



2014 National Promising Practices POSTER SESSION Bart Ludeke Student Center



Berlin Community School, Berlin, NJ

Excellence in Character Essay Contest and Award

Kristen Martello, Assistant Principal, martellok@bcsberlin.k12.nj.us

Description: Several years ago, our students saw their teachers distributing “Good Citizen’s Awards” and requested that they be allowed to recognize classmates for good character as well. In response, the sixth grade team created a quarterly essay contest in which students nominate a peer who exemplifies one of our six Pillars of Character and support their nomination with specific examples of the classmate in action. The team wanted to emphasize that good character and good writing are valued everywhere in our school, so each marking period, the students draft their essays in a different core class (language arts, math, science, and social studies). The essays are scored by the entire sixth grade team using a special rubric in order to ensure that it is not a popularity contest.

Gibbsboro School, Gibbsboro, NJ

Graduation Matters

Brett Thorp, Principal, bthorp@gibbsboroschool.org

Description: “Graduation Matters” is a practice that recognizes the aspirations and unique qualities of each 8th grade graduating student. It is an inclusive practice that encourages community and not competition. Toward the end of winter, parents/guardians complete a survey about their child’s accomplishments, outstanding personality traits, which Gibbsboro Super 7 core value their child best exemplifies, and their child’s future goals. Gibbsboro staff use the information to compose short tributes for each student. The tributes are then read at graduation as students walk across the stage to receive their diplomas. Adaptations of this practice include, but are not limited to recognizing a different student each day leading up to graduation, displaying the tributes on the school’s website, and/or including the tributes in the graduation program.

Gloucester County Campus of the Camden County Technical Schools

HIB Musical Assembly and Week of Respect

Megan Thompson, English Teacher, mthompson@ccts.net

Description: In 2014, the Gloucester Township Campus of Camden County Technical Schools was awarded a Promising Practice Award for our work to prevent HIB through seminars, assemblies, and classroom lessons. The poster we plan to present will highlight picture of students performing in our musical assembly, our core values, character development lessons, and classroom projects, all of which were conducted during our Week of Respect.

Hillside Elementary School, Livingston, NJ

Hillside-Horizon Helping Hands

Carlos Gramata, Principal, cgramata@livingston.org

Description: The Hillside-Horizon Helping Hands Program is a collaboration between Hillside Elementary School and Horizon School, a school for children with multiple disabilities. Through this relationship, Hillside’s fourth and fifth graders develop an understanding of disabilities as well as empathy for those who have disabilities. The focus is what Horizon students CAN do, and not what they cannot do, despite their disabilities. Hillside students receive sensitivity training, visit Horizon School for its annual holiday musical, and participate in other activities with Horizon students at both schools.

Lafayette Township School, Lafayette, NJ

The Lafayette School Bully Patrol

Alice Sensale, Teacher, asensale@ltes.org

Description: Our Promising Practice is “The Bully Patrol.” Our entire 7th Grade Class signs up on a schedule to visit the Kindergarten through Fourth Grade students during their recess period. The Bully Patrol provides friendship and leadership to the younger students as well as conflict resolution at times. The younger students and “Bully Patrolers” all benefit from the interaction.

Macopin Middle School, West Milford, NJ

Diamond Cluster / Make a Change Club

Joseph Louis Andriulli, Teacher, joe.andriulli@wmtps

Description: The **Diamond Cluster** is a group of highly motivated teachers teaching the students the importance of accountability and being involved in their education. The teachers create student-focused lessons that engage the students and teach them how to contribute in and out of the classroom. The students participate in interdisciplinary lessons throughout the year to demonstrate the connection between the various content areas (science, history, math, and language arts and literacy). The students are held to high standards and are rewarded at the end of the school year with a trip to the Jersey Shore (a service-learning project and beach clean-up). The teachers provide examples and ways to engage students and get them involved in the learning process.

