



New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional, and Character Development

2017 Schools of Character Recognition Ceremony



**Friday, May 19, 2017
Rider University
The Fine Arts Building
Yvonne Theater
Lawrenceville, NJ**



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2017 New Jersey Schools of Character Recognition Ceremony Agenda

8:15	Welcome / Recognition of Past NJSOC Recipients	Nina Kemps NJ Schools of Character Coordinator
8:20	Remarks	Wendell Steinhauer President, New Jersey Education Association
8:25	Recognition of Emerging Schools	Marie Blistan Vice President, NJEA
8:30	Remarks	Mark Biedron President, NJ State Board of Education
8:35	Recognition of Honorable Mention Schools.	Kirsten Weigert and Luiz Periera NJ Department of Education
8:50	Recognition of 2017-19 Schools of Character	Eileen Dachnowicz, Chair, 2016 Blue Ribbon Panel and Laurie Ann Coletti, NJASECD Secretary
9:25	Closing Remarks	Dr. William Trusheim NJASECD President



State and National Schools of Character Program Description



2016-17 marks the twentieth anniversary of the School of Character Program. The program was initiated by the Character Education Partnership (now Character.org) to recognize schools across the country demonstrating an exemplary level of implementation of the *Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education*. Originally, this program was competitive with only ten schools being chosen each year as National Schools of Character. Teams of reviewers knowledgeable in the field of character education and familiar with the Eleven Principles evaluated applications from schools applying to be Schools of Character.

Through a grant from the John Templeton Foundation, the School of Character Program was expanded to include State Schools of Character (SSOC). New Jersey was the first state to conduct state-level evaluations and the first four State Schools of Character were named by New Jersey in 2006. The purpose of this tiered approach is to allow more schools and districts to be recognized and to provide exemplary sites within states to serve as models for other educators. The State School of Character program has grown so that now thirty states are participating in the program and sending their state schools to Character.org to be considered for the national program.

The New Jersey School of Character Program was initially sponsored by CEP, the Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University (CSCD) and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). The Rutgers Center coordinated the program from 2006 to 2010. The responsibility for the NJSOC program was transferred to the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD), a volunteer professional organization envisioned by CSCD in 2011. The New Jersey Schools of Character program recognizes schools and districts that excel in exemplifying the Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education and demonstrate an outstanding character education initiative that yields positive results in student behavior, school climate, and academic performance.

Beginning in 2011, the goal of the National Schools of Character Program became to recognize all schools and districts that demonstrate an exemplary level of implementation of the Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education. National Schools of Character are recognized for their exemplary work at the annual National Forum on Character Education.

The applications of schools designated as New Jersey Schools of Character are forwarded to Character.org to be evaluated at the national level. The National Schools of Character are named in early May. State Schools of Character who are not designated as national models receive feedback to help them develop an action plan for attaining the national designation. They are encouraged to reapply during the three years that they hold the New Jersey School of Character designation.

National Schools of Character serve as models and ambassadors of effective character education. They hold staff development trainings at their sites and are available for consultation and mentoring. The National Schools of Character become members of a communication network where they share best practices. Becoming a National School of Character status is an achievable goal for all schools and districts. Schools and districts should apply to be a National School of Character when they feel they have achieved a standard of excellence and are ready to be a leader among their peers.



2017 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Support

Nina Kemps
Patricia Carr
Laurie Ann Coletti
Cindy Dacey

Eileen Dachnowicz
Brian Hayes
Nina Kemps
Dr. Bradford Lerman
Thomas Santo
Dr. William Trusheim

Mona Noyes
Kathy Jensen
Kathy Hoeker
Maryann Villegas
Laurie Coletti
Phyllis Bloom
Laura Gertel
Rebecca Muller
Wendy McDermott
Chris Kelly
Tom Gaglione
Jeff McGrail
Sara Browne
Shelly Ward
Tom Ferry
Angela Ziemba
Jennifer Frederico
Leslie Smith
Elizabeth McLaughlin
Cassandra Pedrosa
Amy Dickerson
Brianna Kreutzer
Necole Jadick
Josephine Ramirez
Kirk Rickansrud
Christine Robertson
Carlos Gramata
Lisa Bowe
Doug Stech
Dominic Espisito
Ann Wilmot
Cindy Dacey
Jocelyn Rodriguez
Juliette Smith
Carla Kokoszka
Mary Reinhold
Melissa Cavagnino
Diane Bonanno
Athena Langi
Maureen Henry
Colleen Bryne
Ted Frynkewicz
Millicent Kellner

