

C.A.T.S.

November 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

There are two modules available for your faculty on the topic of character education:

- 1. Building a climate of positive character at your school.**
- 2. Infusing character into academics.**

There is also a presentation for parents called “Building Kids of Character” that is available to PTA groups.

If you would like to schedule a presentation on an early release day, for a PTA meeting, or at another convenient time, please call Deborah Hansen at 390-2131.



November: **Patriotism: Love of and devotion to one's country. It is an important part of good citizenship.

A child demonstrates that he/she is patriotic by:

- 1. being a participating member of their community at home and at school.**
- 2. showing respect to the flag and other symbols of their country.**
- 3. learning about their country's history and government.**
- 4. respecting the opinions of others.**
- 5. respecting authority and the rules.**

Patriotism Quote of the Month:

“Every good citizen makes his country's honor his own.....” Andrew Jackson



Building Kids of Character



Teacher Tips

- 1. Start a recycling drive in your classroom and donate any proceeds to a charity selected by the students.**
- 2. Teach students team cooperation games, such as having them line up by birth date with no talking.**
- 3. Re-energize your student council, either at the classroom or school level.**
- 4. Discuss the difference between a hero and a celebrity. Have students write poetry or a story about an American hero of their choice.**

Parent Tips



1. Our democracy is based on critical thinking and the ability to make sound decisions. It's important to build this skill as children grow and mature. Parents can give their children the opportunity to make small, age-appropriate choices from an early age. For example:

“Do you want to wear the red shirt or the blue one?”

“Do you want milk or juice with your breakfast?”

2. In making decisions, mistakes are sometimes made. Parents must allow their children to live with the results of their decisions, and parents must do this in a calm, empathic way...but the consequences stand. Anger only teaches children to hide their mistakes in the future, thus we lose the opportunity to help them learn how to make better decisions.

Bully Proofing Your School



Many schools have abandoned their student councils. These groups of students, however, can help build community in your school and can help increase loyalty to the group.

In this way, students begin to take responsibility for the larger group. Individual students have less chance of becoming outcasts, as long as teachers and other adults train the student leaders in positive leadership skills.

A peer mediation program can also help by offering students a safe environment in which to resolve conflicts among their peers. If you need help starting a program, call Deborah Hansen at 390-2131.



“We were born to unite with our fellow men, and to join in community with the human race.” Cicero

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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