

# Character Education



## Taking Character Education Beyond the Classroom

### What is “Character Education”?

Character Education is the process of helping all students and adults in our school district and community take ownership of and demonstrate the five character traits of:

- ★ Respect
- ★ Compassion
- ★ Responsibility
- ★ Honesty
- ★ Self-discipline

### What is the “Character Education” schedule?

#### Overview of the 5 Traits

*September*

#### **Respect**

*October - November*

#### **Compassion**

*November - December*

#### **Responsibility**

*January - February*

#### **Honesty**

*February - March*

#### **Self-discipline**

*March - May*

#### **Review, Reflect and Celebrate 5 Traits**

*May - June*

### Why do we have “Character Education”?

Character Education is founded on the belief that:

- ★ The five traits are important for the development of good character.
- ★ All students can learn that character education should be integrated at home, at school and in the community.
- ★ The character traits should be affirmed within the family, classroom and community.
- ★ The partnership between the family, schools and community is essential for successful character education.
- ★ As role models, all adults should adhere to the core values of character education.
- ★ Developing positive character traits is a life-long process that helps us in our daily choices.
- ★ The character traits can foster positive life skills, help us contribute as citizens and learn to live together.
- ★ Students themselves play an important role in learning, teaching and modeling the character traits.

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Community as a Classroom  
Business-Education Partnership.*

## What can I do to promote “Character Education”?

- ★ First, simply embrace the concept of Character Education.
- ★ Understand the 5 character traits.
- ★ Model the character traits when:
  - ◆ at home,
  - ◆ at work,
  - ◆ shopping,
  - ◆ driving,
  - ◆ at school,
  - ◆ at athletic events,
  - ◆ wherever you are,
  - ◆ and, of course, at home.
- ★ Encourage children to participate in *Character Works* through the local newspapers.



## What are the “5 Traits of Character Education”?

### Respect

Respect means recognizing the value of people, property, the environment and yourself.

### Compassion

Compassion is caring about how others feel and doing kind and thoughtful deeds for people.

### Responsibility

Responsibility is being dependable and accountable for your words and actions.

### Honesty

Honesty is being truthful.

### Self-discipline

Self-discipline is making good choices and having control over your thoughts and actions.

## What can businesses and organizations do to promote Character Education?

Send the message that ‘Character’ works and that it is expected in your establishment. Through the reinforcement communitywide from preschool to K12; from post secondary to adults, from private businesses to local government. We will ALL win!

- ★ Invite School District &/or Chamber of Commerce Staff to a business meeting at your facility to address the topic.
- ★ Display the Character Education posters & purchase signs for break rooms, in manufacturing areas, by time clocks, on company vehicles, on storefront windows etc.
- ★ Encourage employees to become informed & read news media related to School District news and the Character Education Initiative.
- ★ Have monthly/quarterly ‘Character’ luncheons for employees.
- ★ Use character traits in your employee performance reviews, job interview questions and job advancement criteria.
- ★ Add character traits to your employee handbook.
- ★ Nominate an employee with exemplary character for ‘Employee of the Month or Year’ award.
- ★ Put the Character Education logo on your website & link to the school district web site through it.
- ★ **Most importantly...lead by example – ‘Walk the Talk’.**

For more information on how to implement Character Education into your workplace, contact the Cambridge Area Chamber of Commerce at (763)689-2505 or through our website at [www.cambridge-chamber.com](http://www.cambridge-chamber.com)

For more information on Character Education in the school district, please contact the Department of Teaching and Learning at (763)689-6204 or through our website at [www.cambridge.k12.mn.us](http://www.cambridge.k12.mn.us).