CHAIRPERSONS

NJSOC State Coordinator, NJASECD Vice-President
NJSOC Committee, Co-Chair, Oxford Central School
NJSOC Committee, Co-Chair, James McDivitt School
NJSOC Committee, Co-Chair, McGalliard School (Ret.)

BLUE RIBBON PANELISTS

Chair, Character.org Evaluator, Trainer and Writer
CSCD Consultant
NJSOC State Coordinator, NJASECD Vice-President
CAP/RU Consultant
Principal, Zane Elementary School, 2006 NSOC
NJASECD President

REVIEWERS

NJASECD Trustee
Lawrenceville Elementary School
Old Bridge School District
Old Bridge School District
James A. McDivitt Elementary
James A. McDivitt Elementary
Henry C. Beck Middle Schools
Henry C. Beck Middle Schools
Henry C. Beck Middle Schools
Hanover Park School District
Hanover Park School District
Berlin Community School
Berlin Community School
Berlin Community School
Cheesequake Elementary School
Cheesequake Elementary School
Pauline J. Petway Elementary
Pauline J. Petway Elementary
School No. 28 Elizabeth
School No. 28 Elizabeth
Macopin Middle School
Macopin Middle School
Theunis Dey Elementary School
Theunis Dey Elementary School
Thomas Paine Elementary School
Thomas Paine Elementary School
Hillside Elementary School
Hillside Elementary School
Woodmont Elementary School
Woodmont Elementary School
McGalliard Elementary School
McGalliard Elementary School
Donald S. Stewart School #51
Donald S. Stewart School #51
Donald S. Stewart School #51
Macopin Middle School
Macopin Middle School
Clara Barton Elementary School
Clara Barton Elementary School
Valley Stream South High School (NY)
Valley Stream South High School (NY)
NJASECD Treasurer
NJASECD Conference Co-Chair



2017 New Jersey Schools of Character Honorees

2017-2019 NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER

A. Russell Knight Elementary School	Cherry Hill
Alexander Denbo Elementary School	Pemberton
Bret Harte Elementary School	Cherry Hill
Broad Street School	Bridgeton
Burlington County Alternative School	Mount Laurel
Campbell Elementary School	Metuchen
Cherry Hill Public Schools	Cherry Hill
Cinnaminson Middle School	Cinnaminson
Essex County North 13th Street Tech High School	Newark
Frank J. Smith School	East Hanover
Harrison Elementary School	Roselle
Helen A. Fort/Newcomb Middle School	Pemberton
Howard L. Emmons Elementary School	Pemberton
Jonas Salk Middle School	Old Bridge
Mahala F. Atchison School	Tinton Falls
Merriam Avenue School	Newton
Morgan Elementary School	Hamilton
New Brunswick Middle School	New Brunswick
New Providence School District	New Providence
Paradise Knoll School	Oak Ridge
Somerset Intermediate School	North Plainfield
Tinton Falls Middle School	Tinton Falls
Toms River High School East	Toms River
Whitehouse Elementary School	Whitehouse Station
Yardville Elementary School	Hamilton

2017 NJ HONORABLE MENTION SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER

Apshawa School	West Milford
Bell Oaks Upper Elementary School	Bellmawr
Canfield Avenue School	Mine Hill
Fort Dix Elementary	Fort Dix
Green-Fields Elementary	West Deptford
Harker-Wylie Elementary School	Pemberton
Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts, School No. 9	Elizabeth
Joseph D. Sharp Elementary School	Cherry Hill
Joseph Stackhouse Elementary School	Pemberton
Joyce Kilmer Elementary School	Cherry Hill
Montville Township Public Schools	Montville
Pinelands Regional Junior High School	Little Egg Harbor
Riverview Elementary	Denville
Samuel T. Busansky Elementary School	Pemberton
Swimming River School	Tinton Falls
Terence C. Reilly, School No. 7	Elizabeth
Unity Charter School	Morristown
Vineland Public Schools	Vineland
West Milford Township High School	West Milford

