

Dear Families/Caregivers,

Values are a person's principles and standards of behavior. They are what a person believes to be important. Studies indicate that people are happier when they act according to their values. As students become more independent, they begin to shape their values based on new information gathered from peers, the media, and their own experiences.

Students have been identifying their own values and looking at values in the media and how they support or oppose their personal values. We learned that because the purpose of media is to **persuade** and **profit**, students should **question** and judge the **quality** of the media they read, watch, and listen to.

Here are a few discussion questions to engage your teen in a conversation about your values in the media:

- Watch or read a news story together and talk about how it supports or opposes your child's values and your family values.
- Watch a political debate and talk about how the views in the debate support or opposes his or her personal values.

Each family forms their values based on their own beliefs. Our values are influenced by our culture, religion, environment, experience, and the values of our extended family. It is important that your teen have a clear sense of your family's values while having some freedom to begin to evaluate and own or reject values based on his or her own wants and needs. Your child should be able to evaluate views in the media to support or oppose his or her personal values.