# Ethics and Personal Values

## Making Ethical Decisions

**Advisory Goal:** Students will learn the expectations of ethical and moral behavior and how to become ethical and moral individuals.

**Purpose:** To help students understand the importance of making ethical decisions.

**Time:** One advisory period

**Materials:**

* Paper
* Whiteboard, chalkboard or overhead/document camera to display class definition of ethical.

**Activity:**

* **Have a whole group discussion, work in small groups, and then come back to a whole group discussion.**

**Reflection:** Ask the students: (use the questions listed or put others)

* Did you enjoy this activity?
* Would you like to see more activities such as this one?

**Reflection:** Ask the teacher: (use the questions listed or put others)

* Was the time appropriate for the activity?
* Did you have all the materials you needed, should others be listed?
* Did the students take part?
* Did the students seem to enjoy and/or get the purpose of the activity?

***Making Ethical Decisions- Description***

1. Ask the students to define the words “ethical decision.” Discuss it’s meaning with them and construct a class definition.
2. Have students work in small groups to compile a list of situations where such decisions are necessary.
3. Bring the students back to full group discussion and share lists.
4. Be prepared for students to suggest politically charged topics, such as abortion, the death penalty, etc. If these situations are mentioned, try to redirect students to simpler issues where the ethical outcomes will reflect the student’s school life (such as cheating on tests, stealing, bullying).
5. Discuss what ethical decision underlies the situations in the following:
   1. You see a classmate cheating on a final exam
   2. You noticed someone steal a phone from another student when they were out of the room
   3. You hear someone verbally abusing another student with racial slurs.
6. Discuss the following:
   1. Why do some people seem to avoid making ethical decisions?
   2. Do you believe in ethics? Why?