



The 2018 Promising Practices in Character Education represent 5 different countries (United States, Colombia, Taiwan, Mexico and Philippines); 21 states and Washington DC — with the largest numbers from New Jersey, Missouri and Florida; 238 public, charter and private schools as well as 9 youth-serving organizations and 8 school districts. Character.org sponsors the annual program to showcase innovative best practices that are having an impact across the nation and abroad.

11 Principles of Character

- Principle 1:** Core values are defined, implemented, and embedded into school culture.
- Principle 2:** The school defines “character” comprehensively to include thinking, feeling, and doing.
- Principle 3:** The school uses a comprehensive, intentional, and proactive approach to develop character.
- Principle 4:** The school creates a caring community.
- Principle 5:** The school provides students with opportunities for moral action.
- Principle 6:** The school offers a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum that respects all learners, develops their character, and helps them succeed.
- Principle 7:** The school fosters students’ self-motivation.
- Principle 8:** All staff share the responsibility for developing, implementing, and modeling ethical character.
- Principle 9:** The school’s character initiative has shared leadership and long-range support for continuous improvement.
- Principle 10:** The school engages families and community as partners in the character initiative.
- Principle 11:** The school assesses its implementation of character education, its culture and climate, and the character growth of students on a regular basis.

ALABAMA

Tiger Way Student Led Conferences

Hartselle Intermediate School

Hartselle, Alabama

All students at Hartselle Intermediate School prepared and held a conference with a parent or another adult and shared their academic progress, study habits, character traits, and goals they had set.

Principle: Principle 2, 6 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Debra Harvel **Email:** debra.harvel@hartselletigers.org

ARIZONA

Feed My Starving Children

Imagine Avondale

Avondale, Arizona

Imagine Avondale students volunteered their time putting together meals for children and families living in poverty in countries around the world.

Principle: Principle 2, 5 **Grade Level:** Elementary, Middle

Contact: Scott Decou **Email:** scott.decou@imagineschools.org

Building a Culture of Respect One Game at a Time

Imagine Bell Canyon

Phoenix, Arizona

Imagine Bell Canyon classrooms participated in daily challenges designed to build relationships between students and teachers and prevent bullying.

Principle: Principle 4, 11 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Tammie Willkom **Email:** Tammie.Willkom@imagineschools.org

Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Leaders

Imagine Coolidge Elementary

Coolidge, Arizona

Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Leaders supports the community by educating students in the implementation of behavioral and leadership expectations with the support of dedicated administration.

Principle: Principle 1, 11 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Clara Thigpen **Email:** clara.thigpen@imagineschools.org

Monthly Character Pacing Guide

Imagine Cortez Park

Phoenix, Arizona

A monthly character pacing guide is established by the character committee and distributed to all staff, identifying the monthly character focus and supporting character vocabulary.

Principle: Principle 1, 3 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Carla Hughes **Email:** carla.hughes@imagineschools.org

Future Teacher Program

Imagine Desert West

Phoenix, Arizona

Our future teacher program allows older students to be paired with a teacher and work as a student aide engaging small group leaderships, grading papers, and skill practice with younger students.

Principle: Principle 4, 5 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Rajni Nair **Email:** rajni.nair@imageschools.org

Mindfulness and Yoga

Imagine Desert West

Phoenix, Arizona

We offer a mindfulness and yoga program for our students 4-8th grade to emphasize the connection between mind and body, teaching students integral skills for focus, perseverance, and success.

Principle: Principle 2, 7 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Rajni Nair **Email:** rajni.nair@imageschools.org

Love Our School Day

Imagine East Mesa

Mesa, Arizona

Love Our School Day is designed to give very single student, staff member, and family an opportunity to participate in service learning.

Principle: Principle 4, 5 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Matthew Mikula **Email:** matthew.mikula@imageschools.org

Connecting Through Advisory and Council

Imagine East Mesa

Mesa, Arizona

Creating a safe environment in which our students can connect on a personal level, grow as a family, and face adversity together.

Principle: Principle 3, 5 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Matthew Mikula **Email:** matthew.mikula@imageschools.org

Difference Makers Dig Deeper

Imagine Schools

Phoenix, Arizona

Each adult on Imagine Bell Canyon's campus has been paired with two students for the purpose of forming a supportive relationship and becoming their Difference Maker!

Principle: Principle 3, 4 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Tammie Willkom **Email:** Tammie.Willkom@imageschools.org

CALIFORNIA

Character Education through Drama Performances

sitting bull academy

Apple Valley, California

Students in the drama elective class perform musical plays that promote, model, and teach positive character traits for the other students at our school.

Principle: Principle 1, 4 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Phyllis Carnahan **Email:** phyllis_carnahan@avusd.org

Character and Resiliency Class

Sitting Bull Academy

Apple Valley, California

Our Character and Resiliency elective class is designed to help struggling students realize and live up to their academic potential.

Principle: Principle 3, 5 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Phyllis Carnahan **Email:** phyllis_carnahan@avusd.org

COLORADO

Johnson Students Kids of Character

Johnson Elementary School

Montrose, Colorado

The students and staff at Johnson Elementary School focus on specific school wide and grade level character traits monthly, discuss and put these into practice.

Principle: Principle 3, 8 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Jean Granberg **Email:** jean.granberg@mcsd.org

CONNECTICUT

The Choose Love Enrichment Program

Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement

Newtown, Connecticut

The Choose Love Enrichment Program is a free Pre-K through 12th grade Social and Emotional Learning program that teaches educators and their students how to choose love in any circumstance and helps

Principle: Principle 3, 4 **Grade Level:** n/a

Contact: Loring Knott **Email:** loring.knott@gmail.com

Physical Literacy Training and Curriculum

LiveWellPower

West Hartford, Connecticut

Physical literacy training and curriculum that takes a comprehensive approach to infusing wellness into schools and communities by teaching skill based movement, mindfulness and healthy nutrition.

Principle: Principle 2, 3 **Grade Level:** n/a

Contact: Susan Kamin **Email:** susan@livewellpower.com

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Character Conference

Hope Public Charter School-Lamond Campus

Washington, District Of Columbia

Character Conference is an initiative that builds on our school-wide PBIS model and educates scholars on the importance of self-discipline, self-correction, and upholding their responsibilities.

Principle: Principle 3 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Gwen Hilliard **Email:** gwendolyn.hilliard@imagineschools.com

Circle Time

Imagine Hope PCS-Tolson

Washington, District Of Columbia

Scholars and teachers enact restorative justice through Circle Time which symbolizes that all members' voice is important, explore commonalities; build upon them, and fix things when repair is needed.

Principle: Principle 4, 5 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: yolanda lavender **Email:** yolanda.lavender@imagineschools.org

FLORIDA

Kids of Character Outreach Program - High Impact on Low Income Communities

EW Foundation

Palm Beach, Florida

Kids of Character Outreach Program brings our award winning books to children in low income communities and serves a dual purpose underscoring character education and literacy for maximum impact.

Principle: Principle 2, 10 **Grade Level:** n/a

Contact: Loretta Neff **Email:** lneff@EWFcares.org

The Positivity Project- Other People Matter!

Imagine Chancellor

Boynton Beach, Florida

The Positivity Project focuses on empowering America's youth to build strong relationships by seeing the character strengths in themselves and others. Developing a mindset that #OTHERPEOPLEMATTER

Principle: Principle 3, 4 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Victoria Brown **Email:** victoria.brown@imagineschools.org

Kindness Challenge

Imagine Charter School at Weston

Weston, Florida

Students and families were challenged to go into their communities and perform random acts of kindness to start a "chain reaction" in which the community responds by paying it forward.

Principle: Principle 2,10 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Gina Asada **Email:** gina.asada@imagineschools.org

Dare to Dream

Imagine Charter School at Weston

Weston, Florida

Students collectively created a Dream Tree to symbolize the growth and development of their character, dreams and goals.

Principle: Principle 2, 3 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Patricia Roach **Email:** patricia.roach@imagineschools.org

Campaigning for Kindness

Imagine Charter School at Weston

Weston, Florida

Middle school students guide their younger peers on ways to be kind while listening to a read-aloud, expressing it on puzzle pieces and participating with the local charity benefiting Autism awareness

Principle: Principle 3, 10 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Dianelly Mouradian **Email:** dianelly.mouradian@imagineschools.org

Affecting Change Through Collaboration

Imagine Charter School Plantation

Plantation, Florida

"Affecting Change through Collaboration" focuses on student development and growth through collaborating with staff, parents, and the community to positively change the culture in our school.

Principle: Principle 7, 8 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Jennifer Villines **Email:** jennifer.villines@imagineschools.org

Community Time

Imagine Kissimmee Charter

Kissimmee, Florida

During community time, classes conduct group discussions about character, focusing on social and emotional fundamentals that are important for everyday life, in or out of school.

Principle: Principle 4 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Paul Mahoney **Email:** Paul.mahoney@imagineschools.org

ISAB Global Outreach

Imagine School at Broward

Coral Springs, Florida

Imagine School at Broward (ISAB) reaching more than our local community, we are reaching out globally.

Principle: Principle 5, 7 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Debra Darling **Email:** debra.darling@imagineschools.org

#SHARKSCARE

Imagine School at North Port

North Port, Florida

Stakeholders at Imagine School at North Port make it a priority to foster caring attachments and strengthen relationships through the intentional practice of appreciation through writing.

Principle: Principle 4 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Heather Cook **Email:** heather.cook@imagineschools.org

Recycling Revolution

Imagine School at North Port

North Port, Florida

At ISNP's elementary campus there is a high level of participation in our recycling program, which provides students with the opportunity to becoming contributing members of the community.

Principle: Principle 5, 9 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Nicole Norton **Email:** Nicole.Norton@imagineschools.org

Community Coastal Clean Up

Imagine School at Palmer Ranch

Sarasota, Florida

A student coordinated service learning project mobilizes moral action on the part of the school community for the good of the environment and local community.

Principle: Principle 2, 5 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Kelly Pepe **Email:** kelly.pepe@imagineschools.org

Character based restorative circles

Imagine School at Palmer Ranch

Sarasota, Florida

Students engage in positive character education through weekly restorative circle discussions.

