

Imagine Charter School Recognized as 2017 National Schools of Character

Character.org, the nonprofit organization that validates character initiatives in schools and communities around the world, designated 83 schools and 4 districts from 21 states as 2017 National Schools and Districts of Character.

“We are honored to be recognized as a National School of Character,” said Dean of Students, Karie Slade who, along with music teacher Sarah Hricko, chaired Imagine Charter School’s Character Committee for the 2016-2017 school year. “Imagine’s staff works hard to shape the hearts and minds of our students. One way we do that is focusing on character education every year. Helping students have a deeper understanding of who they are as a student, person and citizen is our main goal. We are excited to receive this recognition and are grateful for the additional resources we’ll receive through Character.org to help us continue to focus on character education in the coming years.”

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 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.