2017 NEW JERSEY EMERGING SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER

Aletta Crichton Elementary School	Pemberton
Dr. Albert Einstein Academy, School No. 29	Elizabeth
John Marshall School	Elizabeth
Mary E. Volz Elementary & Middle School	Runnemede



2017 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

All of the 2017 New Jersey Schools of Character are willing to assist schools seeking to develop their character education program. This outreach could simply be through e-mail or telephone exchanges, or if you wish, through school visits. Use the contact information below to get started.

A. Russell Knight Elementary School

Grades: K – 5

School District: Cherry Hill

Contact Person: Eugene Park

Title: Principal

Email: epark@chclc.org

Street Address: 140 Old Carriage Road

City/State/Zip Code: Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Telephone: 856-428-0830

Website: <http://knight.chclc.org>



A strong bond between staff and community has enabled **A. Russel Knight Elementary School** to grow a strong culture of character in which all strive to be better people. The Knight shield and the RESPECT banner are tangible reminders to observe the traits of respect, responsibility, empathy, service, perseverance, effort, citizenship and teamwork daily, both inside and outside the classroom. Student voice is strong here, which is evident in the work of the Student Council as well as in a host of popular service projects such as Pennies for Patients, Socktober, food drives, and the Kind Coins campaign.

Alexander Denbo Elementary School

Grades: 3 – 5

School District: Pemberton Township School District

Contact Person: Brett A. Thorp

Title: Principal

Email: bthorp@pemb.org

Street Address: 1412 Junction Road

City/State/Zip Code: Browns Mills, NJ 08015

Telephone: 609-893-8141 ext. 5500

Website: <http://www.pemberton.k12.nj.us/denbo>



Alexander Denbo Elementary School has a character education program that is a joint effort of students, staff, and the community. Together, these stakeholders selected the core values—service, perseverance, integrity, respect and responsibility. Each day begins with a motivational school chant during the morning announcements, and the values always find their way into daily lessons. With the values promoted in the student/staff handbooks and on the school website, school shirts, charts and staff/student lanyards, Denbo has clearly established a common language that now extends far beyond the school building and into the homes of the students.



2017 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Bret Harte Elementary School

Grades: K – 5

School District: Cherry Hill Public Schools

Contact Person: Dr. Neil Burti

Title: Principal

Email: nburti@chclc.org

Street Address: 1909 Queen Anne Road

City/State/Zip Code: Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

Telephone: 856.795.0515

Website: <http://harte.chclc>



The character journey of **Bret Harte**

Elementary School began with a school-wide visioning activity in the summer of 2013. The school staff pondered questions such as "What skills and values do you want our students to possess?" and "What should a student who spends 6 years with us know and be able to do?" To hear all voices, the principal collected input from student focus groups, parent feedback, and teacher and staff surveys. The result: a comprehensive school-wide initiative with a common language and framework consonant with the district values of respect, responsibility, and American citizenship. The school observes the *S.M.A.R.T.* motto—*Striving for Excellence, Being Mindful of Others, Acceptance, Responsibility, and Teamwork.*

Broad Street School

Grades: K – 8

School District: Bridgeton Public School District

Contact Person: Dr. Anne Marie Pai

Title: Character Education Committee

Facilitator/Art Teacher

Email: ampai@bridgeton.k12.nj.us

Street Address: 251 W. Broad Street

City/State/Zip Code: Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Telephone: 856-455-8030 ext. 1008

Website: <http://www.bridgeton.k12.nj.us>



Located in Bridgeton in Cumberland County near the Cohansey River and the Delaware Bay, **Broad Street School** aims to promote academic excellence, character education, and multiple opportunities for students to attain their individual, social, emotional and physical potential. The school's focus is on the character virtues of respect, resilience, hope, confidence and empathy. Students here receive a challenging and enriching education along with the character training that helps them to succeed and make positive contributions to society. In this child-centered culture, the students, known as the Broad Street Cheetahs, are "Sprinting to Success"!



