

Students work together to create a class symbol that represents the whole

Working together as a team can strengthen interpersonal bonds and help foster a supportive, collaborative climate in the classroom and beyond. This activity from the *Second Step* Bullying Prevention Unit is a great way to strengthen that supportive class climate, not to mention an opportunity for a history lesson in coats of arms and their meanings.

Activity

Materials

- Large sheet of poster paper or one copy per student of our free coat of arms template (see next page)
- Variety of art supplies
- Picture of the school mascot
- Class or school motto

Preparation

If you didn't download the provided image, draw the outline of a coat of arms on the sheet of poster paper.

Steps

1. Introduce the project:

We are going to create a class coat of arms. A coat of arms uses pictures, colors, and words to show what's important to a group of people.

2. Explain the sections of the coat of arms:

Each section of the coat of arms will have a different color, picture, or set of words.

- Top left section: A picture of an animal with a character trait that's important to the class (see below for ideas)
- Top right section: A color that means something important to the class
- Bottom left section: A second color that means something important to the class
- Bottom right section: A picture of the school mascot
- Banner: Class or school motto

3. Determine a process for selecting what will go in each section of the coat of arms. You may want the class to vote, or you may want pairs or groups to discuss their ideas and present them to the class.

4. Have students choose colors, pictures, and words to include on the coat of arms.

5. As decisions are made, add the elements to the coat of arms.

Variation

Provide copies of a blank coat of arms for students to complete on their own.

COLOR	MEANING	ANIMAL	MEANING	COLOR	MEANING	ANIMAL	MEANING
Red	Bravery	Bear	Strong	Blue	Responsibility	Stag	Strong spirit
Yellow	Loyalty	Leopard	Agile	Green	Honesty	Lion	Brave
Orange	Welcoming	Eagle	Wise				

