

BUILDING CHARACTER



Carroll County Public Schools

JANUARY 2009



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

At this time of year, we make New Year's resolutions, promising ourselves to make a change for the better. Integrity, honesty, self-trust - these are what New Year's resolutions are really about. So this year, when you decide to stop this or start that, remember that it is a test of character. Will you fulfill your promises ... even to yourself? By demonstrating integrity and trustworthiness, we set a high standard of character for ourselves and those around us.



Some quotes on Integrity

"It is better to deserve honors and not have them, than to have them and not deserve them."

- Mark Twain

"Integrity is what we do, what we say, and what we say we do."

-- Don Galer

"There is no pillow so soft as a clear conscience."

- French proverb

"It takes less time to do a thing right than it does to explain why you did it wrong."

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



During the 1985 racquetball world finals match, there was a competitor named Ruben Gonzalez who returned a shot to win the tournament. Every referee declared it a legal spike. Gonzalez, though, saw that his shot had skipped into the wall hitting the floor first, and disqualified himself from the match, allowing his opponent to seize victory. When journalists asked him why he did such a strange thing, Gonzalez replied, "It was the only thing I could do to maintain my integrity."

Integrity is an important character trait in which a person acts upon what they truly believe to be right. Maintaining integrity allows one to be trusted at a level unattainable to those who are not consistent with their morality and character.



OUR CHARACTER IS SHOWING! HOW ARE CCPS STUDENTS PROMOTING AND MODELING CHARACTER?

Westminster Elementary - "Make it a C-2 Day"
Teachers award certificates to students when they're observed going above and beyond what they should be doing, without being asked. Students can exchange these certificates for rewards!

East Middle School - Impact
Over 60 students determine monthly activities that will benefit the school and the community. Recently they adopted a family for the holiday season and had a canned food drive.

Westminster High School - Stand Up!
A group with the desire and purpose of breaking down barriers between students on issues related to race, religion, sexual orientation, and other factors that make school a diverse place to safely study and learn.

Some quotes on Trustworthiness

"A man who doesn't trust himself can never really trust anyone else."

- Cardinal de Retz

"Trust in yourself. Your perceptions are often far more accurate than you are willing to believe."

- Claudia Black

"Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none."

- William Shakespeare

"To be trusted is a greater compliment than to be loved."

- George MacDonald

