PROGRAM SUMMARY

School Rules: Being a Good Citizen at School opens with various students telling viewers what being a good citizen means to them. Then the program’s hosts explain the concept of a school community and the importance of being a good citizen at school. Together, the hosts and the students introduce the five pillars of good citizenship. The video continues with three dramatic scenes that illustrate the pillars.

CITIZENSHIP SCENE ONE

Lynn, Jake, and Jenna are conducting a science experiment at school. Jake accidentally spills a large container of water on the floor, on the group’s papers, and on Lynn. Furious, Lynn calls Jake a klutz and tells him that she hates working with him. But Jenna stays calm and quickly starts cleaning up the spill with paper towels. She downplays the situation by saying that “accidents happen.” Jake is still embarrassed but helps Jenna clean up the water.

The scene freezes and the hosts come on camera to discuss what happened. The hosts review the five pillars of good citizenship and asks viewers whether or not each one was demonstrated in the scene. A PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION graphic prompts teachers to pause the video and allow students to respond to the hosts’ questions. Then the hosts go over each question. Lynn failed to follow the first pillar of good citizenship because she was disrespectful to Jake. But Jenna respected Jake as well as school property. She also demonstrated good character by helping clean the mess and calming Lynn down.

CITIZENSHIP SCENE TWO

Mr. Capp’s class is reviewing material for an upcoming test. When Sara asks Mr. Capp a question, Marco and Cathy begin chatting and giggling loudly. When Cathy pokes Marco with a ruler, Mr. Capp moves her to the front of the room. Sean, who sits next to Marco, asks Marco to stop fooling around so he can pay attention. Marco apologizes.

A moment later, Mr. Capp gets an important phone call about a student who is out sick. He asks everyone to review the notes silently while he steps out into the hall. But as soon as he leaves, Cathy crumples up a piece of paper and throws it at Marco. Marco ignores Cathy’s bid for attention, so Cathy gets up to move next to him. Marco tells her to stay where she is because he doesn’t want to get in trouble again and because Mr. Capp needs the class to be quiet. So Cathy goes back to her seat just before Mr. Capp returns and thanks his students for their patience.

When the scene ends, the hosts review the five pillars of good citizenship and asks questions about how each was addressed in the drama. After a prompt to pause for discussion, the hosts go over the answers to each question and points out that Marco demonstrated good character in the end by showing respect to Mr. Capp and his peers.
PROGRAM SUMMARY CONTINUED

CITIZENSHIP SCENE THREE

Ted, a student with a visual impairment, walks into the boy’s bathroom as school is getting out. Brian and Charlie step out of a stall, laughing. They call Ted a “four-eyed freak” and show him a picture they drew in the stall of him as a newborn wearing huge glasses and his mother crying as she looks at him. Ted is upset, but he keeps his cool and says that he doesn’t find the drawing funny. Just then, Elijah comes out of another stall and sees the drawing. He is nervous but speaks up and tells the boys that the drawing is really mean. The bullies tell Elijah and Ted that they will be sorry if they tell anyone.

After Brian and Charlie leave, Ted thanks Elijah for helping him. Elijah says that no one should be teased for wearing glasses and that Ted should tell a teacher what happened. But Ted is afraid to tell on the boys, so he says that he will just use another bathroom next time. Elijah insists on telling a teacher and offers to go with Ted. He explains that if Brian and Charlie are allowed to get away with what they did, they will continue bullying other kids, and that would be bad for the school community. The scene ends with the two boys approaching Ted’s teacher together.

The hosts discuss the scene, pointing out that Ted and Elijah showed courage and respect in the face of fear, and that Elijah gave back to the community by speaking up to prevent other students from being bullied.

At the end of the video, the hosts review the take-home points and tells viewers that it is up to them to demonstrate good citizenship at school. Students are left with an important message: When every person works hard to demonstrate good school citizenship, the whole community benefits.