



Precept Pennants

Quotes, inspirations, words of wisdom — if they're worth remembering, they're worth sharing.

(art + literature)

A precept is defined by Webster's Dictionary as "a principle intended especially as a general rule of action." A precept commonly advises, suggests, or teaches rather than rigidly presents a law or commandment.

In the novel "Wonder" by R. J. Palacio, an English teacher named Mr. Browne defines precepts as "rules about really important things." Palacio herself says, "In a nutshell, precepts are words to live by. You can find a precept in a book you're reading, in a song you've heard, or in a fortune cookie. It doesn't matter where, but if a phrase rings true to you, and it can help guide you in making a decision, then make it your own personal precept."

Inspirational quotes, words of wisdom, affirmations, and sayings — if they're worth remembering, they're worth sharing.

Pennants are often strung together to create impact, perhaps drawing inspiration from maritime signal flags strung together for communication between ships. Imagine the impact of an assemblage of precepts passing along inspiration and guidance in a visual collaboration.

Perfect for the choice-based classroom, Precept Pennants can be designed with any number of drawing, painting, or mixed media materials. Strings of pennants can be created over an indefinite period of time and added to as precepts are discovered. Early finishers and extra-credit seekers can be steered toward searching for precepts, pennant-making, hanging, or displaying.

GRADES 3-12 Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. Provide a selection of materials for pennant creation:
 - collage materials such as colorful and decorative papers, glue, fabric, beads, buttons, yarn, and more
 - lettering guides and supplies, including pens, markers, stencils, and a digital template if precepts will be lettered using a computer
 - drawing supplies: pencils, crayons, and markers
 - painting supplies

Materials (required)

[Paper Accents Chipboard Pennants](#), assorted styles, package of 9 (03183-); need one pennant per student

[Jute Twine](#), 5-ply tube, 254 ft (62984-5254); need one

Design Materials, recommend:

[Helix Lettering Guide Value Packs](#) (55466-)

[Manuscript Callicreative Flexi Tip Markers](#), set of 12 (00873-1012)

[Art Alternatives Finline Pen Sets](#) (21022-)

[Fredrix Crafty Canvas Ribbon](#), 25 yds (61271-1020)

[Awagami Creative Washi Paper Pack](#), 1 lb assortment (11325-1001)

[Elmer's X-treme School Glue Stick](#) (23894-)

Materials (optional)

[Simply Art Wood Shapes](#), assorted package of 330 (60408-1040)

[Jewelry Charm Assortment](#) (63832-1100)

[Darice Baker's Twine](#) (61595-)

[Paper Accents Cardstock Pennants](#), package of 50 (11429-1009)



Process, continued

While pennants may be created from construction paper or other lighter-weight materials, using a chipboard base and lightfast materials will produce a long-lasting installment that can be enjoyed indefinitely.

Note: Templates for Paper Accents Chipboard Pennants are provided at the end of this lesson plan.

2. Provide a number of examples for launching ideas. Quotes and sayings can be found by searching online, including precepts from the novel and movie "Wonder," which sparked a "Choose Kind" campaign.

If Precepts Pennants will be an ongoing project, students can be challenged to search for phrases that are meaningful to them for future designs.

Process

1. Create pennants with selected precepts, encouraging creative, colorful, and meaningful design. For middle school ages and older, use this lesson plan as an introduction to graphic communication concepts such as type and letter styling, weight, and emphasis. Guide thinking beyond the flat plane of the pennant to adding 3D elements, including ribbons and tassels that extend beyond the original shape.
2. If the pennant will be displayed where both sides are visible, design the back side as either a repeat of the same precept — or use a new one.
3. String pennants together on a strong cord or thick twine, leaving plenty of string at each end for hanging. Use a ruler, if desired, to evenly space the pennants. Tie knots at each side of the pennant top to keep it in place on the string.
4. Display strings of Precepts Pennants with a single-sided view on a wall or along a shelf or window sill. Hang them across rooms, hallways, and doorways to view them from both directions.

National Core Arts Standards

Visual Arts

Creating

Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Presenting

Anchor Standard 6: Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

Responding

Anchor Standard 8: Perceive and analyze artistic work.

Connecting

Anchor Standard 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.



