

## 9/11 Tenth Anniversary Guidelines for Educators

### Guiding Principles

#### **AGE APPROPRIATE**

- Use simple and factual language
- Avoid graphic details and visuals
- Don't dramatize the destruction
- A lot of people affected

#### **BE POSITIVE**

- Many people were safe from the planes and buildings
- Changes made since have made our world more safe
- Service Projects aimed at helping others is a good way for our students to learn how to respond to disasters. (EX: *Every Monday Matters*)
- Let students ask questions as it is a way they process information

#### **CURRICULUM CONNECTED**

- Teach the facts
- Connect across other content areas
- Encourage students to use critical thinking skills to analyze the event
- Have students provide evidence from the facts to support their understanding of the event
- Do not politicize the event or promote bias

### CURRICULUM FOCUS

#### Elementary

- Focus on what people do when a natural or man-made disaster happens
- Investigate the various ways individuals can make a difference by helping out others
- K – (Self and Others)
- 1 – (Neighborhoods and Communities)
- 2 – (Community, State, Nation, and World)
- 3 – (Local/Regional History, 5 Themes of Geography, Local Government, and Civic Education)
- 4 – (North Carolina – Historically and Culturally)
- 5 – (United States)

#### Middle School

- 6 – (South America and Europe)
- 7 – (Africa, Asia, and Australia)
- 8 – (North Carolina and US History)

#### High School

- 9 – (World History)
- 10 – (Civics and Economics)
- 11 – (US History)

### **DEFINING MOMENTS**

- Explain the term “defining moments”
- How it is different for each one of us based on our individuality
- Allow students to express themselves through writing about their thoughts and views independently of the event

“History is to a culture, what memory is to an individual.” – Mike Huckabee

### **LINKS TO HELPFUL WEB SITES**

<http://www.learnabout9-11.org/> - *The September 11 Education Program* was developed over several years by the September 11<sup>th</sup> Education Trust, a prominent 9/11 organization comprised of victims’ family members, survivors, rescue workers and educators, united in the cause of teaching about 9/11 and its aftermath.

<http://www.911memorial.org/teaching-guides-0> - This is the site of the museum and memorial that currently exist at the site of the former World Trade Center’s and gives information to remember and honor all involved in the events of September 11, 2001.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/holocaust/911/k12curr.pdf> - This is a comprehensive guide to lessons that are geared to the various K-12 grade levels supported by the New Jersey Department of Education and several organizations dedicated to remembering and educating future students about the events of September 11, 2001.

<http://www.familiesofseptember11.org/> - This is a site of a non-profit organization maintained by families affected by the events of September 11, 2001.

<http://911day.org> – This web site promotes the annual organization of the 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance (“9/11 Day”), designed to provide a positive and forward-looking way for Americans and others to forever honor and remember the 9/11 victims, survivors, and the many that rose in service in response to the 9/11 tragedy, including first responders, recovery workers, volunteers, public safety officers and members of our military.