



Press Contact: Josh Steinfeld, josh@character.org 339.225.1581

Character.org Designates 68 Schools 4 Districts as 2016 National Schools of Character

Program developed in 1998 has positively impacted the lives of more than 825,000 students

Washington, D.C. (May 10, 2016)— Character.org, a non-profit organization that supports the advancement of character development in schools, communities and workplaces across the U.S. and globally, today designated 68 schools and four districts from 15 states as National Schools and Districts of Character for 2016.

Since the inception of Character.org's Schools of Character program's in 1998 more than 263 schools and 14 districts have been designated as National Schools or Districts of Character, impacting more than 600,000 students' lives. *(A complete list of the 2016 National Schools and Districts of Character is outlined at bottom of this release).* In addition, this year, two international schools have applied and will be evaluated for international recognition as a part of a pilot international program once the National Schools of Character have been announced.

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 that show positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior and school climate. Schools and districts selected in January as State Schools of Character along with those schools who reapplied in their 3-year designation of State School of Character 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, one district and 14 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 guide to providing students with opportunities for moral action, fostering shared leadership and engaging families and communities as partners in the character-building effort.

"We are extremely proud of this year's designated schools and districts for their dedication to character development which has proven to increase the well-being of so many students' lives across the United States and beyond," said Becky Sipos, Character.org's President & CEO. "These character initiatives create conditions for learning where students are thriving and growing into ethical members of our society. They are developing lifelong skillsets they will leverage well into their adult lives."

Character.org will honor the designated schools and districts at its [23rd National Forum on Character Education](#) to be held the weekend of October 14-15, 2016, in Washington, DC. Visit www.character.org to learn more about the National Forum, the Schools of Character program (State & National), and the 2016 national honorees.

About Character.org: Founded in 1993, Character.org, is a national nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. It works with schools and districts to educate, inspire and empower young people to be ethical and engaged citizens. It is dedicated to developing young people to be both smart and good through the advancement of quality character development in all schools. Results typically include improved academic



Press Contact: Josh Steinfeld, josh@character.org 339.225.1581

achievement, a decline in behavioral problems and an increase in an overall positive school climate. Visit www.character.org to learn more about the Schools of Character program and the National Forum.

About Character Education: Character education is an educational movement that supports the social, emotional and ethical development of students. It is the proactive 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.