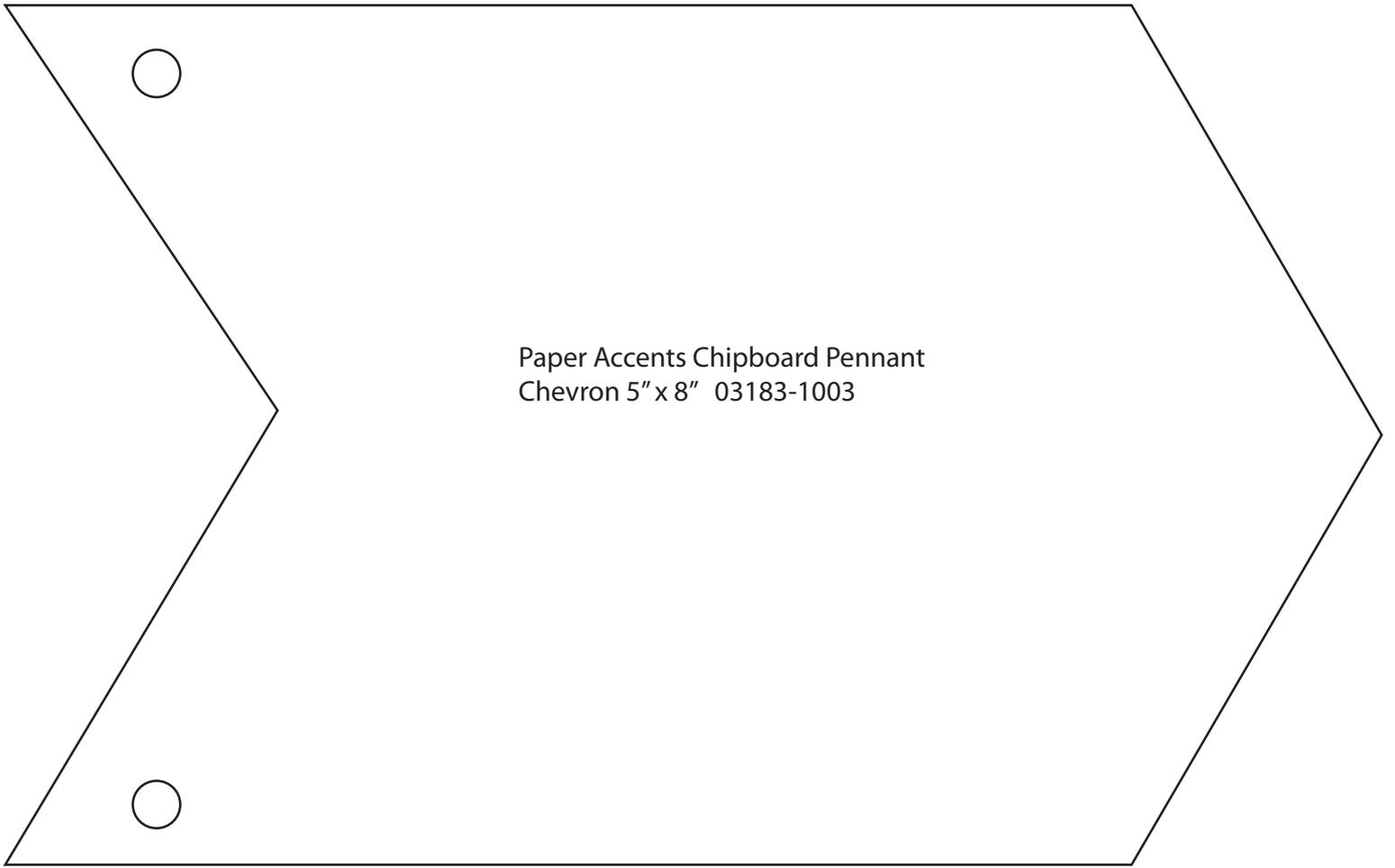
Step 1: Provide media options for selecting quotes, phrases, and precepts.



