

FLORIDA CELEBRATES MONTH OF THE MILITARY FAMILY

Celebrate the Month of the Military Family and Purple Up! Day and encourage collaboration between school districts, military, community and local officials.

**TAG US
ON SOCIALS!**

@EducationFL

Districts are encouraged to tag @EducationFL or email pictures of celebrations to StudentSupportServices1@fldoe.org.

PURPLE UP! DAY	Observe Purple Up! Day. Challenge students, faculty and staff to wear purple. The class with the most purple wins a prize.
PAINT THE TOWN PURPLE	Ask local businesses and government agencies (city hall, county courthouse, etc.) to hang purple wreaths, ribbons, bows, etc., on their buildings during Purple Up! Week.
SOCIAL MEDIA	Tag @EducationFL when posting on Facebook, X, Instagram, etc.
WEBSITE FEATURE	Promote the Month of the Military Family on the school website. List activities that will take place on different days during the month.
KICK-OFF BREAKFAST	Kick off the Month of the Military Family with a breakfast or lunch for military families in school. Include their parents or other family members associated with the military.
DAILY FACTOIDS	Have a daily or weekly announcement with military facts. Start with the national facts and move into school facts.
LIGHT IT UP!	Get a local landmark or street, district office or school building lit up purple.

MILITARY MEMORABILIA	Decorate display cases and bulletin boards throughout April with military-focused memorabilia, or items brought by military children reflecting their experiences (where they have lived or traveled, family members' service memorabilia, parts of a uniform, patches, coins, etc.).
WHERE IN THE WORLD?	Create a world map and pinpoint where students and staff have lived because of their military service.
ADOPT A SERVICE MEMBER	Adopt a deployed service member or unit. Send cards, letters and care packages to deployed troops.
ADOPT A FAMILY	Adopt a family whose military member is deployed. Find out what the family needs help with (yard work, in-home technology, childcare, tutoring, homework, etc.) and have a class or club step in to help out.
GUEST SPEAKER	Ask a military member (a parent or sibling of someone in the class) to be a guest speaker and share their perspective on life in the military and their profession.
WALL OF HEROES	Create a Hero Wall to honor members. They could be family members of students or historical figures.
POSTER CONTEST	Decorate the school. Have students design posters recognizing military families for their service. Have military children make posters reflecting their experiences. Have a contest for students to choose their favorite poster.
SALUTE TO MILITARY FAMILIES AT SPORTING EVENTS	The announcer could make a special announcement before, during or after sporting events recognizing all military families – could raise the flag, sing the National Anthem or recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
MILITARY FAMILY LIAISON	Name a faculty member as the school's "go-to" person to help military families. Post the liaison's information on the school website.
FIELD TRIP	Take a class trip to a military installation. This could be an active-duty installation, a National Guard Armory, or an armed forces reserve center or complex. Meet with some of the service members and learn about what they do.

MILITARY BALL	Host a school dance with a military theme. Decorate the venue in patriotic colors (or purple!). Invite a military parent as a guest of honor.
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING	Invite military families to attend the April meeting of the district school board. Read a brief biography of each family and present the families to the board. Have the board chairperson recognize the military families for their service and sacrifice.
HIGHLIGHT	Highlight Purple Up! Day on the district and/or school marquee, and feature in staff and parent newsletters.
ENGAGEMENT	Encourage leadership by military students in the planning and implementation of the activities.
RIBBONS	Tie purple ribbons, one per military family in the school, on a tree outside the school, or attached on the walls of the lunchroom or main hallway.

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