

Carrollton High School Peace Pledge

Prepared by Donna Nonneman

Making peace must start within ourselves and in our school. Each of us, members of the Carrollton High School community, must commit ourselves as best we can to become nonviolent and peaceable people.

To respect self and others: To respect myself, to affirm others and to avoid uncaring criticism, hateful words, physical attacks and self-destructive behavior.

To communicate better: To share my feelings honestly, to look for safe ways to express my anger and to work at solving problems peacefully.

To listen: To listen carefully to another, especially those who disagree with me, and to consider others' feelings and needs, rather than insist on having my own way.

To forgive: To apologize and make amends when I have hurt another. To forgive others and to keep from holding grudges.

To respect nature: To treat the environment and all living things, including our pets, with respect and care.

To play creatively: To choose activities that support our school's values and to avoid activities that make violence look exciting, funny, or acceptable.

To be courageous: To challenge violence in all its forms, whenever I encounter it, whether at home, at school, at work, or in the community, and to stand with others who are treated unfairly.

(Adapted by Donna Nonneman based on "A family peace pledge" that was printed in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Vol. 124, No. 358, December 24, 2002, page A-1. The article stated that the family peace pledge was written by the Institute for Peace and Justice, which has its headquarters in St. Louis.)



Vocabulary for the Peace Pledge

- 1. Peace:** *n.* 1: a state of tranquility or quiet 2: freedom from disquiet or emotional fears 3: harmony in personal relations 4a: a state or period of peace between governments 4b: an agreement to end a war
- 2. Pledge:** *n.* a binding promise or agreement
- 3. Respect:** *v.* 1: to consider worthy of high regard—esteem 2: to refrain from interfering (Example: “He respected their privacy.”)
- 4. Affirm:** *v.* to state positively or with confidence
- 5. Criticism:** *n.* the act of criticizing—esp. faultfinding
Criticizing: *v.* 1: examining and judging as a critic—evaluate 2: expressing criticism esp. of an unfavorable kind 3. finding fault with (Example: “Some people are quick to criticize others.”)
- 6. Amends:** *n.* something done or given by a person to make up for a loss or injury he or she has caused (Example: “She made amends for an unkindness.”)
- 7. Grudges:** *n.* feelings of deep-seated resentment or ill will
Resentment: *n.* a feeling of indignant displeasure at something regarded as a wrong, insult, or injury
- 8. Violence:** *n.* the use of physical force in a way that harms people or their property.
- 9. Courageous:** *adj.* having or marked by courage, brave
Courage: *n.* strength of mind to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty
- 10. Self-destructive:** *adj.* causing harm to oneself

(The definitions given here were adapted from Webster’s Intermediate Dictionary to fit the context of this lesson.)



