

# SCHOOL COMPANION FLAG ADOPTION

## Principal's Introductory Script

I'm pleased to announce that starting \_\_\_\_\_, our school will be joining other schools around the world by adopting and flying the Companion Flag!

The Companion Flag is a new symbol. It stands for everything that human beings have in common. In other words, it is a [tangible] reminder to all of us that, in addition to our differences and diversity, we share many of the same experiences and concerns with people everywhere.

This flag is called the Companion Flag because it is flown as "a companion" to the other flags of the world, on the same pole—it is never flown alone. Each Companion Flag flown throughout the world has a host flag that flies above it. Here at \_\_\_\_\_, our host flag will be the \_\_\_\_\_ flag.

You probably wonder what the Companion Flag looks like? The Companion Flag is a simple white flag with one stripe of color across the top. The color of the stripe is any color that appears in the host flag above it. Since our host flag will be the flag of \_\_\_\_\_, the color of the stripe of *our* Companion Flag will be [\_\_\_\_\_] [either \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_.<sup>1</sup>]

We have decided to fly the Companion Flag at our school because we believe it will help us remember something that is both very important, and easily forgotten. [That's what symbols are for—to help us remember things that we might otherwise forget. And what is that?] It is the fact that human beings—all of us—are in some ways different, and in other ways the same. We spend a good deal of our time in school learning about human differences, and hopefully developing respect for diversity and the differences of others. That is how it should be. But the fact remains that, in addition to our differences, we humans share many important experiences—no matter who we are, what we believe, where we're from, or what we look like.

We share the love of friends and family, the desire for health, concern for the safety and happiness of loved ones, our susceptibility to pain and pleasure, illness and injury, our desire to be accepted for who we are. . . and the list goes on and on.

It is important to remember and to honor the connections we have with each other, and with every other human being. . . even as we celebrate our diversity.

So, to conclude, you will see that we will begin flying the Companion Flag on the flagpole in front of \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_. We will post a sign to explain the Companion Flag to visitors to our school, so that they also will know that our vision is to celebrate and honor both our diversity, and all that we have in common with each other—and with people everywhere—because of our shared humanity. I hope you will take some time in your classes to talk about this idea, and to share your thoughts and feelings with your teachers, and with me, in the days and weeks ahead.

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<sup>1</sup> Note to Principal: Elementary schools have had great success staging school-wide student elections to choose the color of the stripe of their Companion Flag (this is possible whenever your host flag has more than one color).