



LETTER TO PARENTS

Dear Parent,

To help us work together in strengthening the character of our students, we want you to be aware of the values we will be encouraging and learning about as we use CHARACTER COUNTS!.

National CHARACTER COUNTS! Week is a celebration of the values that form the core of this program: the Six Pillars of Character plus effective decision-making.

Trustworthiness. Build trust and credibility with *integrity* (consistency between beliefs, words and actions), *honesty* (truthfulness, sincerity and candor), *promise-keeping*, and *loyalty* (fidelity to family, friends and country).

Respect. Honor the worth and dignity of all individuals. Treat others the way they want to be treated. Act courteously, civilly, peaceably, and nonviolently. Be tolerant and accepting of differences. Avoid rude, offensive, and abusive words and actions.

Responsibility. Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes. Exercise self-control. Strive for excellence and self-improvement. Plan ahead. Set a good example for others. Be self-reliant, prudent, proactive, and hard-working.

Fairness. Be consistent, open, and treat all people equitably. Consider all sides and make decisions on the facts without favoritism or prejudice. Play by the rules, avoid careless accusations, and don't take undue advantage of others. Pursue justice and condemn injustice.

Caring. Show solidarity. Be kind, compassionate, empathetic, charitable, forgiving, and grateful.

Citizenship. Obey laws in good faith. Do your share to improve the well-being of fellow citizens and the community. Protect the environment, volunteer, and participate in the processes of democracy by staying informed and voting.

We encourage you to follow the T.E.A.M. strategy at home. It is the same one we will employ at school:

Teach children that their character counts.

Enforce the Six Pillars of Character.

Advocate character.

Model good behavior.

We also encourage you to offer opportunities for students to act in accordance with these values and to experience them in a meaningful way to help shape their character and strengthen their abilities as learners.

Sincerely,