Character.org Designates 83 Schools 4 Districts as 2017 National Schools of Character

Program developed in 1998 has positively impacted the lives of 2 million students

Washington, D.C. (May 8, 2017)—Character.org, the nonprofit organization that validates character initiatives in schools and communities around the world, today designated 83 schools and 4 districts from 21 states as 2017 National Schools and Districts of Character.

Since the inception of Character.org’s Schools of Character program in 1998, 474 schools and 30 districts have been designated as National Schools or Districts of Character, impacting more than 1.5 million students’ lives. (A complete list of the 2017 National Schools and Districts of Character is included at bottom of this release). In addition, this year, 3 Mexico schools have applied for our Mexico School of Character designation. All designees will be announced at a press event in the nation’s capital, Washington, D.C., on May 23. The event will be held in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, room G11 from 10:00-11:00 ET and will be live-streamed across the nation. The announcement is being sponsored by Senator James Lankford (R-OK).

Each year, Character.org (formerly The Character Education Partnership) and its state affiliates select schools and districts that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development programs and a positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior, school climate and their communities. Schools and districts selected in January as State Schools of Character, along with those schools who reapplied in their 3-year designation, were forwarded to Character.org for consideration for national recognition as National Schools of Character.

Through an in-depth and rigorous evaluation process, these schools were found to be exemplary models of character development. Of the schools named today, 17 schools are former National Schools of Character reapplying for the national designation. Criteria for selection are based on Character.org’s 11 Principles of Effective Character Education, a framework to assist schools in providing students with opportunities for moral action, fostering shared leadership and engaging families and communities as partners in the character-building effort.

"At Character.org, we are extremely proud of this year’s National Schools of Character as well as our district recipients. Their dedication to character development has proven over time to increase the well-being of so many students, their families and their communities across the United States and beyond, " said Doug Karr, Character.org’s President & CEO. He continued, "Validating character initiatives is at the core of what we do because it creates fertile conditions for multi-generational character growth where students and those in their lives thrive as ethical members of our society. The students of National Schools of Character are developing a lifelong skillset that they will leverage well into their adult lives.”
Character.org will honor the designated schools and districts at its 24th National Forum on Character Education to be held the weekend of October 20-21, 2017, in Arlington, VA. Visit www.character.org to learn more about the National Forum, the Schools of Character program (State & National) and the 2017 national honorees.

**About Character.org:** Founded in 1993, Character.org, is a national nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. The mission of the organization is to provide leadership and advocacy for character worldwide. It is dedicated to help people everywhere become educated, inspired and empowered to be ethical and compassionate citizens. Character.org validates character initiatives in schools, sports, families and the workplace through certifications and sharing of best practices. Results of effective character initiatives in schools typically include improved academic achievement, a decline in behavioral problems and an increase in an overall positive school climate.

**About Character Education:** Character education is an approach to school culture and climate improvement that supports the social, emotional and ethical development of students. It is the proactive and intentional effort by schools, districts, communities and states to help students develop important core ethical (recognizing what’s right) and performance (doing what’s right) values such as caring, honesty, diligence, fairness, fortitude, responsibility, grit, creativity, critical thinking and respect for self and others.

### 2017 National Districts of Character

**Illinois**
**Belleville Public Schools District**
**118**
Belleville, Illinois
Public•Pre-K-8

**Missouri**
**Parkway School District**
Chesterfield, MO
Public•K-12

**New Jersey**
**New Providence School District**
New Providence, NJ
Public•K-12

**Wisconsin**
**School District of South Milwaukee**
South Milwaukee, WI
Public•Pre-K-12
### 2017 National Schools of Character

*indicates that the school is re-certifying as a National School of Character.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>*Shades Cahaba</td>
<td>Homewood, Alabama</td>
<td>Public•K-5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Imagine Desert West</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>Charter•K-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Imagine East Mesa</td>
<td>Mesa, AZ</td>
<td>Charter•Pre-K-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Imagine Prep Surprise</td>
<td>Surprise, AZ</td>
<td>Charter•6-12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Wells Middle School</td>
<td>Dublin, CA</td>
<td>Public•6-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>Imagine Charter School at Firestone</td>
<td>Firestone, CO</td>
<td>Charter•Pre-K-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parker Core Knowledge Charter School</td>
<td>Parker, CO</td>
<td>Charter•K-8</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>Breakthrough Magnet School</td>
<td>Hartford, CT</td>
<td>Public•Pre-K-8</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>Sheridan School</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>Private•K-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>*Carrollwood Day School</td>
<td>Tampa, FL</td>
<td>Private•Pre-K-12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Cimino Elementary School</td>
<td>Valrico, FL</td>
<td>Public•Pre-K-5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>*Sacred Hearts Academy</td>
<td>Honolulu, HI</td>
<td>Private•Pre-K-12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Idaho
Betty Kiefer Elementary
Rathdum, ID
Public•K-6

