

C.A.T.S.

December 2008



Character Activities for Teachers and Students

Duval County Public Schools Jacksonville, Florida

*“To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a
menace to society.”*

Theodore Roosevelt

****The Florida state legislature mandates the character traits that are covered each year. The order is consistent from year to year for ease of planning.**

Message to Principals

Character education is a mandated part of our curriculum, per Florida statutes. *However, the most important reason to “build kids of character” in a school setting is that such training produces children whose behavior is better and who also perform better academically.*

There are many ways to infuse character education into academics with no extra time devoted to meeting this mandate. Numerous resources have been provided to your schools that are character based, along with formal curriculum materials.

A pilot program at the elementary level has also been completed in which character education lessons are delivered by parents who are interested in the topic. Training and support are provided.

Please call Deborah Hansen at 904-568-0786 (cell) or 390-2131 (office) to schedule time to hear more, OR to schedule a short presentation to your faculty at a time that is convenient to you.

December: ****Kindness and Caring:**

A child demonstrates kindness and caring by being:

- **Friendly, generous, warm-hearted**
- **Sympathetic, charitable, understanding**
- **Considerate, generous**
- **Agreeable**



Kindness quote of the month:

“The truest greatest lies in being kind, the truest wisdom in a happy mind.”

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Parent Tips



Kindness and Caring

Parents are the first and best teachers of character. Educators can help extend those lessons within the community of the school, but parents and families are the heart of “building kids of character.”

One way to instill the traits of kindness and caring in your children is to show them *specific* ways to help those in need. Children have a huge hearts for those who are hurting in some way, and they often want to help. As parents, we can teach them to do small, simple acts of kindness on a daily basis, with no expectation of reward. Some examples are taking the trash out for an elderly neighbor, holding doors open for a mother with small children, or leaving a cold drink for the garbage man.

Try it with your children and see the joy on their faces as they bring joy to others.

Bully Proofing Your School



Make your school a *RAK* school: A *Random Acts of Kindness* community.

Bullying, at its heart, is the inability to care for others. We must teach our young people that we are connected as a community, and that simple acts of kindness will transform that community.

Children who bully must be seen as the outsiders, not as the group who receives a great deal of attention. Such attention merely reinforces bullying behavior.

Create an atmosphere of caring for one another. Visit www.actsofkindness.org.

Character Resources Available

Elementary Curriculum: “*Mini-lessons for Maximum Character.*” Can be found on RiverDeep and in school media centers.

Secondary Curriculum: “*Connect with Kids,*” including “*Grab and Go*” mini-lessons. Can be found in media centers.

Character libraries were purchased for every school. Check with your media specialist for location. Great for use with “Book of the Month.”

Anti-Bullying Curriculum:

K-8: “*Second Step.*” Coming soon!

High School: Call 390-2131 to schedule.

Trainings for faculty and staff, as well as parent programs, are available upon request!

2008-09 Character Traits by Month:



August:	Responsibility/Attentiveness
September:	Citizenship/Cooperation
October:	Fairness
November:	Patriotism
December:	Kindness/Caring
January:	Courage/Initiative
February:	Respect/Tolerance
March:	Honesty/Trustworthiness
April:	Self-Control
May:	Patience

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