

Character.org Designates 83 Schools 4 Districts as 2017 National Schools of Character

Program developed in 1998 has positively impacted the lives of 2 million students

Washington, D.C. (May 8, 2017)— Character.org, the nonprofit organization that validates character initiatives in schools and communities around the world, today designated 83 schools and 4 districts from 21 states as 2017 National Schools and Districts of Character.

The School District of South Milwaukee is the only Wisconsin district currently designated as a National District of Character. South Milwaukee School Superintendent Rita Olson announced the news at a recent staff meeting. “This recognition is a testament to the hard work and relentless focus on character that our schools and community support. We are committed to educating the whole child and this is one way that we prepare our students for a successful future,” remarked Olson.

Since the inception of Character.org’s Schools of Character program in 1998, 474 schools and 30 districts have been designated as National Schools or Districts of Character, impacting more than 1.5 million students’ lives. (*A complete list of the 2017 National Schools and Districts of Character is included at bottom of this release*). In addition, this year, 3 Mexico schools have applied for our Mexico School of Character designation. All designees will be announced at a [press event](#) in the nation’s capital, Washington, D.C., on May 23. The event will be held in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, room G11 from 10:00-11:00 ET and will be live-streamed across the nation. The announcement is being sponsored by Senator James Lankford (R-OK).

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 programs and a positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior, school climate and their communities. Schools and districts selected in January as State Schools of Character, along with those schools who reapplied in their 3-year designation, were forwarded to Character.org for consideration for national recognition as [National Schools of Character](#).

Through an in-depth and rigorous evaluation process, these schools were found to be exemplary models of character development. Of the schools named today, 17 schools are former National Schools of Character reapplying for the national designation. Criteria for selection are based on Character.org’s [11 Principles of Effective Character Education](#), a framework to assist schools in providing students with opportunities for moral action, fostering shared leadership and engaging families and communities as partners in the character-building effort.

“At Character.org, we are extremely proud of this year’s National Schools of Character as well as our district recipients. Their dedication to character development has proven over time to increase the well-being of so many students, their families and their communities across the United States and beyond,” said Doug Karr, Character.org’s President & CEO. He continued, “Validating character initiatives is at the core of what we do because it creates fertile conditions for multi-generational character growth where



Press Contact: Sheril Morgan, sheril@character.org 202.469.7859

students and those in their lives thrive as ethical members of our society. The students of National Schools of Character are developing a lifelong skillset that they will leverage well into their adult lives."

Character.org will honor the designated schools and districts at its 24th [National Forum on Character Education](#) to be held the weekend of October 20-21, 2017, in Arlington, VA. Visit www.character.org to learn more about the National Forum, the Schools of Character program (State & National) and the 2017 national honorees.

About Character.org: Founded in 1993, Character.org, is a national nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. The mission of the organization is to provide leadership and advocacy for character worldwide. It is dedicated to help people everywhere become educated, inspired and empowered to be ethical and compassionate citizens. Character.org validates character initiatives in schools, sports, families and the workplace through certifications and sharing of best practices. Results of effective character initiatives in schools typically include improved academic achievement, a decline in behavioral problems and an increase in an overall positive school climate.

About Character Education: Character education is an approach to school culture and climate improvement that supports the social, emotional and ethical development of students. It is the proactive and intentional effort by schools, districts, communities and states to help students develop important core ethical (recognizing what's right) and performance (doing what's right) values such as caring, honesty, diligence, fairness, fortitude, responsibility, grit, creativity, critical thinking and respect for self and others.

2017 National Districts of Character

Illinois

Belleville Public Schools District

118

Belleville, Illinois

Public•Pre-K-8

Missouri

Parkway School District

Chesterfield, MO

Public•K-12

New Jersey

New Providence School District

New Providence, NJ

Public•K-12

Wisconsin

School District of South

Milwaukee

South Milwaukee, WI

Public•Pre-K-12

2017 National Schools of Character

*indicates that the school is re-certifying as a National School of Character.