Principle: Principle 2 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Kelly Pepe **Email:** kelly.pepe@imagineschools.org

Direct student engagement in promoting exceptional character growth and acts of kindness.

Imagine School at Palmer Ranch

Sarasota, Florida

Student self-monitoring of personal character goals and acts of kindness.

Principle: Principle 3, 6 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Kelly Pepe **Email:** kelly.pepe@imagineschools.org

Student Character Reflections

Imagine Schools at South Lake

Clermont, Florida

Student character reflections help our students self-reflect on their morale, performance, and civic character development.

Principle: Principle 5 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Courtney Flood **Email:** courtney.flood@imagineschools.org

Digital Citizenship

Imagine Schools at South Lake

Clermont, Florida

We strive for our students to have exemplary character face-to-face and behind the screen and incorporate digital citizenship into our daily practices.

Principle: Principle 6 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Courtney Flood **Email:** courtney.flood@imagineschools.org

Building Relationships

Imagine Schools at South Lake

Clermont, Florida

We explicitly teach empathy skills to students and provide opportunities for students to develop a sense of responsibility through service learning and reflection on real-life problems and situations.

Principle: Principle 2 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Courtney Flood **Email:** courtney.flood@imagineschools.org

Emerging Leaders

Imagine School at Town Center

Palm Coast, Florida

The emerging leaders class at Imagine School at Town Center pairs 8th grade students in good standing both academically and morally with primary classroom teachers and other support staff.

Principle: Principle 5, 7 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Tracey Toth **Email:** tracey.toth@imagineschools.org

ISTC Read With Me

Imagine School at Town Center

Palm Coast, Florida

As a partner in your child's education, "ISTC Read With Me" invites Imagine families to participate in an optional, school wide initiative for any families interested: ISTC Read with Me!

Principle: Principle 2, 10 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Tracey Toth **Email:** tracey.toth@imagineschools.org

The Wall of Successful Mistakes

Imagine Schools at West Melbourne

West Melbourne, Florida

Building character through our mistakes by implementing a 'Wall of Successful Mistakes' within our STEAM lab promotes the importance of risk taking and perseverance.

Principle: Principle 6, 7 **Grade Level:** Pre-Kindergarten,Elementary

Contact: Kailee Milon **Email:** kailee.milon@imagineschools.org

Imagination Showcase

Imagine Schools South Vero

Vero Beach, Florida

Imagine South Vero's Imagination Showcases have created a community of learning that encourages students to showcase their knowledge and understanding in meaningful and authentic ways.

Principle: Principle 6, 10 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Lauren Poirier **Email:** lauren.poirier@imagineschools.org

Service Learning

Imagine Schools South Vero

Vero Beach, Florida

Students in all grade levels collaborate on community and world issues to create service learning projects.

Principle: Principle 2, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary,Middle

Contact: Lauren Cassidy **Email:** lauren.cassidy@imagineschools.com

GEORGIA

Paying it Forward with Students in Puerto Rico

Liberty Elementary

Canton, Georgia

Fourth grade students showed having empathy for students in Puerto Rico affected by hurricanes by sending them gift bags with enough extra bags for those students to pay it forward to others in need.

Principle: Principle 5 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Pam Green **Email:** paml.green@cherokee.k12.ga.us

ILLINOIS

Welcome Committee

Paris Union School District No. 95

Paris, Illinois

A committee of students, teachers, school principals, and the superintendent visit each student's house with a yard sign to welcome them to the school family. Students and adults volunteer their time.

Principle: Principle 4 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Jeremy Larson **Email:** jl Larson@paris95.k12.il.us

KANSAS

Tiger Families

Ravenwood Elementary School

Olathe, Kansas

Tiger Families develop multi-age relationships through vertical groups of students and a staff member completing intentional learning activities together each month.

Principle: Principle 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Christi Gottschalk **Email:** cgottschalkrw@olatheschools.org

BIST Buddies

USD 250, Lakeside School

Pittsburg, Kansas

BIST Buddies focus on small group, cross grade level instruction to increase the awareness and practice of good character as well as the opportunity to be peer role models and coaches.

Principle: Principle 9 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Melinda DeGruson **Email:** mdegruson@usd250.org

MARYLAND

Character Extravaganza

Imagine Andrews Public Charter School

Joint Base Andrews, Maryland

Every month, students that meet the monthly character expectation help plan and are invited to a character extravaganza.

Principle: Principle 1, 2 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Sibigi Lipford-Transou **Email:** s.lipfordtransou@gmail.com

Imagine Eagle Entrepreneur Fair

Imagine Lincoln Public Charter School

Temple Hills, Maryland

The Entrepreneur Fair is an opportunity for our 5th grade scholars to create and run a business promoting a self-created product and selling it to the school community to raise funds for a class trip.

Principle: Principle 6, 7 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Janet Krisko **Email:** janet.moser@pgcps.org

Morning Gathering

Imagine Lincoln Public Charter School

Temple Hills, Maryland

Morning Gathering is a daily opportunity for scholars to build relationships, show empathy and create a safe space for learning and growth through sharing, affirmations, gratitude and active listening

Principle: Principle 2, 4 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Janet Krisko **Email:** janet.moser@pgcps.org

S.M.I.L.E.

Norwood Elementary School, Baltimore County Public Schools

Dundalk, Maryland

SMILE is a class that all students attend weekly to learn, review, and practice specific Social/Emotional skills.

Principle: Principle 1, 3 **Grade Level:** Pre-Kindergarten,Elementary

Contact: Michael Gorecki **Email:** mgorecki@bcps.org

Ten Minute Tuesday

Pine Grove Middle School

Baltimore, Maryland

The character education program at Pine Grove Middle School directly teaches qualities of character through mini-lessons taught weekly.

Principle: Principle 1, 3 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Stacey Coffman **Email:** scoffman@bcps.org

MICHIGAN

Integrated Learning Design

Birmingham Covington School

Bloomfield Township, Michigan

Integrated Learning Design class explores big themes common to human experience,both past and present, and provides students with the framework for thinking about themselves and their world.

Principle: Principle 3 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Michelle D'Orazio **Email:** MDORazio@birmingham.k12.mi.us

Horse Powered Character Mini-Lessons

Detroit Horse Power

Detroit, Michigan

Discussion based character mini-lessons paired with hands-on activities with horses give youth opportunities to explicitly and implicitly learn about and develop character.

Principle: Principle 3 **Grade Level:** n/a

Contact: Yvonne Mejias **Email:** ymejias@detroithorsepower.org

Greenfield's League of Leading Ladies

Greenfield Elementary School, Birmingham Public Schools

Beverly Hills, Michigan

Greenfield's League of Leading Ladies is a very passionate group of 4th and 5th grade girls, teachers and parents who meet on a weekly basis to learn, discuss and grow as young women of character.

Principle: Principle 2, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Shelly Potter **Email:** spotter@birmingham.k12.mi.us

Empathy in Action Initiative

Harlan Elementary School, Birmingham, Michigan

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

The Harlan community commits to Empathy in Action by participating in integrated experiences to promote the necessary knowledge/thinking, attitude/feeling, and skills/doing required of upstanders.

Principle: Principle 2, 3 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Amber Cooper **Email:** acooper@birmingham.k12.mi.us

Inter-generational program

Next

Birmingham, Michigan

Through this inter generational program at Next, Next members and high school students spend quality time each week learning from one another and building bridges across the generations.

Principle: Principle 2, 4 **Grade Level:** n/a

Contact: Cris Braun **Email:** cbraun@birmingham.k12.mi.us

Quarton Bear Spotlight

Quarton Elementary School

Birmingham, Michigan

The Quarton Bear Spotlight is a way for students to reflect and highlight personal qualities that embody the Quarton Quote, which is the school touchstone.

Principle: Principle 1, 3 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Jennifer Wind **Email:** jwind@birmingham.k12.mi.us

The Empathy Project

West Maple Elementary

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

Students will use empathy to understand the plight of individuals around the world and propose possible solutions.

Principle: Principle 2, 5 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Alex Mitevski **Email:** amitevski@birmingham.k12.mi.us

MINNESOTA

North Star Empty Bowl Project

Duluth Edison Charter Schools

Duluth, Minnesota

North Star art teachers coordinate an evening of bowl making by students and their families as a contribution to a community wide "Empty Bowl" effort to raise funds to assist hungry people.

Principle: Principle 5, 10 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Bonnie Jorgenson **Email:** Bonnie.Jorgenson@duluthedison.com

Growing Together: LILA's Garden for School and Beyond

Lakes International Language Academy

Forest Lake, Minnesota

LILA's iTerm Gardening class and Garden Club, led by students, grow organic produce for the cafeteria and local food pantry, and consider students' health, community needs, and sustainability.

Principle: Principle 2, 3 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Tracy Maurer **Email:** tmaurer@mylila.org

Raleigh Academy's Annual Block Party

Raleigh Primary and Elementary Academy

Duluth, Minnesota

Raleigh's block party is a beginning of the year family event that helps us celebrate, promote, and support healthy kids and our bully free message in collaboration with community partners

Principle: Principle 3, 10 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Danielle Perich **Email:** danielle.perich@duluthedison.com

MISSOURI

Welcome to our Alma Schrader Family!

Alma Schrader Elementary School

Cape Girardeau, Missouri

This exciting introduction to kindergarten marks the beginning foundation of good character and Alma Schrader family for our newest and youngest students.

Principle: Principle 1, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Julia Unnerstall **Email:** unnerstallj@capetigers.com

Bulls Breakfast Cart

Antonia Middle School

Barnhart, Missouri

Our self contained classrooms use the Coffee Cart to improve their math and social skills. Students make order sheets to deliver and collect from the staff, then distribute orders the following day.

Principle: Principle 6, 7 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Melissa Bradley **Email:** Bradleym@foxc6.org

Fabulous Fifth Grade Family Facilitators

Babler Elementary

Wildwood, Missouri

Our Fabulous Fifth Grade Family Facilitators are trained to implement and lead Babler Family Day activities with a focus on character development in the area of growth mindset.

