

## Circles of Strength

### What Do You Stand For? A Reflection of Us

**Each year we celebrate a new beginning in our school!**

**In honor of this new beginning, we would like to create a school mural that will be displayed throughout the year. Our School is a place that is filled with tradition, strength, and creativity. It is filled with character.**

**It is filled with your strengths, your dreams, and your visions. We ask you to reflect upon your character and your strengths right now as you design a “circle of strength” for this special “*What Do We Stand For?*” mural.**

*Please clearly write your name and grade on your circle (front or back).* Remember that your circle should represent your personal thoughts and ideas and vision of the character trait, quality, or pillar that you stand for, admire, or believe in. You might choose to contribute a written reflection, a visual image, or a combination of the two. We would like the finished mural (which will be displayed within our school) to be a “wall of strength” filled with color, personal thoughts, and reflections. As you decide how you will design your original circle, the following prompts might be helpful in developing your ideas:

- What do *you* stand for (as an individual)? **or** What do *we* stand for (as a school)?
- Which is the one character trait/quality that you admire most in yourself? Explain.
- Which is the one character trait/quality that you admire most in others? Explain.
- Choose one of the six pillars of character (trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship) to define, explain, or represent in words or symbols.
- Which of the six pillars of character do you most often demonstrate in your life?
- Which is the most important quality you look for in a friend? Why?
- Which is the most important quality/strength/ability you bring to your friendships?
- Brainstorm other ideas, concepts, qualities, and character traits that are important to you. (For example, do you stand for honesty, loyalty, reliability, kindness, courage, bravery, modesty, sensitivity, punctuality, etc.?)
- Consider how these qualities and characteristics help to make our community a better place.
- Consider sharing your thoughts about why it is important to “stand for something” and why you have chosen this particular quality/characteristic/concept.

**Please feel free to use your own sense of creativity, color, and form. Drawings, quotations, imagery, descriptions, definitions, poems, etc. are welcome and anticipated!**

Thank you for your contribution to our “What Do We Stand For?” mural.

After you complete your circle, please return it to your teacher. We ask that all teachers please collect all circles and send one student to return the circles to our guidance counselors as soon as all are completed. We also invite all faculty and staff to contribute a circle to this mural. We will be constructing the mural as soon as your contributions are completed. Thank you, and please come visit your circle and others on our wall of strength as we share and reflect upon “What We Stand For.”