

## Character Education Meeting

January 23, 2013

Thank you so much for participating in the character education meeting today. You generated so many good ideas. This building really is amazing!

Attendees: Lisa, Julie E. Grayson, Joe, Janice, Michelle, Ann, Julie D. Kristen

Next Meeting TBA

Notes and reflections from meeting: (see chalk talk posters in the lounge)

### ***How to reinforce school-wide, classroom, individuals...***

- Importance of school-wide program and consistency
- Monthly themes
- Cardinal Kids
- Assemblies – grade level presents a trait to rest of school through skit or song, etc.
- School-wide integration with 100% participation
- Create community by getting to know other students in other grades.
- All school buy in...teachers, students, support staff, Team building to create respect, responsibility, integrity, ownership, leadership, kindness.
- Parent presentation on raising boys
- Club of parents and teachers working together – choose a books on issues surrounding raising children
- Coffee and conversation – book club, choose a book that highlights program goals.
- Provide scenarios to problem solve and act out and discuss with students
- “I am third” – Grayson and Julie E.
- Visible recognition – acts of kindness – Julie E.
- Catch students doing the right things – Ann L. ideas from her son’s schools
- Reviewed previous list and poster of character traits that were used at Costello years ago.

### ***Outcomes that we want as a result of C.E....***

- Student understanding of how their behavior impacts others
- Class meetings to role play how to handle situations
- Give kids resources for how to handle situations that are difficult
- Students becoming more aware of their behaviors, responsibility
- Create awareness of traits, have students identify through their reading characters that exemplify the traits. Application...ties in to explaining/justifying opinions
- Character traits taught become intrinsic behaviors for students.
- Helping student understand how important it is to have students care about each other
- Students feeling better about themselves.
- Promotes confidence
- Something that we can build on from year to year.
- Team – we are all on same page and here to support one another
- Helps students believe in themselves and know they can make a difference. Ways that students will be better citizens.
- Making good choices for themselves, being responsible for their own choices and not the the choices of others...we can only control our own actions. Having conversations about this so that kids get it.

### ***Components of a quality ed program...***

- Conflict mediation
- Schoolwide, classroom, individual
- Traits carried beyond classroom
- Labeling student behaviors and staff – so they understand what we want to see more – explicit examples
- Regular activities, PR through signage, PTO
- All inclusive – everyone is part of it

- Consistency, building-wide
- Seeing how character helps you to be the best you can be
- Importance of how C.E. builds relationships and helps student to be the best they can be.

For the next meeting...(Date TBA)

- Provide a 5 minute blurb of a program that you would like the team/school to try to promote in the area of character education. Provide something that the team can walk away thinking about. This might be a clip of a school that is using a program, a binder from another school's program, someone from another school to describe a program. You may want to team up to do this.
- Future implications: The logistics that need to be considered and addressed...
  - With limited time already we don't want C.E. to take up too much academic time...how much time per week, month, etc?
  - How to make it school-wide? Family Circle, assemblies, theme lessons, individual recognition (Michelle mentioned OWL...every student would write to another student each week about how they promoted character traits, nobody left out)

Questions Discussed...

What are the outcomes that we want as a result of a character education program?

Should we have a character education program? If so, WHY?

What are the components of a quality character education?

Ideas for establishing school-wide program, logistics to reinforce...school-wide, classroom, individuals...

What are the most important character qualities that we want our students to have?