

# C.A.T.S.

## May 2009



### 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.

Trainings are also available for your bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and other ancillary staff.

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.

# May: Patience

**Children demonstrate patience by:**

- \*\*Waiting their turn**
- \*\*Following all the necessary steps in achieving a goal**
- \*\*Helping others who may need more assistance**
- \*\*Accepting others' right to express opinions**

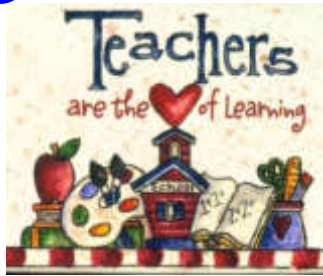


**Patience quote of the month:**

*“Our patience will achieve more than our force.”*

*Edmund Burke*

# Building Kids of Character



## Teacher Tips

**By now, most of your standardized testing is over, and you have the opportunity to explore new topics with your students. It is also a difficult time of year to motivate students. They see the end in sight!**

**Projects that take time and patience to complete are one way to teach your students to set goals and see them through to completion.**

**With your students' input, generate a list of topics they would like to explore, either as a class or individually. Then, ask that they lay out a plan of action to study their chosen topic.**

- \*\*What would they like to know about the topic?**
- \*\*What resources are available to find the information?**
- \*\*How will they present their findings?**
- \*\*How much time will they need?**

**This process will teach students to plan ahead and then see their project through to the end.**

# Parent Tips



## Teaching Patience

**As parents, we do our children no favors by engaging in a lifestyle that offers few opportunities to be patient. Our lives are extremely fast-paced, and it is up to us to slow down in order to teach our children how to wait.**

**\*\*Children need to work toward goals. We cannot simply jump in to provide everything they say they want.**

**\*\*Nature provides many opportunities to cultivate patience in our families. Watching a sunrise or sunset takes time. Tracking the emergence of a butterfly may take days to accomplish. Gardening allows us to experience the joy of growth with our children.**

**\*\*Board games, puzzles, and card games are still available! These activities take more time to complete. They are also wonderful ways to connect with our children.**

**\*\*Allow your children time to relax and do nothing. We have been seduced into believing that our calendars have to be overflowing with organized activity.**

**\*\*And, above all, model patience for your children. We simply cannot expect our children to behave in ways that we ourselves are not willing to do.**

## Bully Proofing Your School



**The *Second Step* “train the trainer” classes are now available!**

**This curriculum was chosen to meet the state mandate for bully prevention measures in the DCPS.**

**It also meets the requirements for conflict resolution and violence prevention.**

**The state mandate requires that ALL adults in the district be trained.**

**Principals recently received the information and schools are required to send a team to the training.**

**Registration is via the Schultz Center website.**

**Character Resources Available**

**Elementary Curriculum:** “*Mini-lessons for Maximum Character.*” Can be found on RiverDeep under “Learning Village” 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.*”**

**High School: Call 390-2131 to schedule.**

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

**Character Traits  
2009-2010**

<b>*August:</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>*September:</b>	<b>Respect for authority, life, liberty, personal property</b>
<b>*October:</b>	<b>Cooperation</b>
<b>*November:</b>	<b>Patriotism</b>
<b>*December:</b>	<b>Kindness</b>
<b>*January:</b>	<b>Racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance</b>
<b>*February:</b>	<b>Charity</b>
<b>*March:</b>	<b>Honesty</b>
<b>*April:</b>	<b>Self-control</b>
<b>*May:</b>	<b>Citizenship: Living a life of character</b>

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