



GOOD CHARACTER: IT'S NOT JUST FOR SCHOOL

We know families have the primary responsibility for teaching character, and we are not trying to replace the role of the family in a child's life. Our school system, like many others across the country, is responding to the community's renewed interest in developing positive character traits in our young people.

After extensive involvement, the School Board of Monroe County, has adopted eight character traits that will be infused throughout our curriculum and student activities:

Responsibility (August, September)	Respect (January)
Citizenship (October)	Integrity (February)
Honesty (November)	Cooperation (March)
Kindness (December)	Fairness (April)
Character Education Celebration Month (May)	

In addition to the core character traits, there will be other focus traits that will correlate to each monthly theme.

Just look at today's culture and it's obvious that one of the best ways to influence a child's behavior is through an adult role model. That is a key part of this new initiative - having respected adults model good character. When students, staff and community members model these traits, it is easier to provide quality education in a safe and secure learning environment.

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In order for the District to be successful in its efforts, we need the help, support, and cooperation from the entire community. The following are some tips for business to help their employees model the same Character Traits Monroe's public school students model and to support schools.

Display character education posters in locations where the general public as well as employees will see them.

Incorporate the character education logo in printed materials such as brochures, stationary, job applications, posters, etc.

When you participate in career days or other functions with students, talk about the importance of one or more of the traits - let students know you think the traits are important for "life beyond school."

If you sponsor events such as art shows, health fairs, or company picnics, adopt one or more of the traits as a theme for the event. Use the character logo in your promotional materials for the event.

Provide some type of recognition for employees' children who exhibit one of the traits in an exemplary manner.

Recognize employees who demonstrate these traits.

Ask other organizations/firms with which you are involved to display the poster or logo.

Provide funding for items such as pencils or stickers with the character logo or traits for teachers to use to recognize students who exhibit the traits.

If you use student volunteers or employees, ask them to give you examples of how they've demonstrated the character traits as part of the interview process and/or as you give them feedback on their performance.

If you have a marquis, publicize the trait of the month for all to see.