




Instilling Character & Social-Emotional Competency In Your School

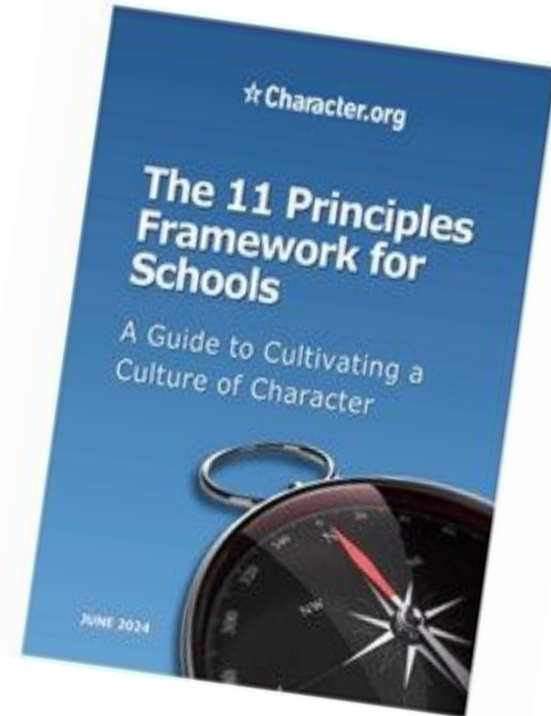
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Where to begin? Core Values!

- Survey stakeholder for core values
- Imbed core values throughout the school
- Develop Culture & Climate Team to create buy in among all stakeholder.
- Character Education Action Plan.





Three Keys: Surveys, Data & Reflection

Staff:

- Needs Survey
- Character Education/Skills

Students:

- Program Participation Interest
- Pre and Post Surveys for programming

Student/Staff/Parents:

- State of NJ Assessments
- Core Value and Character Education Programming
- Goal Setting & Reflection



Character Education Action Plan

- Goal Statement based on school needs and data.
- Objectives & Plan for Achieving Objectives
- Research Based
- Core values reflected
- Culture & Climate Team should include administrators, staff, families and community members.
- [Lakeview Example](#)



Staff Climate Improvement Ideas

- Staff Surveys
- Gift of Time and Snack Cart
- [Marching into March](#)
- Faculty Giveaways
- May PD Day





Service Learning: Not just Community Service

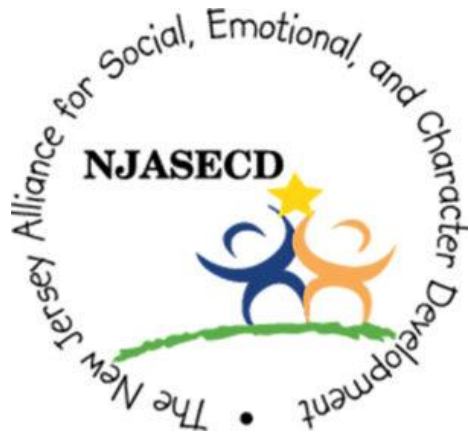
- **Student/Staff Voice**
- **Parent/Family Involvement**
- **Connection to Curriculum
And Community**

Survey
Student Form

Letter

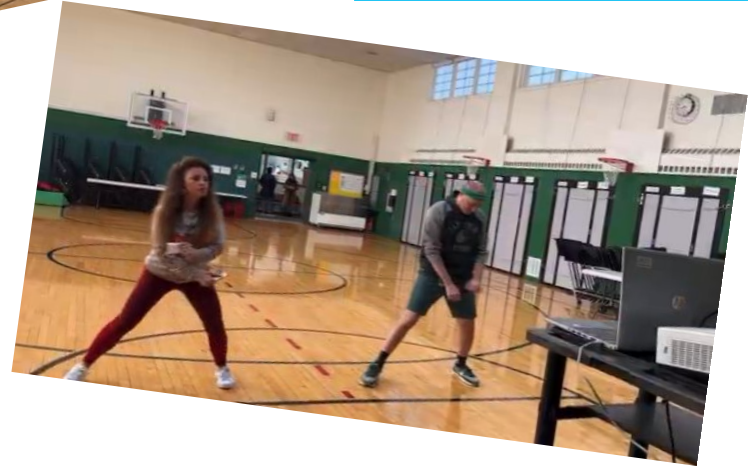
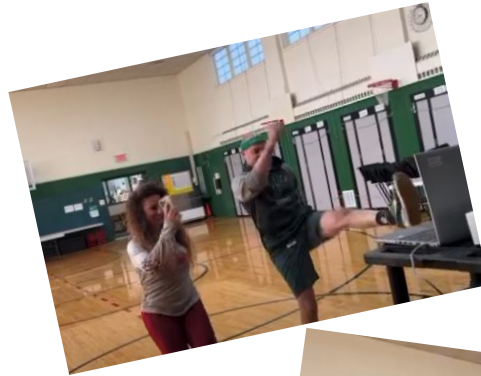
Video





Promising Practices

- Short Application
- School Recognition





Service Learning: Student Reflection Is the Key

- Character.org's recently revised and updated 11 Principles emphasize service learning, as opposed to community service.
- Community service is simply engaging in fundraising or some other activity, often for only one short event or period of time, with no reflection afterward by students.
- ***Service learning emphasizes student reflection on completed community service. Students must reflect on and communicate the need that a service learning project addressed, and how it impacted their own growth (i.e., what they learned from it.) The best service learning projects include student voice from start to finish. Students are involved in identifying a community need to be addressed, planning a project that will address it, and reflecting on what they learned through completing the project.***
- Important Note: Your school itself is a great community to serve! Even very young students can identify improvements they'd like to see in your school, offer new ideas for improvements, and reflect on how those ideas are working!



Helpful Tips To Make Things Easier!

- **Remember that surveys can also be small and informal!**
 - Schools seeking School of Character recognition should definitely plan to do at least one formal survey of students, staff and parents each year. However, a simple Google or paper survey can quickly add student voice to your latest idea!
- **School of Character recognition is “about process not perfection” for all of us!**
 - Keep trying new things, involving students in the planning, and getting their thoughts as you go! The only time an idea truly fails is when we don’t try it at all!
- **Most schools are already doing great things! Successful Schools of Character start by identifying what they already do that works, connecting those things to the 11 Principles, and building on what they already have!**



Schools of Character: Cooperative, Not Competitive!

- We are here to help!
 - Successful Schools of Character, including ours, got help from other successful schools along the way, and we continue to both learn from and support other schools' character education programs.
- **This work is a journey, not a destination.**
 - It takes time and your own plans will change, as they do in our own schools.
- Don't compare your school to other schools!
 - Compare your school now to how it used to be. That's all we look for in Schools of Character.
- When you leave this webinar, be sure to take time to celebrate one success you've already had in your work! Becoming a School of Character starts with simply identifying, celebrating and accumulating one small win after another.
- **Believe in yourselves! We believe in you!**



Contact Information

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