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@imagineschools.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@imagineschools.org

Love Our School Day

*Imagine East Mesa*
Mesa, Arizona

Love Our School Day is designed to give every 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@imagineschools.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@imagineschools.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@imagineschools.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
Libery 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: jlarson@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:** kroberts@parkwayschools.net

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

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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

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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

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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](http://www.thisibelieve.org), [www.characterplus.org](http://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 homestyle activity, student-led assembly, character rock decorating and their placement in the garden.

**Principle:** Principle 2, 3  
**Grade Level:** Elementary  
**Contact:** Elizabeth Sciarratta  
**Email:** sciarrattaelizabeth@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 Coeur, 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@hazelwoodschools.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@mehlville.schools.org
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@ladieschools.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 my 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@pennburysd.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
Apshawa 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:** wyrovsky@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 that 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:** mcarlin@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 ÒGive Swap and ShopÓ 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 activiti  
**Principle**: Principle 1, 3  
**Grade Level**: Elementary,Middle  
**Contact**: Carrie Leonard  
**Email**: leonardc@ringwoodschools.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.  
**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

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**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

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**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

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**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@wpcsdk12.ny.us

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**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:** cindielembowpcsd.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@levittownschools.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@levittownschools.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 is 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@pennburysd.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 balanced 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 Education 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 students’ 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@pennsburysd.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@pennsburysd.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@pennsburysd.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@pennsburysd.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@rhmail.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