2016 National Schools of Character

CALIFORNIA

Brentwood Lower School

Los Angeles, California
Private • Grades K–6

FLORIDA

Imagine Schools at South Lake

Clermont, Florida
Charter • Grades K–8
Imagine Schools

ILLINOIS

Abraham Lincoln Elementary

Belleville, Illinois
Public • Grades K–6
Belleville District 118

Embers Elementary School

Niles, Illinois
Private • Grades PK–5

KANSAS

Kiowa County Elementary and Junior High School

Greensburg, Kansas
Public • Grades PK–8
Kiowa County Schools

Lincoln Elementary School

Clay Center, Kansas
Public • Grades PK–3
Unified School District 379 Clay County

Valley Center Intermediate School

Valley Center, Kansas
Public • Grades 5–6
Valley Center Unified School District

MARYLAND

Norwood STEM Program

Dundalk, Maryland
Public • Grades PK–3
Baltimore County Public Schools

Thomas W. Pyle Middle School

Bethesda, Maryland
Public • Grades 6–8
Montgomery County Public Schools

MASSACHUSETTS

Mill Pond School

Westborough, Massachusetts
Public • Grades 4–6
Westborough Public Schools

MISSOURI

Barretts Elementary School

Manchester, Missouri
Public • Grades K–5
Parkway Schools

Bayless Elementary School

St. Louis, Missouri
Public • Grades PK–5
Bayless School District



Press Contact: Josh Steinfeld, josh@character.org 339.225.1581

Bayless School District

St. Louis, Missouri
Public • Grades PK–12

Bowles Elementary School

Fenton, Missouri
Public • Grades K–5
Rockwood School District

Busch Middle School of Character

St. Louis, Missouri
Public • Grades 6–8
St. Louis Public Schools

Craig Elementary School

St. Louis, Missouri
Public • Grades K–5
Parkway Schools

Don Earl Early Childhood Center

Arnold, Missouri
Public • Grades PK
Fox C-6 School District

Geggie Elementary School

Eureka, Missouri
Public • Grades K–5
Rockwood School District

John Cary Early Childhood Center

St. Louis, Missouri
Public • Grades PK-K
Mehlville School District

Lincoln Elementary School

Troy, Missouri
Public • Grades K–5
Lincoln County School District

Nottingham Community Access and Job Training High School

St. Louis, Missouri
Public • Grades 9–12
St. Louis Public Schools

Rockwood School District

Eureka, Missouri
Public • Grades PK–12

Sappington Elementary School

St. Louis, Missouri
Public • Grades PK–5
Lindbergh Schools

Uthoff Valley Elementary School

Fenton, Missouri
Public • Grades K–5
Rockwood School District

Valley Park Middle School

Valley Park, Missouri
Public • Grades 6–8
Valley Park School District

Woerner Elementary School

St. Louis, Missouri
Public • Grades K–5
St. Louis Public Schools

Woerther Elementary School

Ballwin, Missouri
Public • Grades K–5
Rockwood School District

NEW JERSEY

Alan B. Shepard Elementary

Old Bridge, New Jersey
Public • Grades K–5
Old Bridge Township Public Schools

Carl Sandburg Middle School

Old Bridge, New Jersey
Public • Grades 6–8
Old Bridge Township Public Schools

Carusi Middle School

Cherry Hill, New Jersey
Public • Grades 6–8
Cherry Hill Public Schools

Cedar Hill Elementary School

Montville, New Jersey
Public • Grades K–5
Montville Township Public Schools



Press Contact: Josh Steinfeld, josh@character.org 339.225.1581

Clara Barton Elementary School

Cherry Hill, New Jersey
Public • Grades K–5
Cherry Hill Public Schools

Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood School No. 51

Elizabeth, New Jersey
Public • Grades PK
Elizabeth Public Schools

E.A. Bogert School

Upper Saddle River, New Jersey
Public • Grades 3–5
Upper Saddle River Schools

Hillside Elementary School

Livingston, New Jersey
Public • Grades K–5
Livingston Public Schools

Leroy Gordon Cooper Elementary School

Cliffwood Beach, New Jersey
Public • Grades K–5
Old Bridge Township Public Schools

McGalliard Elementary School

Hamilton, New Jersey
Public • Grades K–5
Hamilton Township School District

North Plainfield High School

North Plainfield, New Jersey
Public • Grades 9–12
North Plainfield School District

Virgil Grissom Elementary School

Old Bridge, New Jersey
Public • Grades K–5
Old Bridge Township Public Schools

Woodmont Elementary School

Pine Brook, New Jersey
Public • Grades K–5
Montville Township Public Schools

NEW YORK

Jonas E. Salk Middle School

Levittown, New York
Public • Grades 6–8
Levittown Public Schools

St HOPE Leadership Academy

New York, New York
Charter • Grades 5–8

Turtle Hook Middle School

Uniondale, New York
Public • Grades 6–8
Uniondale Public Schools

Uniondale High School

Uniondale, New York
Public • Grades 9–12
Uniondale Public Schools

Valley Stream Memorial Junior High School

Valley Stream, New York
Public • Grades 7–9
Valley Stream Central High School District

Valley Stream South High School

Valley Stream, New York
Public • Grades 9–12
Valley Stream Central High School District

Yorktown Central School District

Yorktown Heights, New York
Public • Grades K–12

NORTH CAROLINA

Brooks Global Studies Elementary School

Greensboro, North Carolina
Public • Grades K–5
Guilford County Schools

Oak Hill Elementary School

High Point, North Carolina
Public • Grades PK–5
Guilford County Schools



Press Contact: Josh Steinfeld, josh@character.org 339.225.1581

Southeast Guilford High School

Greensboro, North Carolina
Public • Grades 9–12
Guilford County Schools

Union Academy

Monroe, North Carolina
Public Charter • Grades K–12

OKLAHOMA

Jefferson Elementary School

Pryor, Oklahoma
Public • Grades K–6
Pryor Public Schools

Lincoln Elementary School

Pryor, Oklahoma
Public • Grades 1–6
Pryor Public Schools

Muskogee Early Childhood Center

Muskogee, Oklahoma
Public • Grades PK
Muskogee Public Schools

PENNSYLVANIA

Eleanor Roosevelt Elementary School

Morrisville, Pennsylvania
Public • Grades K–5
Pennsbury School District

Makefield Elementary School

Yardley, Pennsylvania
Public • Grades K–5
Pennsbury School District

Manor Elementary School

Levittown, Pennsylvania
Public • Grades K–5
Pennsbury School District

Parkside Elementary School

Brookhaven, Pennsylvania
Public • Grades K–5
Penn-Delco School District

Penn Valley Elementary School

Levittown, Pennsylvania
Public • Grades K–5
Pennsbury School District

Pennsbury High School

Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania
Public • Grades 9–12
Pennsbury School District

Walt Disney Elementary School

Levittown, Pennsylvania
Public • Grades K–5
Pennsbury School District

TEXAS

Coppell Independent School District

Coppell, Texas
Public • Grades PK–12

Cottonwood Creek Elementary School

Coppell, Texas
Public • Grades K–5
Coppell Independent School District

Denton Creek Elementary School

Coppell, Texas
Public • Grades K–5
Coppell Independent School District

G.W. Robinson Elementary School

Seabrook, Texas
Public • Grades K–5
Clear Creek Independent School District

HL Brockett Elementary School

Aubrey, Texas
Public • Grades K–4
Aubrey Independent School District

Marshall Leadership Academy

Grand Prairie, Texas
Public • Grades PK–5
Grand Prairie Independent School District



Press Contact: Josh Steinfeld, josh@character.org 339.225.1581

Pinkerton Elementary School
Coppell, Texas
Public • Grades K–5
Coppell Independent School District

VIRGINIA

Hargrave Military Academy
Chatham, Virginia
Private • Grades 7–12

WISCONSIN

Brown Deer Middle High School
Brown Deer, Wisconsin
Public • Grades 7–12
School District of Brown Deer

Meyer Middle School
River Falls, Wisconsin
Public • Grades 6–8
School District of River Falls

Pleasant Prairie Elementary School
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin
Public • Grades PK–5
Kenosha Unified School District