

**Best Character Education Practices
For the School Year 2008-2009
found on our website at www.mdctrcharacter.org**

January -- Baltimore Co. .— Pikesville Middle
February— Anne Arundel Co.— South Shore Elementary
March— Worcester Co.— Snow Hill Elementary
April— Baltimore Co.— St. Pius X School
May— Howard Co. — Howard High
June— Anne Arundel Co.— The Children’s Guild
July— Somerset Co.— Princess Anne Elementary
August— Talbot Co.— St. Michaels Middle/High
September— Charles Co.— Thomas Stone High
October— Harford Co.— North Bend Elementary
November— Wicomico Co.— Willards Elementary
December— Frederick Co. .— Urbana Middle School

**Best Practices for the Month of December:
Congratulations: Urbana Middle School**

Best Practices for the Month of December:

Urbana Middle School
3511 Pontius Court
Ijamsville, Maryland 21754

Principal: Gwendolyn Dorsey
Gwendolyn.Dorsey@fcps.org

Click on the following link to review the selected “Best Practice”

<http://www.mdctrcharacter.org/best%20practices.shtml>

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Best Practice for the Month of December Urbana Middle School

BEST CHARACTER EDUCATION PRACTICES

School: Urbana Middle School



Award Recognition



Display Exhibit

Primary Principles Emphasized: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8

Objective: To assist student in becoming good citizens by developing a school wide program that emphasizes consistent rules, empathy, and leadership skills. Students are rewarded for demonstrating the expected behavior.

Urbana Middle School utilizes two models for shaping student behavior and building character, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. Both of these programs are undergirded by Urbana Middle School's core values:

- Display honesty and integrity in all interactions.
- Demonstrate empathy, caring, and respect for all.
- Create and maintain a safe school climate.
- Understand and celebrate the strength of diversity—locally, nationally, and internationally.
- Cultivate a positive, stimulating, and collaborative working environment in which all staff are dedicated to helping students learn and grow.
- Orient all of our efforts towards high achievement for all students



New > U.S. > Education

Frederick County, Urbana Middle School Hit Back At Bullies? Not At This School

by [Larry Abramson](#)

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=125137071>

Urbana Middle School, Frederick Maryland MCCE@SU 2008-2009 School of the Year Winner

March 25, 2010



Jay Kulkarni and his lunch mates at Urbana Middle School near Frederick, Md., all say they have been bullied. But they are learning how to fight back — by not fighting back. Instead, their school tries to address the culture of bullying and teaches kids how to deal with the problem.

The cafeteria at Urbana Middle School outside Frederick, Md., is a happy, sunny place, redolent of corn chips and pizza, the daily special.

A group of sixth-grade boys look up from their food. Question: Do you guys all feel like at some point in your lives, somebody has bullied you? Answer: a chorus of "yeah!"

Stupid question. Of course they have: They're middle schoolers.

'Twas ever thus, right? But Principal Frank Vetter says it doesn't have to be that way.

"Most parents," he says, "commiserate with me, and say, 'You work at a middle school!' People sort of remember back to how challenging that time was. So anything we can do to help kids, parents will be supportive of."

That's why the [Olweus Bullying Prevention Program](http://www.clemson.edu/olweus/) (<http://www.clemson.edu/olweus/>) tries to turn anti-bullying efforts into part of the school culture, rather than just the topic of an occasional assembly.



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Continued

The "Circle of Bullying" illustrates how the social phenomenon works and shows the roles — bully, victim, supporters, followers, defenders — of those involved.

The concepts are simple: Don't bully, help those who are being bullied and tell an adult what's going on. Pearre tries to reinforce the idea that the bully doesn't act alone. The community can take away the bully's power by refusing to cheer him on, by telling an adult, or perhaps the ultimate step: stepping in to help the victim.

"Sometimes they are not mature enough to make that step yet," Pearre says. "But we're just as happy if they let us know, and we can intervene.

Creating An Anti-Bullying Culture

One of the most important things they do at Urban Middle is talk about bullying. It's more than just a response to occasional incidents: It's part of the curriculum. In one classroom, teacher Leslie Pearre shows slides that illustrate how this social phenomenon works.

"This is the circle of bullying," Pearre explains during a classroom meeting devoted to the subject. She points to a chart that illustrates the roles: passive supporters, followers, the bully, the victim, and possible defenders.

Watching this class, any former middle schooler might recoil and think, "It's wrong to rat on friends." And student Jay Kulkarni voiced what every boy listening to this lesson had to be thinking: "So if someone comes up to you and like, punches you, or does something physically violent, how do you defend yourself? Do you just stand there and watch?"

Don't let it get to that point, kids are told. Don't resort to violence, because it's wrong. And, as Pearre explains, it will land you in even bigger trouble.