Kansas
McClure Elementary School
Topeka, KS
Public•Pre-K-5

Massachusetts
*Montrose School
Medfield, MA
Private•6-12

Michigan
James R. Geisler Middle School
Commerce Towns, MI
Public•6-8

Missouri
Alma Schrader Elementary School
Cape Girardeau, MO
Public•K-4

Carman Trails Elementary School
Manchester, MO
Public•K-5

*Francis Howell Middle School
St. Charles, MO
Public•6-8

*George Guffey Elementary
Fenton, MO
Public•K-6

Green Pines Elementary
Wildwood, MO
Public•K-4

Green Trails Elementary
Chesterfield, MO
Public•K-5

*Kehrs Mill Elementary
Chesterfield, MO
Public•K-5

*Kellison Elementary School
Fenton, MO
Public•K-5

Kennard Classical Junior Academy
St. Louis, MO
Public•Pre-K-5

Lindbergh Early Childhood
St. Louis, MO
Public•Pre-K

*Northview High School
Florissant, MO
Public•9-12

Parkway Northeast Middle School
Creve Coeur, MO
Public•6-8

Parkway Southwest Middle School
Manchester, MO
Public•6-8
Rockwood Early Childhood
Chesterfield, MO
Public•Pre-K

Stanton Elementary
Fenton, MO
Public•K-5

*Trautwein Elementary
St. Louis, MO
Public•K-5

Wild Horse Elementary
Chesterfield, MO
Public•K-5

New Jersey
A. Russell Knight Elementary School
Cherry Hill, NJ
Public•K-5

Burlington County Alternative School
Mount Laurel, NJ
Public•6-12

Campbell Elementary School
Metuchen, NJ
Public•1-4

Central Elementary School
East Hanover, NJ
Public•3-5

Cinnaminson Middle School
Cinnaminson, NJ
Public•6-8

*Eldridge Park School
Lawrenceville, NJ
Public•K-3

Harrison Elementary School
Roselle, NJ
Public•1-4

Jonas Salk Middle School
Old Bridge, NJ
Public•6-8

Maple Road Elementary School
West Milford, NJ
Public•PreK-6

Merriam Avenue School
Newton, NJ
Public•Pre-K-4

Morgan Elementary School
Hamilton, NJ
Public•Pre-K-5

New Brunswick Middle School
New Brunswick, NJ
Public•6-8

Paradise Knoll
Oak Ridge, NJ
Public•K-6
*Richard Stockton Elementary School  
Cherry Hill, NJ  
Public•K-5

*Rosa International Middle School  
Cherry Hill, NJ  
Public•6-8

Somerset Intermediate School  
North Plainfield, NJ  
Public•5-6

*South Brunswick High School  
Monmouth Junction, NJ  
Public•9-12

Tinton Falls Middle School  
Tinton Falls, NJ  
Public•6-8

Toms River High School East  
Toms River, NJ  
Public•9-12

Upper Greenwood Lake Elementary School  
Hewitt, NJ  
Public•Pre-K-6

Washington Elementary School  
Roselle, NJ  
Public•1-4

Whitehouse Elementary School  
Whitehouse Station, NJ  
Public•K-3

Yardville School  
Hamilton, NJ  
Public•Pre-K-5

*Zane North Elementary School  
Collingswood, NJ  
Public•Pre-K-5

New York

Grand Avenue School  
North Baldwin, NY  
Public•K-5

Valley Stream North  
Franklin Square, NY  
Public•7-12

West Patent Elementary School  
Bedford Hills, NY  
Public•K-5

North Carolina

Erwin Montessori Elementary  
Greensboro, NC  
Public•Pre-K-5

Grimsley High School  
Greensboro, NC  
Public•9-12
Haynes-Inman Education Center  
Jamestown, NC  
Public•Pre-K-12

James Benson Dudley High School  
Greensboro, NC  
Public•9-12

Sumner Elementary School  
Greensboro, NC  
Public•K-5

Oklahoma  
Dove Science Academy Elementary  
Oklahoma City, OK  
Charter•K-5

Dove Science Academy-OKC  
Oklahoma City, OK  
Charter•6-12

Eisenhower High School  
Lawton, OK  
Public•9-12

Pryor Junior High  
Pryor, OK  
Public•7-9

Whittier Elementary School  
Muskogee, OK  
Public•K-6

South Carolina  
Harrisburg Elementary School  
Indian Land, South Carolina  
Public•K-5

Texas  
Clear Lake City Elementary School  
Houston, TX  
Public•Pre-K-5

Indian Springs Elementary School  
San Antonio, TX  
Public•K-5

John F. Ward Elementary School  
Houston, TX  
Public•K-5

Lakeside Elementary School  
Coppell, TX  
Public•K-5

*Mockingbird Elementary School  
Coppell, TX  
Public•K-5

Richard J. Lee Elementary School  
Dallas, TX  
Public•K-5

Samuel Beck Elementary School  
Trophy Club, TX  
Public•K-5
Sandra Mossman Elementary
League City, TX
Public•K-5

T.E. Baxter Elementary
Midlothian, TX
Public•Pre-K-5

Wisconsin
Greenwood Elementary School
River Falls, WI
Public•K-5