Principle: Principle 3, 9 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Missy Parker **Email:** parkermalissa@rsdmo.org

Bulldog Running Club

Babler Elementary

Wildwood, Missouri

Bulldog Running Club is an after-school group that provides students time to participate in reading, running, and an act of service to that reinforces our beliefs in the value of these activities.

Principle: Principle 5, 10 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Drew Hagen **Email:** hangenandrew@rsdmo.org

Stand in My Shoes: Empathy through Art

Bayless Elementary School

Saint Louis, Missouri

The Empathy through Art project was a beginning of the year lesson to connect empathy and art.

Principle: Principle 2, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Amanda Stone **Email:** astone@bayless.k12.mo.us

Family of Champions

Belton High School

Belton, Missouri

Building a team of champions begins in the BHS football program with home visits to introduce student athletes to their character based football program.

Principle: Principle 4, 10 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Joni Harrell **Email:** JHarrell@bsd124.org

Character of the Game Award

Belton Middle School / Freshman Center

Belton, Missouri

Our student athletes are in charge of selecting a player from the opposing team that shows high character. The recipient is presented with a character metal by our students after the game.

Principle: Principle 1, 3 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: George Shrum **Email:** gshrum@bsd124.org

Character Recognition Bus Tour

Belton Middle School / Freshman Center

Belton, Missouri

Recognition of our character students of the month by teachers and administrators visiting the students and parents in their homes. Congratulating the students, placing a yard sign in their yard.

Principle: Principle 1 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: George Shrum **Email:** gshrum@bsd124.org

Blevins' S.T.A.R. Mentoring Program

Blevins Elementary School

Eureka, Missouri

Blevins'™ mentoring program allows the opportunity to build caring attachments between students and staff through the use of letter writing to set and share goals and personal experiences.

Principle: Principle 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Jeff Engle **Email:** englejeffrey@rsdmo.org

Spirit of Giving Party

Bowles Elementary

Fenton, Missouri

At our Spirit of Giving Party, the students exhibit our Cougar Attitude of Caring by creating various gifts for family, friends, and staff members.

Principle: Principle 2, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Tiffany McDonald **Email:** mcdonaldtiffany@rsdmo.org

Bunches of Character

Cambridge Elementary - Belton School District

Belton, Missouri

The purpose of our Bunches of Character program is to build a caring school community that contributes to a positive school culture.

Principle: Principle 1, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Suzanne Truitt **Email:** struitt@bsd124.org

How May We Serve You?

Chesterfield Elementary

Chesterfield, Missouri

A group of students from our Student Lighthouse Team researched and created a Service Learning Pamphlet for our entire school to use in their personal lives or with their families serving others.

Principle: Principle 5, 10 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Theresa Rose **Email:** rosetheresa@rsdmo.org

Mentor Time

Crestview Middle School

Ellisville, Missouri

Students meet with their mentor time teacher and mentor time group to set and track personal and literacy goals, participate in team-building, and engage in character lessons and service projects.

Principle: Principle 3, 7 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Kelly Sollberger **Email:** sollbergerkelly@rsdmo.org

"You Got Caught"

Crestview Middle School

Ellisville, Missouri

Students are "caught" by staff members for practicing one of the 7-Habits of Highly Effective Teens, and they are given a sticker to signify they got caught, and they participate in an award ceremony.

Principle: Principle 1, 4 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Kelly Sollberger **Email:** sollbergerkelly@rsdmo.org

Passport Night

Discovery Ridge

O'Fallon, Missouri

Passport Night provides students and families with an opportunity to learn about and appreciate the rich, diverse cultures of our DRE families resulting in increased respect and a sense of belonging.

Principle: Principle 4, 6 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Laura Bates **Email:** laurabates@wsdr4.org

Life Adaptive Peer mentoring program

Fox Middle School

Saint Louis, Missouri

Peer leaders support students with special needs on various social emotional skills including independence, determination, citizenship, respect, and caring.

Principle: Principle 7, 9 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Megan Anvender **Email:** anvenderm@foxc6.org

Fill-A-Bucket for Kade's Playground

Fox C-6 Don Earl Early Childhood

Arnold, Missouri

This service learning project allowed our pre-k students to collect money for a local playground that accommodates children of all abilities, while learning what it means to be a "bucket filler."

Principle: Principle 4, 5 **Grade Level:** Pre-Kindergarten

Contact: Jennifer Wallis **Email:** wallisj@foxc6.org

Annual Home Visits Program

Hanna Woods Elementary School

St. Louis, Missouri

At Hanna Woods Elementary, every family receives a yearly home visit by teachers and staff in order to welcome them to the new school year and begin building a positive relationship.

Principle: Principle 1, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Kristy Roberts **Email:** kroberts@parkwayschools.net

Taste of Hanna Cultural Event

Hanna Woods Elementary School

St. Louis, Missouri

Every year, Hanna Woods Elementary plans an event called “Taste of Hanna” to showcase food, entertainment, and a marketplace that reflect the culture and diversity of its families and community.

Principle: Principle 4, 10 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Kristy Roberts **Email:** kr Roberts@parkwayschools.net

Staff Community Service Day

Hanna Woods Elementary School

St. Louis, Missouri

Our school intentionally creates time during back to school meetings each year for staff to go into our local community and serve others in need.

Principle: Principle 4, 8 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Kristy Robertws **Email:** kr Roberts@parkwayschools.net

Learning Through Leadership

Highcroft Ridge Elementary

Chesterfield, Missouri

Fifth-grade learners lead our family group experiences facilitating K-4th grade students to take moral action as we focus on supporting people impacted by the recent hurricanes that have occurred.

Principle: Principle 5, 9 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Cindy Beeler **Email:** cbeeler@parkwayschools.net

Kindness Campaign

Hiram Neuwoehner High School

St. Louis, Missouri

The Kindness Campaign is a year long commitment for students and staff to build a supportive and caring community by demonstrating random acts of kindness in the school, home, and community settings.

Principle: Principle 2, 4 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Kyla Sewell **Email:** KLSewell@ssdmo.org

Bagging up Hope

Hodge Elementary

Imperial, Missouri

Students and staff made brown bag lunches for a local homeless shelter. The teachers connected the project to the social studies curriculum and provided reflection/writing opportunities.

Principle: Principle 3, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Abbie Summers **Email:** SummersA@foxc6.org

JCAC-Middle: Dealing a Winning Hand

Jefferson City Academic Center

Jefferson City, Missouri

JCAC-Middle students and staff engage in structured breaks designed to build relationships while increasing academic stamina in our district's most behaviorally challenged students.

Principle: Principle 3 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Deanne Fisher **Email:** deanne.fisher@jcschools.us

This I Believe

Jefferson City Academic Center

Jefferson City, Missouri

Students in English II classes examine their own values and write a "This I Believe" essay. (Resources: www.thisibelieve.org, www.characterplus.org).

Principle: Principle 6, 8 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Deanne Fisher **Email:** deanne.fisher@jcschools.us

Kehrs Mill Character Day

Kehrs Mill Elementary

Chesterfield, Missouri

Students, staff and community members participated in a school-wide Character Day which included a homeside activity, student-led assembly, character rock decorating and their placement in the garden.

Principle: Principle 2, 3 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Elizabeth Sciaratta **Email:** sciarattaelizabeth@rsdmo.org

Parent Education on Character Development

Kentucky Trail Elementary

Belton, Missouri

Throughout the year Kentucky Trail hosted Character Education nights for parents. These nights allow parents to learn proactive structures used with students here at school.

Principle: Principle 1, 10 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Sarah Lattimer **Email:** slattimer@bsd124.org

Family Fun Day

Ladue

Saint Louis, Missouri

Family Fun Day deepens connections and relationships among all staff and students throughout Old Bonhomme School, creating a larger sense of community where students feel valued and supported.

Principle: Principle 3, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Cheryl Kirchgessner **Email:** ckirchgessner@ladueschools.net

Mighty Oak Movement Plants the Seeds of Good Character

Ladue Early Childhood

Creve Ceour, Missouri

During weekly movement classes, students practice good character by connecting the core values and monthly traits to sports activities, by building school community and by learning through play.

Principle: Principle 2, 4 **Grade Level:** Pre-Kindergarten

Contact: Cindy Brown **Email:** cbrown@ladueschools.net

Kindness Counts Campaign

Ladue Fifth Grade Center

St. Louis, Missouri

In our Kindness Counts Campaign, students are challenged to perform one different act of kindness each day for thirty continuous days.

Principle: Principle 2, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Heather Andrews **Email:** handrews@ladueschools.net

Ladle Dance Marathon

Ladue High School

St. Louis, Missouri

Ladle Dance Marathon, an entirely student-run organization, works with Children's Miracle Network to raise funds and awareness and to perform service for children in local hospitals,

Principle: Principle 2 **Grade Level:** n/a

Contact: Julie Blank **Email:** jblank@ladueschools.net

Shining Stars Program

Lindbergh High School

St. Louis, Missouri

Shining stars is an all inclusive dance team at Lindbergh High School that provides a comfortable environment for students with special needs to build friendships and confidence.

Principle: Principle 4 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Priscilla Frost **Email:** pfrost@lindberghschools.ws

Before and after-school student-led tutoring

Marquette High School

Chesterfield, Missouri

Over sixty student leaders at Marquette High School volunteer their time to assist their peers before and after-school with their coursework in a variety of curricular areas.

Principle: Principle 4, 7 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Tracey Waeckerle **Email:** waeckerletracey@rsdmo.org

Special Education Elective Courses

Marquette High School

Chesterfield, Missouri

Our special education teachers have partnered with two elective courses to provide a unique learning opportunity to both disabled and non-disabled high school students.

Principle: Principle 6 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Tracey Waeckerle **Email:** waeckerletracey@rsdmo.org

Choice Professional Development

Mason Ridge Elementary School

Town and Country, Missouri

Mason Ridge staff participate in monthly choice staff development around our big three vision: Greatness, Legacy, and Innovation.

