

Maryland's 2015 Finalist, State Schools of Character and Honorable Mention

Each year, Character.org (formerly the Character Education Partnership), and its state affiliates select schools and districts that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development that has a true positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior, and school climate. Schools announced below that are SSOC will be forwarded on to the national evaluation process for consideration to be National Schools of Character. Colonel Richardson Middle School was a 2014 SSOC school, so their application was automatically forwarded for consideration to be a National School of Character.

The 2015 National Schools of Character will be announced in mid May at a press conference in Washington, D.C.

The schools listed below will be honored at the Maryland Center for Character Education (MCCE@SU) 2015 Awards Program on October 8, 2015 at Stevenson University.

FINALIST

Colonel Richardson Middle School – Caroline County

SSOC

Catoctin High School – Frederick County

Francis Scott Key High School – Carroll County

Francis Scott Key Middle School – Montgomery County

Lexington Park Elementary School – St. Mary's County

Magnolia Elementary School – Harford County

North Salisbury Elementary School – Wicomico County

Oakwood Elementary School – Anne Arundel County

Queen Anne's County High School – Queen Anne's County

Shiloh Middle School – Carroll County

Thurmont Elementary School – Frederick County

HONORABLE MENTION

Dundalk High School – Baltimore County

North Caroline High School – Caroline County

Norwood Elementary School – Baltimore County

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Don't Forget!

MCCE@SU
Application can be
found on our website.
Check menu on left.

www.mdctrcharacter.org



**MCCE@SU 2015 “School of the Year”
Awards Program
October 8, 2015
Stevenson University, Owings Mills Campus**

MCCE@SU 2015 “School of the Year” Award

The Maryland Center for Character Education at Stevenson University (MCCE@SU) is planning the 2015 Awards Conference to honor schools throughout MD who have instituted, developed, and are continuing comprehensive character education initiatives in their school communities. It is a goal of MCCE@SU to promote Character Education throughout the state of Maryland. Again this year we are encouraging every school throughout the state that has developed a comprehensive character education program to apply for this prestigious award. We are hoping that you will help us achieve this goal.

There is no limit as to how many times you can apply for our award. If you have any questions just let me know. You can contact me by e-mail at MCCEcharacter@aol.com or at 352-728-8771.

MCCE@SU’s 2014—2015 “School of the Year” Award application can be found on our website, along with CEP’s Quality Standards and 11 Principles of Effective Character Education. Visit our website at www.mdctrcharacter.org where you will find the documents you need under the menu on the left.

I look forward to receiving your applications!

Linda Muska, MCCE@SU, Executive Coordinator
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352-728-8771



Best Practice for the Month of March Warwick Elementary, Dorchester County

BEST CHARACTER EDUCATION PRACTICES

School: Warwick Elementary School
Address: 155 Main Street, P.O. Box 549
 Secretary, MD 21664
Phone: 410-943-3588
Contact: Amy Hudock, Principal
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Title of Best Practice: Character Education and PBIS

Objectives: To provide students with the opportunity to learn and apply character education principles on a daily basis

Primary Principles Emphasized: 1, 2, & 4

Brief Description:

Warwick Elementary School is a small, rural elementary school with about 350 students located in Dorchester County. Our school includes grades Pre-K through 5th. We are fortunate to have wonderful parental and community support. Warwick Elementary's vision statement is: Warwick Elementary School will provide an environment that is welcoming, safe, and supportive while nurturing students to be motivated, respectful, innovative thinkers who will be college and career ready. We have incorporated the six pillars of Character Counts through both our Winners Walk Tall program, our PAWS program, and our SEFEL program.

Currently, we have all grade levels, except Pre-K, receiving instruction in the six pillars. Our Character Coaches come to school on a weekly basis to instruct all our students in the pillars. Parent volunteers serve as our Character Coaches. They have all shown a great commitment to making certain all students are aware of the pillars which make up good character. After the lessons, teachers reinforce these values in their classrooms through student of the week activities.

We also have developed a school-wide PAWS program through our PBIS initiative. As a school, we have identified three behaviors which are expected of all students. These are: be respectful, be responsible and safe, and be ready to learn. All classroom teachers teach lessons during the school year to reinforce these behaviors. They engage the students in a variety of ways in order to have them become aware about how these behaviors sound and look through- out the school. All staff members were also trained, during staff meetings, about these behaviors and what to look for the students doing. When a student in the school exhibits one of these behaviors, they can earn a paw print which they can turn in for prizes. At the end of each term a large celebration is held to recognize those students who have earned 100 or more paw prints.