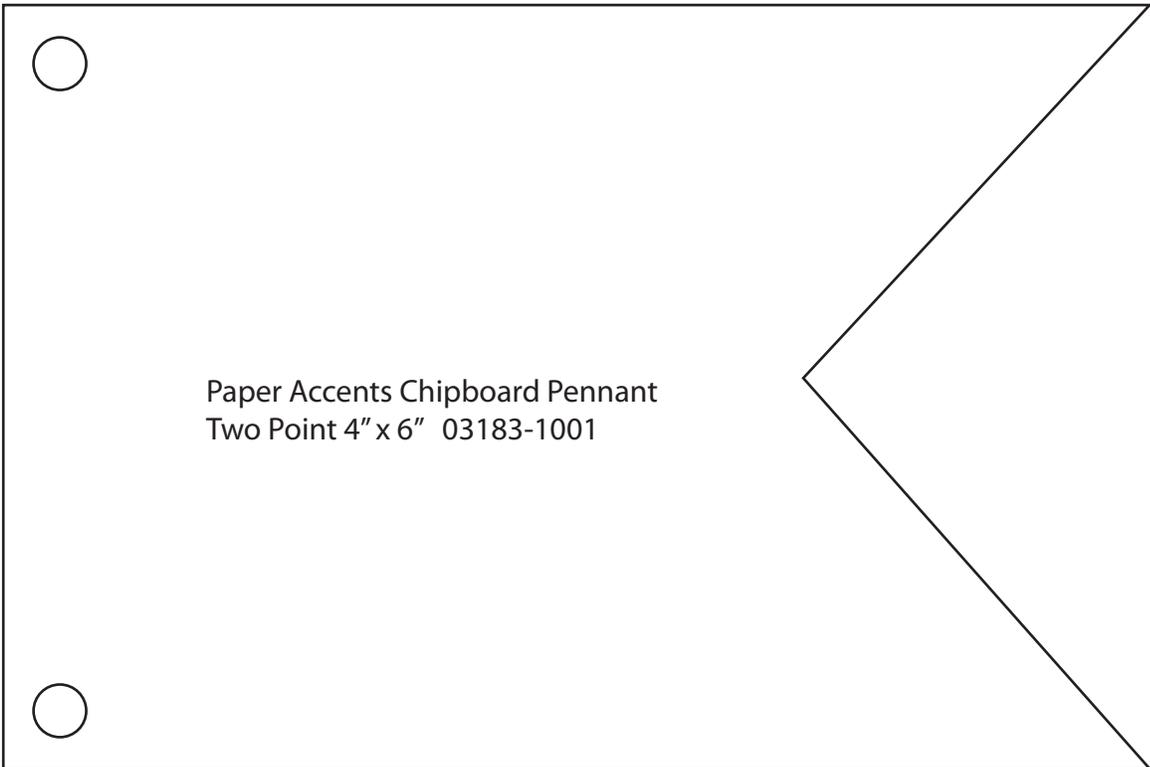
Step 2: Design pennants to effectively communicate the idea expressed by the selected precept.



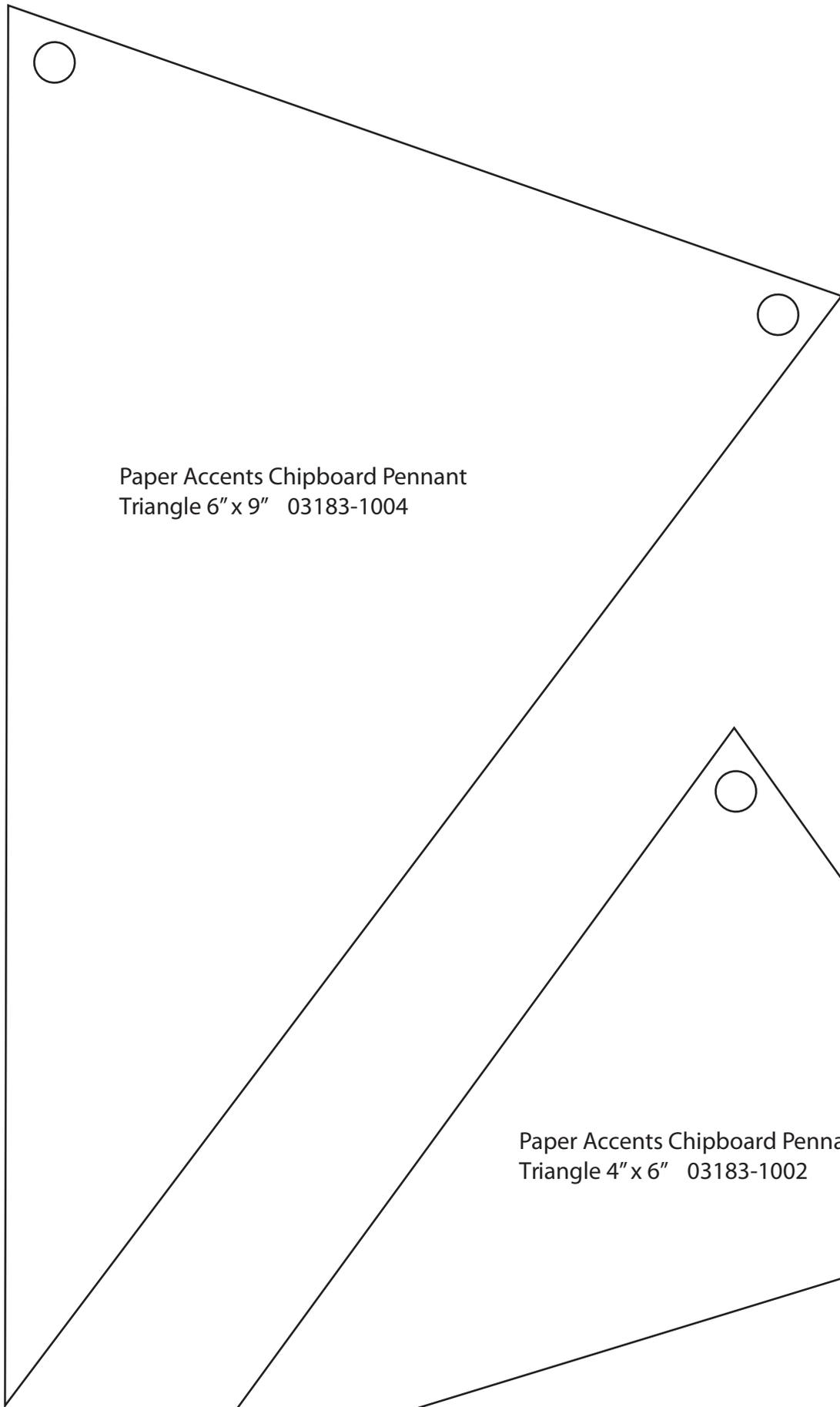
Step 3: String Precepts Pennants together and hang them where they will provide the most inspiration.