Principle: Principle 3 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Jennifer Dieken-Buchek **Email:** jbuchek@parkwayschools.net

Mindfulness

McKelvey Elementary

Maryland Heights, Missouri

After spending a year learning about trauma informed classrooms, our school community has implemented mindfulness strategies and yoga into many aspects of our learning and school way of life.

Principle: Principle 3, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Jenn Lescher **Email:** jlescher@parkwayschools.net

Student-Led Assemblies and Leadership Families

McNair Elementary, Hazelwood

Hazelwood, Missouri

We support and honor student leadership by using student assembly leaders for all school-wide assemblies and creating leadership families for cross grade level students to meet with staff members.

Principle: Principle 3, 9 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Jennifer Roper **Email:** jroper@hazelwoodschoools.org

WAM (We Are Mehlville)

Mehlville High School

Saint Louis, Missouri

The purpose of We Are Mehlville, WAM, is to spread awareness of activities going in each club or organization and to help promote communication throughout our school community.

Principle: Principle 4, 5 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Tina Clark **Email:** clarkc@mehlilleschooldistrict.net

Singing For Seniors

Meramec Heights Elementary School

Arnold, Missouri

Singing For Seniors is a special partnership between Meramec Heights Elementary School and a local nursing home where choir students show love, service and care to the residents through musical song.

Principle: Principle 4, 5 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Kathy Hann **Email:** hannk@foxc6.org

Special Work Study- Building Character and Skills

Northwest High School

Catawissa, Missouri

Work Study offers students with disabilities the opportunity to receive instruction, set individual goals based on areas of need, and engage in practice of employment skills on campus.

Principle: Principle 6 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Kim Lawrence **Email:** klawrence@northwestschools.net

Knights of the Round Table

Northwest Middle School

Florissant, Missouri

The Knights of the Round Table is a character leadership student group that promotes character values throughout the school.

Principle: Principle 5, 7 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Joyce Pipes **Email:** jpipes@hazelwoodschools.org

School-Wide Day of Service

Parkway Central High School

Chesterfield, Missouri

Central High's Day of Service allows students and staff to be of service by volunteering at our annual Special Olympics event, various off campus locations, or engaging in on campus service learning.

Principle: Principle 4, 5 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Timothy McCarthy **Email:** tmccarthy@parkwayschools.net

Restorative Practices Academy

Parkway School District

Chesterfield, Missouri

Parkway's approach to restorative practices is to provide development for teachers about the use of circles to proactively build community, teach curriculum, and ideally feel empowered to repair harm.

Principle: Principle 3, 4 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Erin Schulte **Email:** eschulte@parkwayschools.net

Environmental Engineering Students Come Together for Hurricane Maria Victims

Parkway West High School

Chesterfield, Missouri

Students put on a benefit concert for victims of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico after projects in their Honors Environmental Engineering class on the lack of access to clean water around the world.

Principle: Principle 4, 5 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Kate Piffel **Email:** kpiffel@parkwayschools.net

Bring Character to Life: Service Learning Projects

Pierremont Elementary, Parkway School District

Manchester, Missouri

Pierremont Elementary is bringing character education to life in tangible, meaningful ways; buddy classes are designing and implementing service learning projects that engage the entire community.

Principle: Principle 5, 10 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Kiara Lackey **Email:** klackey@parkwayschools.net

Pond TV

Pond

St. Louis, Missouri

Pond TV is a student led broadcast designed to support and encourage good character via schoolwide, weekly television and radio broadcasts.

Principle: Principle 4, 5 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: carlos diaz-granados **Email:** diaz-granadoscarlos@rsdmo.org

High Five Fridays

Reed Elementary

Ladue, Missouri

High Five Fridays is simply a group from the community giving High Fives to our students and encouraging words before the school day on Fridays.

Principle: Principle 4, 10 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Jill Badalamenti **Email:** jbadalamenti@ladueschools.net

Building a Community of Growth Mindset

Ridge Meadows Elementary

Ellisville, Missouri

We believe we are giving our students a gift when we teach growth mindset as we encourage students to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort and keep on learning.

Principle: Principle 2 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Amy Digman **Email:** digmanamy@rsdmo.org

Window and Mirror - Diversity in our Community

River Bend Elementary

Chesterfield, Missouri

The structure of window (being able to relate to others in our community) and mirror (being able to see ourselves in our community) has been embedded in our school community.

Principle: Principle 2, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Alicia Bottorff **Email:** abottorff@parkwayschools.net

Early Childhood Voice and Choice: Pretend Theme Voting Process

Rockwood Early Childhood

Wildwood, Missouri

Students engage in voice and choice by researching topics, present key information, and voting on the pretend theme of study.

Principle: Principle 4, 6 **Grade Level:** Pre-Kindergarten

Contact: Chardae Rigdon **Email:** rigdonchardae@rsdmo.org

Character Journals

Ross Elementary School

St. Louis, Missouri

Using Google Classroom, students engage, reflect, and evaluate character-driven questions and scenarios in a daily Character Journal.

Principle: Principle 3, 7 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Jared Noble **Email:** jnoble@parkwayschools.net

Trailblazers

Selvidge Middle School

Ballwin, Missouri

Our Selvidge Trailblazers is a group of 100 student leaders who meet regularly to plan, to lead, and to implement design thinking and service learning opportunities for all students and staff.

Principle: Principle 5 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Lauren Boeger **Email:** boegerlauren@rsdmo.org

Staff School Family Jobs

Southwest Early Childhood Center

Jefferson City, Missouri

We have created a unique staff school family job system to help create shared responsibility, ownership and a sense of unity.

Principle: Principle 8 **Grade Level:** Pre-Kindergarten

Contact: Lisa Dierking **Email:** dierkingmom@gmail.com

Lending Library

Southwest Early Childhood Center

Jefferson City, Missouri

With community support, we have created a unique lending library for our at risk preschool students who typically do not have access to high quality non-fiction and early literature series books.

Principle: Principle 6 **Grade Level:** Pre-Kindergarten

Contact: Lisa Dierking **Email:** lisa.dierking@jcschools.us

Thankful Thursdays

Stanton Elementary

Fenton, Missouri

Every Thursday students write notes of gratitude to staff members, caregivers, and friends.

Principle: Principle 2, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Christy Starnes **Email:** starneschristine@rsdmo.org

Mondays for a cause

Stanton Elementary

Fenton, Missouri

Our staff pays money into a student support program fund in exchange for wearing jeans once a week.

Principle: Principle 8 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Christy Starnes **Email:** starneschristine@rsdmo.org

Wellness Wednesdays

Uthoff Valley Elementary

Fenton, Missouri

A priority of the staff at Uthoff Valley includes focusing on self-care and wellness along with care for each other so we are better able to serve our students and their needs.

Principle: Principle 4, 11 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Kimberly Harrick **Email:** harrickkim@rsdmo.org

Positive Character Assemblies

Valley Park Elementary

Valley Park, Missouri

Positive Character Assemblies happen once a month when our entire school population gathers to celebrate, model, and learn about our positive character focus for the month.

Principle: Principle 2, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Michele Fitzpatrick **Email:** mfitzpatrick@vp.k12.mo.us

VPMS Girls Night Out

Valley Park Middle

Valley Park, Missouri

Students at VPMS connect with female role models (in school and from the community) to discuss ways to empower each other and combat relational aggression (bullying) in school and online.

Principle: Principle 4, 10 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Erin Steinkamp **Email:** esteinkamp@vp.k12.mo.us

Empathy the Woerther Way

Woerther Elementary School

Ballwin, Missouri

Woerther students increased awareness of disabilities and differences while learning empathy and caring for others firsthand through literacy, discussion, and experience.

Principle: Principle 2, 10 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Amanda Ryman **Email:** rymanamanda@rsdmo.org

Sprinkles of Kindness

Woerther Elementary School

Ballwin, Missouri

Student-created bookmarks placed in library books sprinkle kindness in and around the Woerther community.

Principle: Principle 1, 2 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Amanda Ryman **Email:** rymanamanda@rsdmo.org

Kindness Rock Project

Imagine Academy at Sullivant

Columbus, Ohio

The fifth and sixth-graders at Imagine Sullivant researched and presented on bullying in connection with National Anti-bullying Day.

Principle: Principle 5 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Emily Kerr **Email:** emily.kerr@imagineschools.org

Character Grows at Manito

Manito Elementary School

Oakland, New Jersey

Students in Grades K-5 participate in grade level gardening activities to build community, develop leadership skills, foster cooperation, and teach children the value of service learning.

Principle: Principle 2, 10 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Adam Silverstein **Email:** silverstein@oaklandschoolsnj.org

Celebrating Me, Celebrating You

Pennsbury School District

Fallsington, Pennsylvania

Celebrating Me, Celebrating You will be presented to 4th grade students, introducing acceptance and diversity and also reinforcing the Respecting Me, Respecting You lessons from the prior year.

Principle: Principle 1, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Kristen Cahill **Email:** kcahill@pennsburyisd.org

NEVADA

Morning Maximus

Imagine School at Mountain View

Las Vegas, Nevada

Every other month, Imagine Schools at Mountain View students move through the writing process to create a response to a character maxim.

Principle: Principle 3 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Nichole Shaffer **Email:** nichole.shaffer@imagineschools.org

NEW JERSEY

Kindness Heroes

A. Russell Knight Elementary School

Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Kindness Heroes is a student initiated and student driven club whose purpose is to create a positive school environment through varying activities that promote a culture of kindness.

Principle: Principle 2, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Jane Rickansrud **Email:** hrickansrud@chclc.org

Bus Buddies

Alexander Denbo Elementary School

Browns Mills, New Jersey

Alexander Denbo Elementary School's "Bus Buddy" program pairs older students with younger students to discuss our core values and model appropriate bus behavior.

Principle: Principle 3 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Brett Thorp **Email:** bthorp@pemb.org

Make A Change

Anthony Ross Intermediate School

Vineland, New Jersey

Our school climate team led a multi-faceted, schoolwide activity promoting tolerance in a proactive, intentional effort involving all stakeholders, culminating in a student created video production.