Through-out the school year, Warwick Elementary School works with students, staff, and parents to create and maintain an environment which supports and expands on the six pillars recognized by Character Counts.

Best Practice for the Month of March Warwick Elementary, Dorchester County

Principle #1: Effective character education promotes core ethical values as well as supportive performance values as the foundation of good character.

During the last three years Warwick Elementary has made a commitment to establishing and maintaining a set of core values. Our PBIS team has defined three core values and behaviors which are expected from our students. These values are: be respectful, be responsible and safe, and be ready to learn. As a team, we identified the behaviors which students should exhibit throughout the school to support these values. A poster has been placed in each area of the school detailing the behaviors which should be exhibited in order to support these three values. Our classroom teachers and special teachers taught lessons in order to reinforce and define these behaviors for their students. These lessons are repeated periodically during the school year. This school year we also started a SEFEL program for our Pre-K, K, and 1st grade students. This is a more intensive program set up to work on establishing positive relationships, expressing feelings, and learning the core values which make a successful student.

Principle #2: Effective character education defines “character” comprehensively to include thinking, feeling, and behavior.

On a weekly basis, our Character Coaches meet with students in grades K – 5. These Character Coaches are volunteers from the community who take their time to come and talk with our students about the six pillars. These Character Coaches use a variety of strategies to teach our students about the six pillars. They are very committed to having our students learn and practice these values. Their message is reinforced in the classroom by the teachers with follow up lessons. The school counselor also is involved in talking about these values with classes on a regular basis. These values are practiced in the building by use of our PAWS and SEFEL projects.

Principle #4: Effective character education creates a caring school community.

Our school makes it a priority to foster strong relationships between our staff and students. The SEFEL initiative has created a strong basis for relationship building in the early grades. Teachers work daily with their students to create not only caring relationships with them, but also to have the students build caring relationships with each other. They do this through role playing, social stories, and encouragement bulletin boards. The intermediate grades in school also work regularly on creating these relationships. Students are recognized for their positive behavior toward classmates and other students. Many of our students volunteer to be tutors for the younger students in the building. They will go to their classrooms in the mornings in order to assist them with learning reading and/or math skills. Our 4th and 5th grades serve as safety patrol members. They station themselves in halls around the school in the morning and afternoon. Their job is to make sure the students are walking in the building. Bullying is not tolerated or accepted at Warwick Elementary. We have bully prevention lessons taught to all students during the school year. The students are instructed in what bullying looks like, how to stop it, how to report it, and how to avoid being a bystander. The students design and created posters to exhibit around the school to remind students that bullying is not accepted at Warwick Elementary.

Character Education Resources

Center for Character and Citizenship

www.characterandcitizenship.org

CCC originates, publishes and disseminates knowledge gained through research into the development of moral and civic character. Dr. Marvin Berkowitz, renowned for his work on social-emotional-moral development, directs the work of the center. Programs and services focus on helping schools, teachers and parents build good character in children and young adults.

The Character Education Partnership

www.character.org

The Character Education Partnership is a nonpartisan coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to developing young people of good character who are responsible and caring. CEP serves as a national clearinghouse and support center for reputable organizations and individuals with activities, programs and services that promote character development in children and young adults.

Character Plus

www.characterplus.org

Having good character means understanding, caring about, and acting upon core ethical values such as honesty, respect, and responsibility. CHARACTER*plus*, an initiative of Cooperating School Districts, is devoted to advancing the cause and importance of character education. This organization is designed to address issues related to student character, responsibility, and academic achievement. CHARACTER*plus* provides quality training, resources, and leadership to help parents and schools accomplish one of their most important jobs – the character development of the next generation.

Character Counts Mid Shore

www.charactercountsmidshore.com

Welcome to Character Counts Mid Shore! We create numerous opportunities for people of all ages to think about the importance of good character in our society. Our projects provide various "delivery systems" to get the message out to all citizens that Character indeed Counts!

Check this out: Information about Organizations that send Students Abroad visit:

<http://landing.eftours.com>

<http://globalworkstravel.com>

<http://landing.smithsonianstudenttravel.com>

<http://www.transitionsabroad.com>

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The Maryland Center for
Character Education at
Stevenson University



Daylight Saving Time Begins!

(Clocks Forward)

March 8th



**Happy St. Patrick's Day
March 17th**



First Day of Spring

March 20th

"Character Education is not a program — it's a way of life."