"Frederick County Public Schools has a zero-tolerance policy for any kind of physical violence," she warns.

Staying out of fights isn't just a good idea; it's the law. And principal Vetter says he's out to stop bullying in part because he must.

"The state of Maryland requires that we report all bullying incidents, all incidents of harassment. They require various interventions that we do."

The kids seem to be absorbing this idea. But researcher Catherine Bradshaw of Johns Hopkins University, who has worked with this school system, says getting through to parents isn't as easy.



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Continued

"We've done research on this issue, and quite often parents will tell their kids, 'Don't get into fights, don't do that. But if somebody hits you, you better hit back.' And sometimes that's where the rub is, between messages they hear at home and what is the reality in the school setting."

Talking The Talk

Bradshaw says these programs can be successful if they are consistent. That means a school has to keep at it, since new kids enter the school throughout the year. Sixth-grader Jay Kulkarni has certainly learned to talk to the talk.

"I think these discussions are very productive, because we're not influenced to be the bully," Jay says, while his friends crowd around, vying for their chance to talk to a reporter. "I think the bully is very insecure when he bullies, because maybe he or she has a bad life at home or gets abused by parents."

Jay sounds like he may have a future as a social worker. Or he may just have a better chance of avoiding the intimidation that is standard fare for many kids.

Though this stuff is hard to measure, a recent study suggests it may be working. On a national survey funded by the Department of Justice, students reported fewer incidents of bullying.

Promising Practices Awards: Due March 15, 2011

CEP gives annual Promising Practices (PP) awards in character education for unique and specific exemplary practices. Selected schools and districts receive an award certificate at the Promising Practices awards ceremony at the CEP Forum. In addition, descriptions of the winning practices appear on CEP's website. PP applications must be submitted online by March 15, 2011.

(See separate Promising Practices award application online.)

<http://www.character.org/promisingpractices>



Integrity Do You Have It?

Oprah Winfrey once said, “Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that no one is going to know whether you did or not.” One of the most important character traits a person can develop is integrity. It is a core quality, that is necessary for leading a successful life. Integrity means being honest, trustworthy, and truthful no matter what.

Each year we test our character with the New Year’s resolutions that we make. Where we promise ourselves to make a change for the better. So this year, when you decide to stop this or start that, remember, it is all about our integrity and the promise that we make to ourselves.

“Integrity is what we do, what we say, and what we say we do.” — Don Galer

Author Unknown: Unity

UNITY

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there,
The clay they used was a young child’s mind,
And they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher, the tools he used
Were books and music and art;
One a Parent with a guiding hand,
And a gentle loving heart,
Day after day the teacher toiled,
With a touch that was deft and pure,
While the parent labored by his side
And polished and smoothed it o’er.
And when at last their work was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought,
For the thing they had molded into the child,
Could neither be sold or bought.
And each agreed he would have failed,
If he had worked along,
For behind the parent stood the school,
And behind the teacher, the home..



Arundel High Going GloCal

Arundel High Going GloCal – Below is a link to Arundel’s ” GloCal” Citizenship Program webpage which corresponds to the Signature Program that they use. You will find all the information regarding what a “Signature” is and why Arundel High chose Community Development and GloCal Citizenship as their Signature.

Click on the link below:

<http://glocalsignature.edublogs.org/>

Here is a link to a recent write up done on Arundel High’s signature program by the “Odenton Patch” local newspaper. <http://odenton.patch.com/articles/arundel-going-glocal>

If you have any questions about this program you can contact,

Sherri Bellheimer

SBilleimer@AACPS.org

Arundel High School

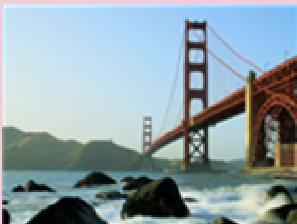
Signature Program Facilitator

“Community Development and Global Citizenship”

Upcoming Conferences: ASCD

Founded in 1943, ASCD (formerly the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) is an educational leadership organization dedicated to advancing best practices and policies for the success of each learner. Our 160,000 members in 148 countries are professional educators from all levels and subject areas—superintendents, supervisors, principals, teachers, professors of education, and school board members.

Our nonprofit, nonpartisan membership association provides expert and innovative solutions in professional development, capacity building, and educational leadership essential to the way educators learn, teach, and lead.



2011 Annual Conference

Bold Actions For Complex Challenges
March 26-28, 2011, San Francisco, Calif.

Join us in San Francisco for our 2011 Annual Conference and Exhibit Show! Information is now available.

<http://www.ascd.org/conferences.aspx>

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The Maryland Center for
Character Education *at*
Stevenson University



Hanukkah— Begins at Sundown
on December 1



Kwanzaa—December 26



Christmas—December 25

Happy Holiday's
From the
MCCE@SU
Board