Principle: Principle 2, 3 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Kelly Stipes **Email:** kstipes@vineland.org

Character Club

Aphawa School

West Milford, New Jersey

The Character Club consists of fifth and sixth grade students who are leaders in Character Education.

Principle: Principle 2, 9 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Stephanie Primavera **Email:** stephanie.primavera@wmtps.org

Reverse Inclusion with Speech Support

Barclay Early Childhood Center

Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Students assigned to the self contained classrooms are provided with a scheduled opportunity to engage with typically developing peers with the support of a speech therapist, along with the teacher.

Principle: Principle 4 **Grade Level:** Pre-Kindergarten

Contact: Karen Rockhill **Email:** krockhill@chclc.org

One Book, One School

Bell Oaks School

Bellmawr, New Jersey

Bell Oaks's One Book, One School program allows all community members to read, process, discuss, and evaluate the same book.

Principle: Principle 3, 4 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Melissa Gleason **Email:** mgleason@bellmawrschools.org

Connections and Reflections

Berlin Community School

Berlin, New Jersey

Students are given the opportunity to plan and reflect on a weekly goal starting with Make-it-Happen Mondays and culminating with Finally It's Friday reflection.

Principle: Principle 1, 7 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Frankie Harris **Email:** harrisf@bcsberlin.org

Athletes Against Bullying Club

Camden County Technical School

Sicklerville, New Jersey

Athletes Against Bullying is a club that gives student-athletes the tools and confidence to create a positive environment, stand up against bullying and become agents of change in the community.

Principle: Principle 4, 5 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Rachel Fieldman **Email:** rfieldman@ccts.org

Learn the Basics, All Lives Matter!

Camden County Technical Schools Gloucester Township Campus

Sicklerville, New Jersey

Learn the Basics, All Lives Matter creates a caring culture promoting moral action by utilizing emergency care to the community in general while emphasizing empathy, collaboration, and creativity.

Principle: Principle 5, 6 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Christine Buck **Email:** cbuck@ccts.net

CBP--Character Building Plus

Camden County Technical Schools' Pennsauken Campus

Pennsauken, New Jersey

Character Building Plus (CBP) is a series of three programs which use a therapeutic approach to behavior through positive interventions in order to deal with and prevent negative behaviors.

Principle: Principle 1, 3 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Charene Scheeper **Email:** cscheeper@ccts.net

The Happiness Initiative

Campbell Elementary School

Metuchen, New Jersey

Daily journals, discussions, and affirmations provide all members of the Campbell Family with the opportunity to seek out the events, activities, actions, and 'things' that make them happy.

Principle: Principle 1 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Edward Porowski **Email:** eporowski@metboe.k12.nj.us

Creating a Culturally Sensitive Community

Campbell Elementary School

Metuchen, New Jersey

We have used faculty meetings to help create a culturally sensitive community.

Principle: Principle 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Brooke Kirschner **Email:** bkirschner@metboe.k12.nj.us

Restorative Justice Practices

Chaplain Charles J. Watters 24

Jersey City, New Jersey

Restorative Justice practices build character and strengthens the community by encouraging students to think critically about their actions through daily lessons, service learning, and reflection.

Principle: Principle 1, 3 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Janine Brown **Email:** jbrown2@jcboe.org

Project SUCCESS

Cherry Hill High School East

Cherry Hill, New Jersey

The Project SUCCESS mentors elementary students that have organizational difficulties, homework completion issues, skill deficits in math or reading or in need of a positive role models.

Principle: Principle 5, 9 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Rebecca Metzger **Email:** rmetzger@chclc.org

Go Do Good Unit

Cherry Hill High School East

Cherry Hill, New Jersey

The Go Do Good Unit allows students to make connections between character education, community service and mural art all while positively affecting their community and environment.

Principle: Principle 2, 6 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Rebecca Metzger **Email:** rmetzger@chclc.org

The Power of Words

Cherry Hill Public Schools

Cherry Hill, New Jersey

To create a caring community, the "Fintastic 15" and "Forbidden 15" lists offer words and actions to live by and to avoid, respectively.

Principle: Principle 1, 2 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Jon Cohen **Email:** joncohen@chclc.org

Transition With a Twist

Cherry Hill Public Schools

Cherry Hill, New Jersey

After deliberate evaluation of the traditional transition of 8th grade students into high school we have revamped the format for our 9th graders to better serve their needs.

Principle: Principle 3, 4 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Allison Staffin **Email:** astaffin@chclc.org

B.R.A.V.O to D'Ippolito Elementary School

D'Ippolito Elementary School, Vineland

Vineland, New Jersey

"Be Respectful and Value Others": BRAVO to D'Ippolito encompasses students to find the value in themselves, exhibit good character, and participate in service projects in our school and community.

Principle: Principle 1, 9 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Amanda Conley **Email:** aconley@vineland.org

Dogwood Character Contest

Dogwood Hill School

Oakland, New Jersey

Our Character Contest enables students to define the character traits we regularly focus on, and win an opportunity to participate in a project that will display our themes and associated activities.

Principle: Principle 1 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Susan Wyrovsky **Email:** wrovsky@oaklandschoolsnj.org

Panda Pride Parade: A Celebration of Friendship and Caring for Everyone in Our Community

Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 51

Elizabeth, New Jersey

The Panda Pride Day is an initiative to promote our goals for social emotional development by incorporating character education into our school community by showing school pride during the parade.

Principle: Principle 4 **Grade Level:** Pre-Kindergarten

Contact: Jocelyn Rodriguez **Email:** rodrigjoc@epsnj.org

Character is Magical Student Lead Assemblies

East Greenwich Township Schools

Mickleton, New Jersey

The character ed assemblies that our 6th grade students plan, organize, and facilitate each trimester provide an opportunity for our students and staff to reflect on and celebrate our core values.

Principle: Principle 1, 2 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Stacy Kuhen **Email:** kuhens@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us

"Buzz Buddies" Mentor Club

East Greenwich Township Schools

Mickleton, New Jersey

"Buzz Buddies" Mentor Club provides students in grades 1-6 with the opportunity to be character leaders and role models within our school community.

Principle: Principle 1, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Stacy Kuhen **Email:** Stacykuhen11@gmail.com

Start the Day in a Positive Way!: 3 H's/F

Fort Dix Elementary School

Fort Dix, New Jersey

Teachers/staff welcome students with a Hug, High Five, Handshake, or Fist Bump to begin each day with a positive interaction.

Principle: Principle 3, 4 **Grade Level:** Pre-Kindergarten, Elementary

Contact: SHARON BOUDREAU **Email:** sboudreau@pemb.org

We Learn Together Nights

G.E. Wilson Elementary School

Hamilton, New Jersey

Families are invited to various evening events where activities and games are presented to support academic growth as well as building good character and social-emotional development.

Principle: Principle 6 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Jennifer Mapps **Email:** jmapps@hamilton.k12.nj.us

BE EPIC Rally Assemblies

Greenwood Elementary School

Hamilton, New Jersey

Greenwood Elementary School's Promising Practice is BE EPIC Rallies ath celebrate, recognize and challenge students and staff to engage in actions that exemplify the Six Pillars of Character.

Principle: Principle 1, 3 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Robyn Ivanisik **Email:** rivanisik@hamilton.k12.nj.us

Happy Hive

Hanover Park High School

East Hanover, New Jersey

Happy Hive is a group of students who voluntarily (on their own time outside of the school day) engage in the design and painting of murals throughout the school which emphasize character education.

Principle: Principle 3, 4 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Kristina Rovtar **Email:** kristina.rovtar@gmail.com

Recess Buddies

Horace Mann Elementary School

Cherry Hill, New Jersey

The program was created to help students with Autism form positive and nurturing relationships with their peers by using reciprocal learning social skills that they can generalize into other settings.

Principle: Principle 4, 5 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Shilpa Dave **Email:** sdave@chclc.org

Autistic Buddies

Howard L. Emmons School

Medford, New Jersey

"Autistic Buddies" pairs differently abled students with peer leaders, who serve to model and promote our core values, raise awareness and foster empathy for all Emmons stakeholders.

Principle: Principle 1, 9 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Amy Oattes **Email:** aoattes@pemb.org

Cooper Pride Paw Initiative

James F. Cooper Elementary School

Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Students at Cooper are recognized and celebrated with Pride Paws when they demonstrate a commitment to our school's core values of Respect, Ownership, Acts of Kindness and Responsibility.

Principle: Principle 4, 7 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Melissa Santiago **Email:** msantiago@chclc.org

JHB's Peer Mediation Service

Joseph H. Brensinger Elementary PS #17, Jersey City Public Schools, Jersey City, NJ

Jersey City, New Jersey

Students are trained to council peers to resolve conflicts peacefully using a variety of strategies and scripts in communication and conflict resolution to mediate student to student problem.

Principle: Principle 3 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Janeen Maniscalco **Email:** jmaniscalco@jcboe.org

Leaders of the Pack

Joseph S. Stackhouse Elementary School

Browns Mills, New Jersey

At Stackhouse Elementary school, the "Leaders of the Pack" help to steward the message of our core values by creating videos and recognizing the character achievements of their classmates.

Principle: Principle 2, 3 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Marcy Smith **Email:** mmsmith@peemb.org

Truck-or-Treat

Juan Pablo Duarte- Jose Julian Marti

Elizabeth, New Jersey

School No. 28's middle school students work together to create a safe environment for all students in the school to trick-or-treat out of Halloween inspired decorated trucks.

Principle: Principle 3, 5 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Elizabeth Mclaughlin **Email:** Mclaughlinel@epsnj.com

Kuser Early Act Program

Kuser Early Act

Hamilton, New Jersey

Kuser Early Act is a student led service learning program that teaches students citizenship and caring for others by identifying situations where people, communities or organizations need support.

