



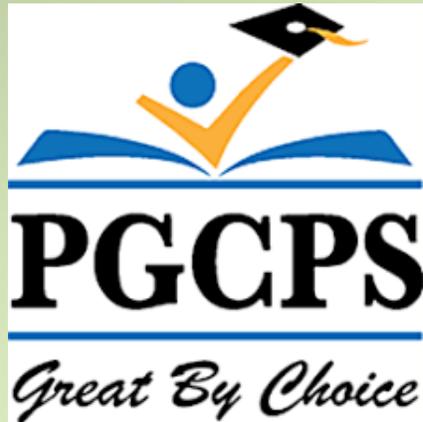
CHARACTER EDUCATION

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Topics to Be Covered

- Introduction
- Why Character Education
- Six Pillars of Character
- Immediate/Long-Term
- Stakeholders
- Problems, Challenges, and Benefits
- Questions

Introduction



- 25 Years in Education
- Teacher (PreK, Elem, G&T, Basic Skills)
- Leadership (Director of Instruction, Principal, Director of Effectiveness)

The big WHY



START UP YEAR - 2005

- Principal was **adamant** about laying a **solid foundation** for a **strong school culture**. We had to prepare to welcome Scholars entering grades K-8 from an array of local schools as well as out-of-district placements. A **common language** was essential.

CHARACTER is the **foundational trait** of **leadership**. ~ John Maxwell

Who taught you **RESPECT** & **RESPONSIBILITY**?

Who will teach our **SCHOLARS** & **FAMILIES**?

SIX PILLARS OF CHARACTER

Be **TeRRiFiC**!!!!



SIX PILLARS OF CHARACTERS

CHARACTER	COLOR	DESCRIPTION
TRUSTWORTHINESS	Blue: Think True Blue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be honest • Don't deceive, cheat or steal • Be reliable--do what you say you'll do • Have the courage to do the right thing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a good reputation • Be loyal--stand by your family, friends and country
RESPECT	Yellow/Gold: Think the Golden Rule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements
RESPONSIBILITY	Green: Think being responsible for a garden of finances; or as in being solid and reliable like an oak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do what you are supposed to do • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act--consider the consequences • Be accountable for your choices
FAIRNESS	Orange : Think of dividing an orange into equal sections to share fairly with friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don't blame others carelessly
CARING	Red : Think of a heart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need
CITIZENSHIP	Purple : Think regal purple as representing the state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authorities • Protect the environment



Teacher-led planning sessions to develop grade level appropriate activities and lesson plans.

OUTCOME

- **Character Pledge (Student-Led Daily Recitation)**
- **Family Handbook (Presented in Orientation)**
- **Designated block and embedded throughout**
- **Hallway Displays and Wall Art (throughout building)**
- **Monthly Awards Programs/Student of the Month**
- **Monthly Figures and Quotes (displayed on School Website and Calendars)**
- **Bucket Fillers, Character Rainbows**
- **Classroom Management and Incentives**
- **Spirit Days, Fun Days, Field Days Connection (Teams were associated with the color and character pillar.)**
- **Rules Sheet Connected to Character Pillars**
- **Reflection Sheets Connected to Character Pillars, Parent/Scholar use of language**



- Board Members adopted classrooms, provided incentives and support.
- Parent and Teacher Community Organization (PATCO) provided support with Character Based Career Days, incentives, and other programs. Character Ed program was shared in meetings.
- Grade-Level Teams co-planned and implemented lesson plans/activities.
- School Leaders awarded Teachers and Scholars awards for implementation.
- Scholars utilized language in scholar groups and peer mediation.
- All Staff were empowered. (Custodians and Safety Officers)
- Common Language



- **Sustainability/Tracking Impact**
- **Onboarding – New Scholars, Teachers/Staff, and Families**
- **Common Mindset – Character Education does not supplant but supplements a solid code of conduct, discipline policy, SEL Program and other curriculum.**
- **Social Media**

- **Common Language (Teacher-Scholar, Scholar-Scholar, Parent Teacher Conferences)**
- **Bucket Fillers – Positive Framing**
- **90% Satisfaction Rate on Climate Surveys**
- **Provided a core and foundation that was embedded and branded.**
- **Maintained suspension (25%), violence (0), vandalism (0), rates and HIB Cases (25%).**

QUESTIONS & FINAL REMARKS

Who taught you RESPECT & RESPONSIBILITY?
Who will teach our SCHOLARS & FAMILIES?

“Children are 25 percent of the population but 100 percent of the future. If we wish to renew society, we must raise up a generation of children who have strong moral character. And if we wish to do that, we have two responsibilities: first, to model good character in our own lives, and second, to intentionally foster character development in our young.”

- xxiii Thomas Lickona, [Character Matters](#)