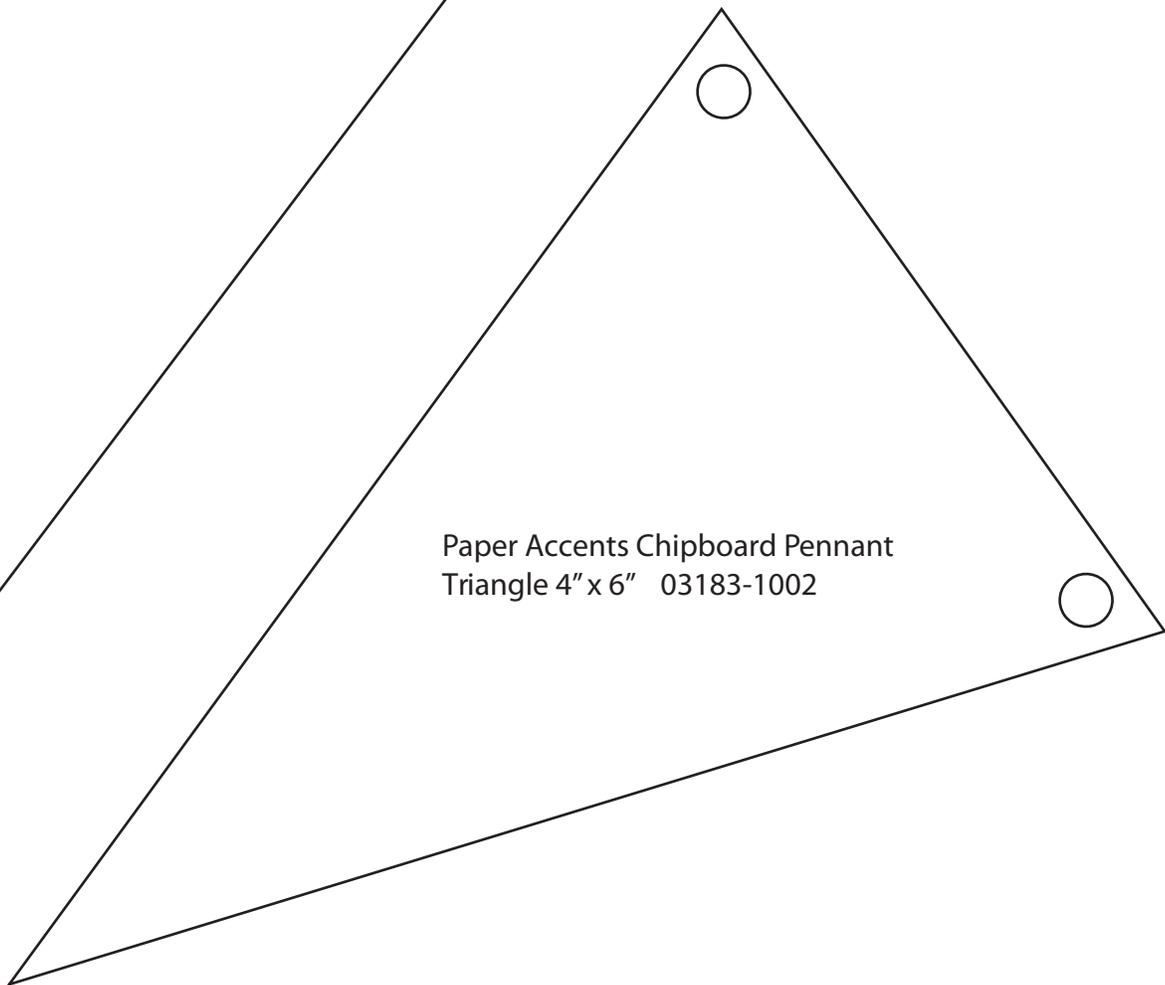
Paper Accents Chipboard Pennant
Chevron 5" x 8" 03183-1003



Paper Accents Chipboard Pennant
Two Point 4" x 6" 03183-1001



Paper Accents Chipboard Pennant
Triangle 6" x 9" 03183-1004



Paper Accents Chipboard Pennant
Triangle 4" x 6" 03183-1002