Principle: Principle 4, 5 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Roberto Kesting **Email:** rkesting@hamilton.k12.nj.us

Connection Day

Liberty Corner School

Liberty Corner, New Jersey

Goal: Create opportunities for children to learn & make positive connections with others because the stronger connections we make with the people around us the less likely it is to treat others poorly

Principle: Principle 2, 3 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: James Oliver **Email:** joliver@bernardsboe.com

Mission: PILLAR

Lincoln-Hubbard Elementary School

Summit, New Jersey

Lincoln-Hubbard students engaged in a "mission" assigned by Captain Pillar-asked to create/identify "NEW PILLARS OF CHARACTER" & then celebrate/embrace their creations via hallway decor and activities

Principle: Principle 2, 3 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Matthew Carlin **Email:** mcargin@summit.k12.nj.us

The Make a Change Club: Annual Meeting with the Mayor

Macopin Middle School

West Milford, New Jersey

Our Make a Change Club created and sustains an opportunity for our members to build a school-community partnership with our mayor and meet with her to empower our student leaders as active citizens.

Principle: Principle 1, 10 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Joseph Andriulli **Email:** joe.andriulli@wmtps.org

Halloween Costume Swap and Shop

Madison Park Elementary School

Parlin, New Jersey

The Halloween "Swap and Shop" is a local service program facilitated by the Madison Park Elementary School community that collects and provides Halloween costumes for children who are in need.

Principle: Principle 4, 10 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Amy Najarian **Email:** anajarian@obps.org

First Friday Celebration

Maple Road School

West Milford, New Jersey

Our First Friday Celebration is an exciting way to start the year and set the tone for a yearly character education theme involving our school family, families at home and the larger community.

Principle: Principle 4, 10 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Beth Schaeffer **Email:** beth.schaeffer@wmtps.org

5th and 6th Grade Character Ambassador Program

Marshall Hill, West Milford Township Public School

West Milford, New Jersey

The 5th and 6th Grade Character Ambassador Program is a leadership development program designed to develop school youth leaders focused on character education.

Principle: Principle 2 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Janet Cash **Email:** janet.cash@wmtps.org

Eagle Pride Program

Marshall Hill, West Milford Township Public Schools

West Milford, New Jersey

The Eagle Pride Program recognizes full value language in action in school and out of school with a written reflection by the student(s) and the symbolic earning of "Eagle Eggs" for our school nest.

Principle: Principle 7 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Janet Cash **Email:** janet.cash@wmtps.org

The Ringwood School District's Character Education Program

Martin J. Ryerson Middle School

Ringwood, New Jersey

Character Education is a district-wide emphasis on important values to our schools' and district's communities, implemented by the district's school counselors with corresponding thematic activities.

Principle: Principle 1, 3 **Grade Level:** Elementary, Middle

Contact: Carrie Leonard **Email:** leonardc@ringwoodschoools.org

Hope's Heroes

Memorial Elementary School Old Bridge Township Public Schools

Laurence Harbor, New Jersey

Hope's Heroes Mission is to improve the schools social climate for every learner, through social service learning and student driven education. click link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGDUfQvMUI4>

Principle: Principle 1, 3 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Kimberly Sautner **Email:** ksautner@obps.org

Operation Friends

Montgomery Upper Middle School

Skillman, New Jersey

Students created care boxes to be shipped to students in Texas that were living in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

Principle: Principle 2, 10 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Mark Accardi **Email:** maccardi@mtsd.us

Character Counts Series

Montgomery Upper Middle School

Skillman, New Jersey

Each month, students participate in activities that help to develop characteristics found in ethical and socially aware individuals.

Principle: Principle 5, 8 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Denita Davis **Email:** ddavis@mtsd.us

Morris Hills Regional District Summer Read Program

Morris Hills Regional District

Rockaway, New Jersey

The District-Wide Summer Read Program is a vehicle for building a communal reading experience while strengthening core values of respect, responsibility, empathy, and citizenship.

Principle: Principle 6 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Jennifer Toriello **Email:** jtoriello@mhrd.org

Moss School Problem Solving Process

Moss School

Metuchen, New Jersey

Moss School Problem Solving Process develops all students' habits of mind of critical thinking, problem solving & responsible decision making across content areas and social contexts.

Principle: Principle 2, 6 **Grade Level:** Pre-Kindergarten

Contact: Richard Cohen **Email:** rcohen@metboe.k12.nj.us

Social Emotional Learning SEL Character Day

New Brunswick

New Brunswick, New Jersey

SEL/Character Day is a planned school-wide celebration of character & cooperation, with students, staff, administrators & parents ALL working together in team-building activities for a full day.

Principle: Principle 9 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Tammy Daniel **Email:** tammy_daniel@nbpsnj.net

OBHS Attendance Madness

Old Bridge High School

Matawan, New Jersey

In an effort to foster students' self-motivation, our practice is a collaborative effort among all community stakeholders to measure, assess and encourage regular attendance among staff and students.

Principle: Principle 7, 11 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Sally Fazio **Email:** sfazio@obps.org

Project Unified

Old Bridge School District

Matawan, New Jersey

Project Unified is an in-school and after school program that creates lasting relationships between general and special education students.

Principle: Principle 6, 9 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Daniel DiMino **Email:** ddimino@obps.org

L.O.C.K.- Ladies of Character and Knowledge

Pemberton Township HS

PEMBERTON, New Jersey

Ladies of Character and Knowledge is a group of all female students whose aim is to increase academic performance, increase levels of self-efficacy, self esteem, and decrease acts of risky behaviors.

Principle: Principle 4, 10 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Nancy Herman **Email:** nherman@pemb.org

Be the Change

Perth Amboy High School

Perth Amboy NJ, New Jersey

My practice is called the "Be the Change" Project in which students have to choose a social justice issue they care about, research it, do something about it, and then reflect on the process.

Principle: Principle 2, 5 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Nagla Bedir **Email:** naglbedir@paps.net

Heroes & Cool Kids

Perth Amboy High School

Perth Amboy, New Jersey

High School athlete/scholars are trained to mentor 6th graders in areas of positive decision making, anti-bullying and substance avoidance, aligned to the NJSLS for Health/PE 6th & 9-12 grades

Principle: Principle 3, 5 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Ronni Rothstein **Email:** ronnrothstein@paps.net

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Resource Center/ "SEL Nook"

Riverview Elementary School

Denville, New Jersey

Our committee created an "SEL Nook" which houses a collection of social emotional teaching/ learning resources for staff and students, and it is a comfortable, inviting space for all to visit and use

Principle: Principle 9 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Rachel Jamison **Email:** rjamison@denville.org

Project BLUE (Building Leadership Understanding & Education)

Schirra Elementary School - OBPS

Old Bridge, New Jersey

Project BLUE is a student-lead program that fosters and builds friendships between children with Autism and the general education population through play activities.

Principle: Principle 2, 9 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Courtney Kless **Email:** ckless@obps.org

Community and Leadership

Search for Conscience, Vineland, NJ School District

Vineland, New Jersey

My students teach anti bullying education to elementary students, both my current students and former students visit elementary schools in the district to assist youngsters to overcome bullying fears

Principle: Principle 5 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Terry Kuhnreich **Email:** tkuhnreich@vineland.org

Kindness Catcher

Stackhouse Elementary School

Browns Mills, New Jersey

The Kindness Catcher is a student who is chosen each day to observe another student and catch that student practicing our core values.

Principle: Principle 2 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Marcy Smith **Email:** mmsmith@pemb.org

Learning Impacts Tomorrow

Stony Brook School

North Plainfield, New Jersey

Our practice, "Learning Impacts Tomorrow," is a tiered process designed to create an environment spring-boarding students toward a mindset that plans and sets goals for future careers.

Principle: Principle 6, 7 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Kelly Feeney **Email:** kelly_feeney@nplainfield.org

Stony Brook PULSE - Peers Utilizing Leadership Skills Every Day

Stony Brook School

North Plainfield, New Jersey

Stony Brook PULSE exemplifies our core values daily through caring and respectful interactions with PK-4 students and serve as greeters, breakfast buddies, community activists and role models.

Principle: Principle 1, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Catherine Kobylarz **Email:** catherine_kobylarz@nplainfield.org

Building character through a team approach

Sunnybrae Elementary

Hamilton Township, New Jersey

Sunnybrae Stingers is a running team for grades 3-5 that runs 2-3 times weekly and competes in 2 5K races annually in order to build self-esteem and promote an inclusive environment for all students.

Principle: Principle 3 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Josephine Arcaro **Email:** jarcaro@hamilton.k12.nj.us

Human Rights At Risk: Awareness and Action Project

Terence C. Reilly School No. 7

Elizabeth, New Jersey

After studying human rights in history, including intolerance, civil rights abuses, and genocides, students create projects to raise awareness and promote activism throughout the school and community.

Principle: Principle 5, 7 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Nicole Webb **Email:** distefanoni@epsnj.org

Buddy Classes

Unity Charter School

Morristown, New Jersey

Buddy Classes: offer multi-age experiences once a month as upper and lower school learning groups meet to do an activity that focuses on our Social Emotional Learning.

Principle: Principle 2, 11 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Michael Braverman **Email:** michael.braverman@unitycharterschool.org

Third Grade Heroes Play

Upper Greenwood Lake School

Hewitt, New Jersey

In its seventh year, our Third Grade Heroes Play is a grand homage to character education. Performed, as well as created, by third grade students, this heartfelt play embodies our Full Value Contract.

Principle: Principle 2, 6 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Jennifer Harris **Email:** jennifer.harris@wmtps.org

Character Education

Valley Middle School

Oakland, New Jersey

Week of Respect in October focusing on the proactive approaches our students can take in displaying the 6 character traits from the pillars discussed throughout the year on a daily basis.

Principle: Principle 2, 4 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Mark Sinclair **Email:** sinclair@oaklandschoolsnj.org

Leaders of the Pack

Warren H Wolf

Brick, New Jersey

Our Leaders of the Pack are identified as Students of the Month for demonstrating the character trait of the month.

