

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

Guide for High Schoolers and Older Students



Older students and high schoolers can play a big role in making Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day meaningful for the whole school community. By helping to guide activities, sharing Ruby's story in creative ways, and showing younger students what it looks like to stand up for kindness and courage, high school students have the opportunity to assist or lead events for younger students.



Ideas for Older Students

Lead Younger Students

- ☐ Pair up with an elementary class to read a book about Ruby Bridges or kindness
- ☐ Walk alongside younger students during the event to show support and encouragement
- ☐ Storytime Reflections: After the read aloud, guide a short discussion about courage, friendship, or standing up to bullying

Promote Literacy & Reflection

- ☐ Post writing prompts around the school (e.g., "What does courage mean to you?" or "How can we show kindness every day?") and let students add sticky notes with their responses
- ☐ Write short pieces about Ruby Bridges, courage, or respect, and display them in hallways or classrooms
- ☐ Work with the library to feature books about Ruby Bridges, civil rights, and friendship

Document the Day

- ☐ Assign students to photograph, film, or write about the event for the school newspaper, yearbook, or website
- ☐ Record short interviews with participants about what the day means to them
- ☐ Help the school share highlights to spread the message of courage and kindness

Art & Media

- ☐ Create artwork about courage, standing up for what's right, or walking together
- ☐ Write encouraging messages on sidewalks leading up to the school for all students to see
- ☐ Organize a choir, spoken word, or theater piece to honor Ruby Bridges' story

Ideas for Older Students

Lead by Examples

- ☐ Share positive messages with younger students about handling bullying or exclusion
- ☐ Organize a kindness campaign or collect donations for a local cause tied to youth or education
- ☐ Serve as emcees for the day, introducing speakers or guiding younger students through activities

Keep the Spirit Going

- ☐ Host a lunch-time or classroom conversation about what Ruby's story means today
- ☐ Create a week-long challenge encouraging students to notice and celebrate acts of kindness
- ☐ Work with teachers to connect the event to ongoing history, literature, or leadership lessons

