

CHARACTER EDUCATION AT G.T. NORMAN ELEMENTARY
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This past September G. T. Norman Elementary School began a Positive Character Education program for all its K-5 students and staff. Each month students and staff apply a specific positive character trait to their daily activities at school. So far at Norman, we have had Respect for September; Honesty for October; and, currently, Responsibility for November. The other character traits to be studied are Generosity for December; Courage for January; Kindness for February; Cooperation for March; Courtesy for April; and Self-control for May/June.

Each month teachers and staff nominate students who have best demonstrated the positive monthly character trait. The students are honored in front of their peers, given a certificate and positive reward. Each month, the winners' pictures are posted in the character education display case. The results are sent to the local newspapers as well.

But why do we have character education? Some students in today's schools are walking through the doors without a firm understanding of the difference between right and wrong. Character education has become a vital part of the success of a school. So many times schools react to situations that occur in school in a negative way. We need to deal with situations in a pro active way. Character education allows us to do this. It allows us to emphasize what makes good citizens and what is proper behavior. It makes it possible for us to deal with those around us in a positive light.

So what is Character Education?

- ◆ It is knowing what is right and wrong.
- ◆ It is admiring and valuing what is good.
- ◆ It is showing goodwill to those around us.

I urge all of us in the Reed City school district to work on the positive character traits at home and at work. The more our students and we adults see positive traits, the better we will be for the future of all society and for the Reed City community as well. Join us monthly as we strive to be better citizens of Reed City.