Principle: Principle 1, 3 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Theresa Goodfellow **Email:** tgoodfellow@brickschools.org

WM Field Hockey: A Program of True Character

West Milford Field Hockey Program

West Milford, New Jersey

As the head coach and youth coordinator, I have learned the importance of promoting character into our every day practice routine, both in & out of season. The athletes leave the team a better citizen

Principle: Principle 2, 7 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Krista Provost **Email:** kmprovost@ymail.com

WMHS Freshman Seminar: Giving Back to the Community

West Milford High School

West Milford, New Jersey

The West Milford High School Freshman Seminar classes, consisting of 229 students, participated in a variety of classroom discussions and activities involving ways to give back to the community.

Principle: Principle 2 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Nicole Klosz **Email:** nicole.klosz@wmtps.org

Annual Spooktacular Benefit

West Milford High School

West Milford, New Jersey

The Student Council holds a complete community based multi-faceted Halloween event to benefit a good cause annually.

Principle: Principle 4, 10 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: David Gerold **Email:** david.gerold@wmtps.org

Notebook Recycle Program

West Milford High School

West Milford, New Jersey

Students collect binders, notebooks and other school supplies at the end of the school year, recycle like new items and then work to make new note pads from the recycled materials.

Principle: Principle 4, 5 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Laura Davis **Email:** laura.davis@wmtps.org

West Milford High School Cheerleading Handbags for the Homeless

West Milford High School Cheerleading

West Milford, New Jersey

The West Milford High School cheerleaders partnered with a local seamstress to collect gently used handbags, drawstring bags and backpacks filled with toiletries for the homeless of New Jersey.

Principle: Principle 4, 10 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Krista Tripodi **Email:** krista.tripodi@wmtps.org

Rivals Unite Holiday Gift Drive

West Milford Highlander Basketball

West Milford, New Jersey

As part of a long standing rivalry, 2 High Schools came together for a Holiday Gift Drive that supported local charities that help families in need during the Holiday season.

Principle: Principle 4, 10 **Grade Level:** n/a

Contact: John Finke **Email:** john.finke@wmtps.org

The Highlander Helpers

West Milford Township High School

West Milford, New Jersey

This group of enthusiastic special needs students take what they learn in the community during Community Based Instruction to selflessly service and give back within and outside the school community.

Principle: Principle 2, 5 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Kathleen Mendes **Email:** kathy.mendes@wmtps.org

S.A.F.E. Night (Substance Awareness Family Empowerment)

West Milford Township Public Schools

West Milford, New Jersey

"S.A.F.E." Night was a successful community program where 400+ people (grades 5-8 and their families) joined administrators, teachers, coaches, health professionals for awareness on substance abuse.

Principle: Principle 4, 10 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Joe Trentacosta **Email:** joe.trentacosta@wmtps.org

Westbrook Inspires!

Westbrook Elementary School

West Milford, New Jersey

Westbrook Inspires is a student driven, social action club comprised of 5th and 6th grade student leaders who take a "Show Don't Tell" approach to promoting Character Education in our school.

Principle: Principle 2, 3 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Dana Swarts **Email:** dana.swarts@wmtps.org

Science Expo

Whippany Park High School

Whippany, New Jersey

The Annual Science Expo is an event wherein our high school students collaborate, plan, and teach science investigations and experiments to the community's fifth graders who visit the high school.

Principle: Principle 6, 7 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Christina Wolf **Email:** cwolf@hpreg.org

Day of Giving

William Annin Middle School

Basking Ridge, New Jersey

The Day of Giving Project promotes awareness of our community's humanitarian needs, gives students the chance to meet those needs, and inspires students to make volunteerism a way of life.

Principle: Principle 1, 5 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Dan Lederer **Email:** dlederer@bernardsboe.com

Woodmont Pathways Peer Mentoring Program

Woodmont Elementary School

Pine Brook, New Jersey

Woodmont's peer mentoring program gives older students specialized training in facilitating friendship building through a community partnership to mentor younger students with observed social needs.

Principle: Principle 4, 10 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Doug Stech **Email:** douglas.stech@montville.net

Seeds of Our Future: The Kindness Tree

Yeshivat He'Atid

Teaneck, New Jersey

We foster and promote student success through a meaningful curriculum, highlighting kindness and positive character development among our students by exploring a different trait each month.

Principle: Principle 1, 4 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Ariela Brum **Email:** arielabrum@yeshivatheatid.org

NEW YORK

The Garden that Keeps on Giving

Church Street School, WPCSD

White Plains, New York

The school garden is used to engage students in service learning opportunities, empowering them to give back to communities in need while bringing the curriculum to life.

Principle: Principle 2, 5 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Myra Castillo **Email:** myracastillo@wpcsd.k12.ny.us

Camp Fiver

Fiver Children's Foundation

New York, New York

At the heart of our residential summer camp program is an intensive charter-education curriculum, which helps young people build the skills they need to make healthy and positive life choices.

Principle: Principle 2, 3 **Grade Level:** n/a

Contact: Rachel Sangalang **Email:** rachel@fiver.org

SPARK (Students Promoting Attitudes of Respect and Kindness)

Highlands Middle School

White Plains, New York

SPARK, a student club that is supported by a faculty committee enhances the school climate by promoting respect, kindness and inclusivity through awareness, education, and school wide activities.

Principle: Principle 4 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Cindie Lembo **Email:** cindielembo@wpcsd.k12.ny.us

Homer Character Banner Project

Homer Central School District

Homer, New York

Students recognize the extension of the school day carries over to our buses where they demonstrate and practice the 7 Habits that they utilize within the school setting.

Principle: Principle 3, 7 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Nancy S Ruscio **Email:** nruscio@homercentral.org

Pay It Forward Breakfast

Jonas E. Salk Middle School

Levittown, New York

The Pay It Forward Breakfast provided students with the opportunity to interact with school administrators outside of the classroom setting.

Principle: Principle 3, 4 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Patrick Mulligan **Email:** PMulligan@levittownschoools.com

Challenger Athletic League

Jonas E. Salk Middle School, Levittown Public Schools

Levittown, New York

The Challenger Athletic League provides an opportunity for students with special needs to participate in competitive athletics.

Principle: Principle 4, 10 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Patrick Mulligan **Email:** jzampaglione@levittownschoools.com

Caring Community

Mamaroneck Avenue School

White Plains, New York

Mamaroneck Avenue School is a school that values, nurtures and creates caring and respectful relationships students, staff, parents and our community using a Responsive Classroom approach.

Principle: Principle 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Eileen McGuire **Email:** eileenmcguire@wpcsd.k12.ny.us

I am a Masterpiece Exemplified (I am M.E.)

PS253Q

Far Rockaway, New York

I am a Masterpiece Exemplified (I am M.E.) offers a character-based approach to enhancing student's perception of self while supporting the development of the Executive Functioning Skills, response i

Principle: Principle 4, 7 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: matthew goodman **Email:** mgoodman5@schools.nyc.gov

NORTH CAROLINA

Powder Puff Football Game and Fundraiser

Greensboro College Middle College

Greensboro, North Carolina

The GCMC Powder Puff Football Game is a service-learning opportunity where students plan and lead an unconventional football game to raise awareness of and collect funds for The United Way.

Principle: Principle 4, 5 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Lorraine Marshall **Email:** marshal3@gcsnc.com

Leading Through Literacy

Guilford

Greensboro, North Carolina

Underachieving 9th grade students build their reading skills by becoming Reading Buddies to elementary students.

Principle: Principle 6 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Cynthia Parks **Email:** parksc@gcsnc.com

Stepping Up to Sleep-Out

Guilford County School

Greensboro, North Carolina

Stepping Up to Sleep-Out for Those Without Homes is an event in which our students serve the homeless community in the Triad area by raising awareness in their community by sleeping outside overnight.

Principle: Principle 4 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Paula Ritter-Lipscomb **Email:** ritterp@gcsnc.com

The Kindness Challenge

Guilford County Schools

Greensboro, North Carolina

Principle 1: We strive to ensure students understand that treating others with kindness can be morally the right thing to do, despite the circumstances and can ultimately make a big impact.

Principle: Principle 1, 4 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Noelle Leslie **Email:** leslien@gcsnc.com

February One Event -Advocacy for Civil Rights

James Benson Dudley High School

Greensboro, North Carolina

Dudley High School in conjunction w/NCA&TSU commemorates the February One Sit-in by coming together annually to discuss the sit-ins, advocate for civil rights and re-enact the walk to the Woolworth's

Principle: Principle 1, 2 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Drennan Paylor **Email:** paylord2@gcsnc.com

Tiger Teammates

Kiser Middle School

McLeansville, North Carolina

Tiger Teammates is a unique program that gives middle school boys the opportunity to work along side high school athletes on service projects, team building and character/academic development.

Principle: Principle 1, 5 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Kelly Ingram **Email:** ingramk2@gcsnc.com

Operation Holiday Hope ! Character through the Holidays

McLauchlin Elementary School

Raeford, North Carolina

Students at McLauchlin Elementary participated in Operation Holiday hope to bring holiday cheer to the senior citizens in the Raeford Community.

Principle: Principle 4, 9 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Sharonda Ballard **Email:** sballard@hcs.k12.nc.us

Leadership Development

Northeast Guilford High School

McLeansville, North Carolina

Leadership Development focuses on creating student leaders who plan and implement service learning activities that benefit our community and promote educational diversity in the school.

Principle: Principle 2, 11 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Lateshia Hawkins **Email:** hawkinl2@gcsnc.com

The Northern Elementary Rocks Campaign

Northern Elementary School

Greensboro, North Carolina

Helping students acquire understanding of core values; Helping Students to reflect upon core values, appreciate them desire to demonstrate and become committed to them; and Helping students practice the core values so they become habitual patterns of beha

Principle: Principle 2 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Loring Preston **Email:** loripreston@hotmail.com

Falcons Fighting Cancer Club

Southeast Guilford High School

Greensboro, North Carolina

Falcons Fighting Cancer is a support, outreach, and service group for students, staff and community members whose lives have been effected by cancer.

Principle: Principle 2, 4 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Amanda Roop **Email:** roopa@gcsnc.com

Sumner's Golden Character Student Advisory Club

Sumner Elementary School

Greensboro, North Carolina

Sumner's Golden Character Club is a student advisory club whose members focus on identifying and addressing student issues and concerns at our school while providing positive role models for students.