Alabama

*Shades Cahaba

Homewood, Alabama

Public•K-5

Arizona

Imagine Desert West

Phoenix, AZ

Charter•K-8



Press Contact: Sheril Morgan, sheril@character.org 202.469.7859

Imagine East Mesa
Mesa, AZ
Charter•Pre-K-8

Imagine Prep Surprise
Surprise, AZ
Charter•6-12

California Wells Middle School
Dublin, CA
Public•6-8

Colorado Imagine Charter School at Firestone
Firestone, CO
Charter•Pre-K-8

Parker Core Knowledge Charter School
Parker, CO
Charter•K-8

Connecticut Breakthrough Magnet School
Hartford, CT
Public•Pre-K-8

District of Columbia Sheridan School
Washington, D.C.
Private•K-8

Florida *Carrollwood Day School
Tampa, FL
Private•Pre-K-12

***Cimino Elementary School**
Valrico, FL
Public•Pre-K-5

Imagine Schools Chancellor Campus
Boynton Beach, FL
Charter•K-8

Ridgecrest Elementary School
Largo, FL
Public•Pre-K-5

Hawaii *Sacred Hearts Academy
Honolulu, HI
Private•Pre-K-12

Idaho Betty Kiefer Elementary
Rathdum, ID
Public•K-6

Kansas McClure Elementary School
Topeka, KS
Public•Pre-K-5

Massachusetts *Montrose School
Medfield, MA
Private•6-12

Michigan James R. Geisler Middle School
Commerce Towns, MI
Public•6-8

Missouri Alma Schrader Elementary School

Cape Girardeau, MO
Public•K-4

Carman Trails Elementary School
Manchester, MO
Public•K-5

***Francis Howell Middle School**
St. Charles, MO
Public•6-8

***George Guffey Elementary**
Fenton, MO
Public•K-6

Green Pines Elementary
Wildwood, MO
Public•K-4

Green Trails Elementary
Chesterfield, MO
Public•K-5

***Kehrs Mill Elementary**
Chesterfield, MO
Public•K-5

***Kellison Elementary School**
Fenton, MO
Public•K-5

Kennard Classical Junior Academy
St. Louis, MO
Public•Pre-K-5

Lindbergh Early Childhood
St. Louis, MO
Public•Pre-K

***Northview High School**
Florissant, MO
Public•9-12

Parkway Northeast Middle School
Creve Coeur, MO
Public•6-8
Parkway Southwest Middle School
Manchester, MO
Public•6-8

Rockwood Early Childhood
Chesterfield, MO
Public•Pre-K

Stanton Elementary
Fenton, MO
Public•K-5

***Trautwein Elementary**
St. Louis, MO
Public•K-5

Wild Horse Elementary
Chesterfield, MO
Public•K-5

New Jersey
A. Russell Knight Elementary
School
Cherry Hill, NJ
Public•K-5

Burlington County Alternative
School
Mount Laurel, NJ
Public•6-12



Press Contact: Sheril Morgan, sheril@character.org 202.469.7859

Campbell Elementary School

Metuchen, NJ

Public•1-4

Central Elementary School

East Hanover, NJ

Public•3-5

Cinnaminson Middle School

Cinnaminson, NJ

Public•6-8

***Eldridge Park School**

Lawrenceville, NJ

Public•K-3

Harrison Elementary School

Roselle, NJ

Public•1-4

Jonas Salk Middle School

Old Bridge, NJ

Public•6-8

Maple Road Elementary School

West Milford, NJ

Public•PreK-6

Merriam Avenue School

Newton, NJ

Public•Pre-K-4

Morgan Elementary School

Hamilton, NJ

Public•Pre-K-5

New Brunswick Middle School

New Brunswick, NJ

Public•6-8

Paradise Knoll

Oak Ridge, NJ

Public•K-6

***Richard Stockton Elementary School**

Cherry Hill, NJ

Public•K-5

***Rosa International Middle School**

Cherry Hill, NJ

Public•6-8

Somerset Intermediate School

North Plainfield, NJ

Public•5-6

***South Brunswick High School**

Monmouth Junction, NJ

Public•9-12

Tinton Falls Middle School

Tinton Falls, NJ

Public•6-8

Toms River High School East

Toms River, NJ

Public•9-12

Upper Greenwood Lake Elementary School

Hewitt, NJ

Public•Pre-K-6

Washington Elementary School

Roselle, NJ

Public•1-4

Whitehouse Elementary School

Whitehouse Station, NJ

Public•K-3

Yardville School

Hamilton, NJ

Public•Pre-K-5

***Zane North Elementary School**

Collingswood, NJ

Public•Pre-K-5

**New York
Grand Avenue School**

North Baldwin, NY

Public•K-5

Valley Stream North

Franklin Square, NY

Public•7-12

West Patent Elementary School

Bedford Hills, NY

Public•K-5

North Carolina**Erwin Montessori Elementary**

Greensboro, NC

Public•Pre-K-5

Grimsley High School

Greensboro, NC

Public•9-12

Haynes-Inman Education Center

Jamestown, NC

Public•Pre-K-12

James Benson Dudley High School

Greensboro, NC

Public•9-12

Sumner Elementary School

Greensboro, NC

Public•K-5

Oklahoma**Dove Science Academy Elementary**

Oklahoma City, OK

Charter•K-5

Dove Science Academy-OKC

Oklahoma City, OK

Charter•6-12

Eisenhower High School

Lawton, OK

Public•9-12

Pryor Junior High

Pryor, OK

Public•7-9

Whittier Elementary School

Muskogee, OK

Public•K-6

South Carolina**Harrisburg Elementary School**

Indian Land, South Carolina

Public•K-5

Texas**Clear Lake City Elementary School**

Houston, TX



Press Contact: Sheril Morgan, sheril@character.org 202.469.7859

Public•Pre-K-5

Indian Springs Elementary School

San Antonio, TX

Public•K-5

John F. Ward Elementary School

Houston, TX

Public•K-5

Lakeside Elementary School

Coppell, TX

Public•K-5

***Mockingbird Elementary School**

Coppell, TX

Public•K-5

Richard J. Lee Elementary School

Dallas, TX

Public•K-5

Samuel Beck Elementary School

Trophy Club, TX

Public•K-5

Sandra Mossman Elementary School

League City, TX

Public•K-5

T.E. Baxter Elementary School

Midlothian, TX

Public•Pre-K-5

Wisconsin

Greenwood Elementary School

River Falls, WI

Public•K-5