The **Make a Change Club** consists of twenty 8th grade students, encompassing a wide variety of socio-economic and multicultural backgrounds, who learn to use their voice and take civic action to make changes with projects and activities that reach the school, local, county, state, national, and global communities.

McGalliard School, Hamilton, NJ

McGalliard Proud!

Ann Wilmot, Counselor, awilmot@hamilton.k12.nj.us and Nate Webber, Principal

Description: Principal Nate Webber wrote *McGalliard Proud!* with the help of our former music teacher Janet Neis, who wrote the melody. The song was introduced to the greater school community at a Hamilton Township Board of Education meeting in the fall of 2012. The song is sung during our Monday morning community meetings on the playground and referenced daily as a guide for behavioral expectations. Students are reminded daily to say please and thank you in the lunchroom. Responsibility is encouraged by having students who are not meeting expectations meet with the principal regularly. Service learning opportunities throughout the current and last school year provide an opportunity to care for others.

Metuchen High School, Metuchen, NJ

Senior Seminar

Judy Cheung, Student Assistance Coordinator, jcheung@metboe.k12.nj.us

Description: Senior Seminar, presented in workshop format with a bagel breakfast, is designed to provide graduating seniors with information on how to stay motivated and achieve success post-high school, debt management and fiscal health, and differences in the law when a person becomes an adult. Feedback gathered each year shows consistently high ratings for the style of presentation, the guest speakers themselves, and information given.

Oxford Central School, Oxford, NJ

C.O.R.R.E.C.T Counts and It Starts With Me!

Pat Carr, teacher and Character Ed Coordinator, pcarr@oxfordcentral.org

Description: This campaign incorporated seven weeks of school-wide activities culminating with our "Celebration of CORRECT Character" assembly. On Mondays, students heard CORRECT announcements by our superheroes. On "Work-Out Wednesdays, students did jumping jacks, push-ups and more to emphasize strengthening good character. Friday mornings brought the whole school together singing our CORRECT School Song. A presentation of various activities demonstrating student understanding and practice of core values was shared in an assembly. Younger students learned the CORRECT Pledge and received an ID Card with the CORRECT Pledge printed on it. Grade 5-8 students participated in an "Academic Integrity" survey focusing on our values.

United Way of Northern New Jersey

School Support Network

Aileen Johnson, aileen.johnsen@unitewaynj.org

Description: The School Support Network brings together school educators and administrators that are proactively interested in addressing their culture and climate and supports their efforts to make lasting positive change in their schools. The Network provides a venue for schools to share ideas and expertise, as well as an opportunity for schools to build relationships with other schools. In addition, the School Support Network gives schools the chance to participate in professional development workshops and symposiums, and provides a way to keep abreast of developments and resources available to support culture and climate work.

West Milford Township High School, West Milford, NJ

Highlander Sports Community Kickoff and Sportsmanship

Joe Trentacosta, Athletic Director/Physical Education Supervisor, joe.trentacosta@wmtps.org

Description: The West Milford High School Athletic Department sponsored and organized a "Sports Community Kickoff Event" in September where anti-bullying expert Coach Randy Nathan spoke with our coaches, parents, and student athletes. Throughout the year, our athletic department, along with our student council, concentrated efforts on sportsmanship through various summits, leadership seminars with captains, school spirit, and community service at athletic events, illustrating a commitment to making a positive impact on social norms and culture.

Whippany Park High School, Whippany, NJ

Genocide Studies Gallery Walk Presentation

Rebecca Caridad, Art Teacher and Character Ed Coordinator, rcaridad@hpreg.org

Description: The gallery walk is a service learning presentation of student-generated work from the Genocide Studies program. The gallery walk evolved out of the Genocide Studies curriculum which was written with a service learning component as the capstone of the course. It was implemented by collecting student work over the duration of the semester courses while coordinating contributions from other departments and staff in order to involve the entire school community. A core leadership team that included the social studies supervisor, genocide studies teachers, and select students designed the layout and elements of the walk and also advertised the Gallery Walk to the community.