursday**

Today is the fourth day of National Inclusive Schools Week, which celebrates including students with disabilities in our schools and learning communities. \_\_\_\_\_ School knows that we sometimes make decisions about people based on a label or a stereotype. Labels are a convenient way of organizing information about people and events. But labels often become substitutes for thought and experience. Even when labels are accurate and neutral, they describe only one aspect of a person. When they are used as the only source of communication, they limit our understanding and cut us off from full communication. Labels about people are often misleading. They don't tell us very much about a person's thoughts, experiences, beliefs, abilities, or feelings. Stereotypes are beliefs about people based only on their labels. They lessen the chances of interaction among people, and diminish the potential for recognizing and accepting differences. They often lead to certain people being excluded or victimized. When you hear someone say something negative about someone based on a label or a stereotype, try these strategies:

- Think about or share opposite examples when someone makes a sweeping generalization.
- Give specific rather than general information about people.
- Point out the good or positive things about others.
- Politely disagree.
- Point out that what might be true for some is not necessarily true for all.
- Wait before making a judgment.

Talk with your friends, classmates, and teachers today about how labels can hurt our community; how you can avoid making judgments about people, including people with disabilities, based on labels or stereotypes; and what we can all do together to stop the hurtful use of labels and stereotypes.

## **Friday**

Today is the last day of National Inclusive Schools Week, which celebrates including students with disabilities in our schools and learning communities. \_\_\_\_\_ School believes that every student in our school, including students with disabilities, can learn and achieve. Think about a time when you have felt especially included in the learning process in a particular class, and another time when you have felt especially excluded. What makes you feel included? What makes you feel excluded? What do you observe about other students, especially students who might be different from the "norm?" How are they included? How are they excluded? Talk with your friends, classmates, and teachers today about how important learning is to you and to all the students in your class, and what you can each do to make sure that every student in our school is learning and achieving.