

# C.A.T.S.

March 2009



## Character Activities for Teachers and Students

**Honesty and Trustworthiness**

**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.*

## Principals!

Are you interested in sessions with your faculty on building character?

**Call Deborah Hansen at 390-2131 to schedule 30 minute (or longer) workshops on:**

**\*\*Infusing character development into academics.**

**\*\*Building a climate of character in your school.**

**\*\*Lessons in character development delivered through partnership with parents.**



## March:

**\*\*Honesty** means telling the truth.

**\*\*Trustworthiness** means that other people can depend on you.

Children demonstrate honesty and trustworthiness by:

1. doing what they say they will do.
2. telling the truth, even when it's difficult.
3. admitting when they are wrong.
4. trying to be as accurate as possible in behavior and speech.
5. following accepted rules of behavior.
6. trying to do the right thing.



*Quotes:*

*“Honest actions build a good reputation.”*

*D. B. Forrest*

*“Honesty is the result of truthfulness and responsibility.”*

*Anonymous*

# Building Kids of Character



## Teacher Tips

**It is impossible to separate honest from trustworthiness. Children can be taught that their actions and their words have consequences, even at a very young age. If they are not honest, they cannot be trusted. Broken trust is difficult to rebuild.**

**Discuss with students the issue of lying, even in small things:**

- \* Is it OK to lie to keep from hurting someone's feelings?**
- \* How do you feel when you find out someone has lied to you?**
- \* How is trust related to telling the truth?**
- \* Would you lie to keep a friend from getting in trouble?**
- \* Imagine the following situation:**

**Your friend is going to someone's house after school, even after his parents have told him he is not allowed to go there. There are no parents or other adults at home, and there is some evidence of drug use. He asks you to lie about where he goes after school. What are some of the consequences for you for lying? What are some consequences for your friend?**

**(Teachers can adapt this question for age-appropriateness and gender.)**

## Parent Tips

The most important lessons are taught through a parent's role modeling.

**\*If your children hear you lie, even in small things, they are receiving the message that it is OK to lie.**

**\*If they see you struggle to tell the truth in all circumstances, they are being taught that the truth is worthy of the effort.**

**\*Don't ask your children to lie for you. Example:**

*The phone rings and it is someone you are avoiding. Rather than ask your child to tell the caller you aren't there, talk to the person yourself. Use the call as an opportunity to role model dealing with difficult situations. Our children look to us to teach them how to navigate the world, and we must not shirk that responsibility.*

The truth marks a person of character, even when it is uncomfortable to tell the truth or it costs us money. We simply must show our children that it is a non-negotiable concept in a successful life. Do your children lie?  
*Where did they learn to do that?*

***“Integrity is what we do, what we say,  
and what we say we do.”***

***Don Galer***

# **Bully Proofing Your School**



## **Play “What IF?”**

**Lead class discussions about issues that are of concern to your students and your school at any point in time. These discussions can be impromptu talks that arise naturally when you see they are needed.**

### **Some examples:**

- \* What if you’re being called names on the bus?**
- \* What if someone asks to copy your homework, and threatens to beat you up if you don’t let them?**
- \* What if someone is spreading a rumor about you?**
- \* What if someone corners you in the restroom and takes your lunch money away?**

**Brainstorm possible ways to deal with these issues with your students. These things happen to kids all the time, but they usually don’t tell anyone. Let them know that you WILL do something and that the behavior will not be tolerated. And then repeat the message often!**

## Character Resources Available in the Duval County Public Schools

Elementary Curriculum: *“Mini-lessons for Maximum Character.”* Can be found 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!**

**Call now to schedule a 30-minute session on the new anti-bullying law that went into effect in Florida on July 1, 2008.**

**Need a Peer Mediation program in your school? Call Deborah at 568-0786 to get one started.**

**2008-09 Character Traits by Month:**



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

**PLEASE NOTE! THIS LIST WILL CHANGE WITH THE 2009-10 SCHOOL YEAR, PER STATE LAW. ASK YOUR PRINCIPAL FOR THE NEW LIST THAT WAS PUBLISHED LAST MONTH.**

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