Lesson Plan: Charter for Compassion -- All Curricular Areas

Critical Question:

• What is the Charter for Compassion?

Key Learning Outcomes:

It is expected that students will:

• Demonstrate an understanding of Compassion and The Charter for Compassion.
• Respond to the key concepts in collaborative and creative ways.
• Explore possibilities for putting compassion into action in their own lives.

Teaching and Learning Activities:

2. Think, Pair, Share after viewing clip and have students give their initial responses, thoughts, and questions
3. Read the Charter for Compassion.
   • Give each student a copy of the Charter (http://charterforcompassion.org/share/the-charter). Then work through each of the 4 sections of the Document, having students annotate the text using the following method by Robert DiYanni from NYU and The College Board. (3 Words to Meaning)
     a) Have students read the first section and choose 3 words from the text.
     b) Next students are to compose a sentence using the three words to demonstrate their understanding of the section.
     c) Students share their sentences, elaborating, and building upon each other’s ideas.
     d) Repeat steps a-c for the remaining sections.
4. Now that students have examined the Charter closely, adding their own understanding to it, students are divided into groups, each dealing with a section of the Charter (or the entire Charter based on grade level or comprehension demonstrated in the previous activity), and create one of the following interpretations:
   a) Collage or visual interpretation
   b) Found poem gleaning lines from the Charter
   c) Frozen picture or role play
   d) Poem for Two Voices

   www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson.../two-voice.pdf
   www.writingfix.com/PDFs/Comparison.../Poem_Two_Voices.pdf

Compassion in Action 2012 - Developed by Denise Clark, Elizabeth Vikner, Kim Beaucock – Vancouver Technical Secondary
Optional Activities for Deeper Understanding or Further Exploration:

a) Cultivating Compassion questionnaire handout (next page) and Link Compassion with Action (see Karen Armstrong “TED” talk)
   - Report out, gallery walk *, written response
b) Digital Expression Lesson: Is Compassion Necessary? from School District #44 (on VSB resources)
c) Create an implementation plan for the Charter of Compassion for your school/community
d) Speech/Essay on Compassion
e) Debate the idea that “to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate"
f) Develop a Compassion Committee for your school, including all stakeholders (students, teachers, administrators)

* Gallery Walk: Small groups post their work (on chart paper) around the classroom. Then members of the class circulate, spending time at each “station”, reading, and responding to the other groups’ work.
Cultivating Compassion Questionnaire

1. On your own, reflect and write...
   - What is compassion?
   - How is it different from kindness? Explain.
   - Provide some personal or societal examples of compassion that you have witnessed or demonstrated.
   - Are there parameters (limits) to compassion? Qualify your response.

2. Share your responses within a group of three. Be prepared to report out (debrief) about key themes/issues or actions that arose in your discussions, by a) submitting a written response, or b) preparing and participating in a gallery walk.