Principle: Principle 1, 2 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Christina Wescott **Email:** wescotc@gcsnc.com

OHIO

Imagine Bella's House Point System

Imagine Bella Academy of Excellence

Cleveland, Ohio

Developing character through recognition and collectiveness, and creating a respectful, family-like culture by building small communities within our school.

Principle: Principle 5, 8 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Arun Dutt **Email:** Arun.Dutt@imagineschools.org

Parent Participation in Character Development

Imagine Great Western Academy

Columbus, Ohio

When opportunities exist for parents, students and educators to collaborate, there are no limits to the academic growth and character development that our students can demonstrate.

Principle: Principle 10 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Kathryn Kountz **Email:** kathryn.kountz@imagineschools.org

Student led school newspaper focusing on community and character

Imagine Groveport Community School

Groveport, Ohio

Student led school newspaper, The Groveport Gazette, focuses on school news, school sports, student character education, and student accomplishments.

Principle: Principle 8, 9 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Karen Dunlop **Email:** karen.dunlop@imagineschools.org

Character Essays

Imagine Hill Academy

Toledo, Ohio

Students participate in monthly character essay contests.

Principle: Principle 6 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Ashley VanderMeer **Email:** ashley.vandermeer@imagineschools.org

Imagine SUNS presents: "A little Change can make big change, and WE CHOOSE YOU!"

Imagine Madison Avenue School of Arts

Toledo, Ohio

Our 4th consecutive year K-5 Cheerleaders Pennies 4 Patients to fight Leukemia and Lymphoma drive is on!

Principle: Principle 4, 9 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Earl Ransom **Email:** earl.ransom@imagineschools.org

OKLAHOMA

Drops of Kindness

Dove School of Discovery

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Drops of Kindness is a school initiative that allows students to use jeans day money to make a positive difference with their chosen service/service learning project.

Principle: Principle 5, 10 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Maureen Brown **Email:** mbrown@doveschools.org

C4 Curriculum

Dove Science Academy-OKC

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

The Dove C4 Curriculum Program requires staff and students to work together to develop monthly projects/events that tie the classroom curriculum directly to Character, Community, College, and Career.

Principle: Principle 3, 5 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Marc Julian **Email:** mjulian@doveschools.org

MAC Deaf Community Outreach

MacArthur High School

Lawton, Oklahoma

MAC Deaf Community Outreach is a celebration of deaf culture and brings awareness of deaf culture to our students; furthermore, this club works with members of our community to build relationships.

Principle: Principle 10 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Laura Puccino **Email:** lpuccino@lawtonps.org

Honoring the Voices of Young Children

Muskogee Early Childhood Center

Muskogee, Oklahoma

The Reggio- Emilia philosophy focuses on student-centered experiential learning by using professional collaboration to facilitate student-led learning that honors & empowers the voice of the child.

Principle: Principle 6, 7 **Grade Level:** Pre-Kindergarten

Contact: Malinda Lindsey **Email:** malinda-lindsey@mpsi20.org

Tiger Time: Special Tigers Club

Pryor High School

Pryor, Oklahoma

Special Tigers student leaders apply for leadership roles and are trained to work with special needs students to promote leadership, community service, and caring attitudes toward peers.

Principle: Principle 4, 9 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Susan Rice **Email:** rices@pryorschools.org

Sadler Arts Academy: Shoes for Kenya

Sadler Arts Academy

Muskogee, Oklahoma

"Shoes for Kenya" Reaching the world one heart at a time.

Principle: Principle 2 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Amanda Cumbey **Email:** Amanda.Cumbey@roughers.net

PENNSYLVANIA

Beauty for Hope

Bucks County Technical High School

Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania

Cosmetology students in grades 10-12 volunteered their services on a Saturday to approximately 100 clients (haircuts, facials, manicures, etc), raising \$1200 for the Variety Club of Philadelphia.

Principle: Principle 2, 4 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Kevin Gentilcore **Email:** kgentilcore@bcths.com

"Choose Kind"

Fallsington Elementary School

Fallsington, Pennsylvania

Our "Choose Kind" visitors introduced their son who has been diagnosed with Treacher Collins syndrome to our school community, sharing a message of respect, acceptance, and kindness.

Principle: Principle 2, 5 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Kristen Cahill **Email:** kcahill@pennsburyisd.org

Food For Thought Club

Bucks County Technical High School

Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania

Culinary Arts students volunteer their time to create, package and deliver well balance meals for our In-Bound Seniors in our Community, free of charge.

Principle: Principle 2, 4 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Kevin Gentilcore **Email:** kgentilcore@bcths.com

Character Eduation Programming, Social Emotional Learning

Chestnutwold Elementary School, School District of Haverford Township

Ardmore, Pennsylvania

The Mindfulness practices component of our Character Education correlate to improvements in our studentsâ€™ attention, academics, social interactions, emotional regulation, and non-cognitive well being.

Principle: Principle 2, 8 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Joel DiBartolomeo **Email:** jdibartolomeo@haverfordsd.net

PEACE Challenge Seminar

Pennsbury High School

Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania

The Seminar is a monthly Socratic discussion that takes place school-wide to reinforce the core values of the PEACE Challenge and how it relates to our school community and larger society.

Principle: Principle 5, 11 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Patricia Steckroat **Email:** psteckroat@pennsbury.org

Principal Advisory Committee (PAC)

Pennsbury High School

Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania

At Pennsbury HS, we have established two Principal Advisory Committee (PAC) Leadership Teams, one student and one faculty team, that meet monthly to assess and improve our character education program.

Principle: Principle 1, 3 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Patricia Steckroat **Email:** psteckroat@pennsbury.org

Send a Smile to a Soldier

Pennsbury School District

Levittown, Pennsylvania

Penn Valley students and their families craft letters of gratitude, donate food and thoughtfully package items, which are delivered to men and women in the U.S. armed forces around the world.

Principle: Principle 2, 10 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Barbara Hidalgo **Email:** bhidalgo@pennsbury.org

Elementary Day of Service-"United We Serve"

Pennsbury School District

Yardley, Pennsylvania

The elementary division collaborated on planning and organizing a day of service event with the common goal of honoring service in and among the Pennsbury community, with the theme "United We Serve."

Principle: Principle 4, 5 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Stephanie Hultquist **Email:** shultquist@pennsbury.org

Find-A-Way Calendar

Upper Moreland High School

Willow Grove, Pennsylvania

The Find-A-Way calendar suggests daily small acts of kindness for students and staff to show goodwill and help members of the community to build resilience and persevere through life's challenges.

Principle: Principle 1, 4 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Shannon Franczkowski **Email:** sfranczkowski@umtsd.org

Disconnect to Connect Challenge

Wissahickon School District

Ambler, Pennsylvania

One day each month, we have a Disconnect to Connect day in which students and staff are challenged to "unplug" and engage in meaningful interactions outside of technology.

Principle: Principle 3, 11 **Grade Level:** High School

Contact: Lynne Blair **Email:** lblair@wsdweb.org

SOUTH CAROLINA

Sprinkling Kindness

Finley Road Elementary School

Rock Hill, South Carolina

Finley Road 3rd graders led a kindness initiative by sprinkling random acts of kindness throughout the building for the 2017-2018 school year.

Principle: Principle 4, 5 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Sally Berger **Email:** Sberger@rhtml.org

Moore Intermediate's KICK Team

John W. Moore Intermediate School

Florence, South Carolina

The goal of the KICK team, or Keeping It Classy Kids, is to produce strong women with noble character who can set clear personal goals and are confident enough to make their dreams become a reality

Principle: Principle 1, 3 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Brandis Winstead **Email:** Brandis.winstead@fsd1.org

Service Activism

Porter-Gaud School

Charleston, South Carolina

Our middle school created a 501c3, called Bicycles for Humanity Charleston that collects and ships bicycles to the most impoverished regions of Africa providing access to: food, water, doctors, & educ

Principle: Principle 5, 9 **Grade Level:** Middle

Contact: Chris Tate **Email:** ctate@portergaud.edu

TEXAS

Character "Rocks" at Cambridge

Cambridge Elementary

San Antonio, Texas

Intentionally creating a sense of belonging for new students by including them in our Character Rocks garden that was created the previous year during a luncheon and during first grade class meetings.

Principle: Principle 2, 4 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Jana Needham **Email:** jneedham@ahisd.net

Rocket Boosters

North Pointe Elementary, Clear Creek ISD

Houston, Texas

Rocket Boosters is a peer mentoring program that benefits students from all different backgrounds.

Principle: Principle 4, 5 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Susan Rizzo **Email:** srizzo@ccisd.net

Parr Patriots on the Move with Great Character

Parr Elementary, Clear Creek ISD

League City, Texas

At Parr Elementary our students demonstrate great character and expected behaviors through student created videos to share with all students in our school.

Principle: Principle 1, 2 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Anita Oliphant **Email:** anitac@ccisd.net

QISD - Panther Martial Arts

Quinlan ISD

Quinlan, Texas

Panther Martial Arts is a free character based martial arts instruction offered for students in grades 1 -12 in the QISD School that teaches karate and develops strength of character.

Principle: Principle 1, 3 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Michael Tull **Email:** michael.tull@quinlanisd.net

WISCONSIN

The Construction Cooperative Program

Brown Deer Middle High School

Brown Deer, Wisconsin

This is a relationship with the North Central State Regional Council of Carpenters in which students make a voluntary commitment to learn a trade and skills necessary to succeed on the job.

Principle: Principle 10 **Grade Level:** Mixed

Contact: Tosha Womack **Email:** twomack@browndeerschools.com

Greenwood Character Themes

Greenwood Elementary School

River Falls, Wisconsin

Greenwood Elementary uses yearly character themes to create a common language and imaginative setting for our students to learn and grow in their character education.

Principle: Principle 3, 9 **Grade Level:** Elementary

Contact: Emily Rose **Email:** emily.rose@rfsd.k12.wi.us