



Character Education at Beacon Academy

Beacon Academy's emphasis on character education is tied to the desire of the school founders to establish an environment of caring behavior conducive to learning, and is included within the school mission statement: *"To provide Twin Cities families with proven, rigorous and content-rich curriculum integrated with sequential Spanish language instruction. The school will create a results-driven small learning community built around a culture of positive character development and committed parental involvement."*

The research, materials and focus of character education at Beacon Academy is based on the work of Search Institute, Wise Skills Resources, Core Virtues and Being Your Best Character for Kids. Other resources supplement these materials. Teachers are given a character ed resource packet each month.

Each month a different character theme is the focus for the school assembly and classroom activities. There is a school wide effort to reinforce, recognize and integrate the theme throughout the classrooms, hallways, lunchroom and curriculum. "Character Cards" that catch children practicing the character trait are developed and passed out for each theme and a homework sheet is sent home to parents in a Thursday envelope to discuss the topic at home each month. Many monthly themes include some type of service project, but December's primary theme is Service to Others.

The following themes are proposed for the 2009-10 school year:

September: Achievement Motivation

October: Health and Wellness

November: Peaceful Conflict Resolution

December: Cheerful Givers

January: Ethnicity/World Perspectives

February: Reading for Pleasure

March: Youth as Resources

April: Positive View of Personal Future

May: Caring Neighborhood