2017 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Burlington County Alternative School

Grades: 6 – 12

School District: Burlington County Special Services

Contact Person: Joan Barbagiovanni

Title: Director/Principal

Email: jbarbagiovanni@bccssd.k12.nj.us

Street Address: 1020 Briggs Road

City/State/Zip Code: Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Telephone: 609-261-5600 ext. 2508

Website: www.bccssd.k12.nj.us



Burlington County Alternative School (BCAS), located on the Mt. Laurel campus of Burlington County College in the Briggs Road Center, offers a proficiency-based program for students who have experienced difficulty in the traditional middle school and high school. Results show that a caring faculty, an individualized curriculum, experiential learning, character training and student-driven goals have helped BCAS students to gain self-esteem while also earning a high school diploma. In this caring culture, students also receive individual and group counseling as well as vocational training and the opportunity to take college courses. “I just love this school—it changed my life” is a comment heard many times at BCAS.

Campbell Elementary School

Grades: 1 – 4

School District: Metuchen Public Schools

Contact Person: Edward C. Porowski

Title: Principal

Email: eporowski@metboe.k12.nj.us

Street Address: 24 Durham Avenue

City/State/Zip Code: Metuchen, NJ 08840

Telephone: 732-321-8777

Website: <http://www.metuchenschools.org/metuchen/Schools/Campbell%20Elementary%20School>



With the collaboration of parents, students, teachers, and administration, **Campbell Elementary School** shifted its thinking, examined its core values and beliefs, and revamped its school vision and mission statements to reflect these values. This is a school that prides itself on being a family—working together, learning together, and supporting one another. Initiatives such as the morning announcements, daily Happiness Journal entries, monthly Character Breakfasts honoring students who display the character trait, Food Bank Fridays, and the Special Persons’ Tea have helped to transform this school into a positive, character-centered, value-centered learning environment.



2017 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Cherry Hill Public Schools

Grades: Pre-K – 12

School District: Cherry Hill Public Schools

Contact Person: Dr. Kirk M. Rickansrud

Title: Principal, Thomas Paine E.S.

Email: krickansrud@chclc.org

Street Address: 45 Ranaldo Terrace

City/State/Zip: Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Telephone: 856-755-1491

Website: <https://www.chclc.org>



Cherry Hill Public Schools, a suburban/urban district serving some 12,000 students, has been seriously focusing on building character in its 19 schools since 1999. Seven of its schools have now been recognized as National Schools of Character, and nine as NJ State Schools of Character. All schools widely support the district's core values of respect, responsibility, and American citizenship, but each school puts its individual stamp on the implementation of these beliefs. Character education, which began with an *ad hoc* committee composed of parents and teachers, later expanding to other school personnel, plays a pivotal role in developing well-educated, ethical, caring citizens who contribute to our democratic society.

Cinnaminson Middle School

Grades: 6 – 8

School District: Cinnaminson Twp

Contact Person: Frank Goulburn

Title: Principal

Email: goulburnf@cinnaminson.com

Street Address: 312 N. Fork Landing Rd

City/State/Zip Code: Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

Telephone: 856-786-8012

Website: www.cinnaminson.com/cms



Cinnaminson Middle School is more than a school building; it is a *home* because of the caring that exists here. Character education plays an integral role in nurturing relationships while a challenging academic curriculum builds scholarship and critical thinking skills. School community members selected the core values of responsibility, unity, friendship, respect, integrity, trust, kindness, tolerance, pride, and equality, which are now visible everywhere. Classroom teachers consistently weave those values into their lessons, and students actively practice them in their classes and club activities such as the Unity Club, S.T.O.P., and the Random Acts of Kindness Club.



2017 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Essex County North 13th Street Tech High School

Grades: 9 - 12

School District: Essex County Vocational
Technical Schools

Contact Person: Dr. Patricia Clark-Jeter

Title: Principal

Email: pjeter@essextech.org

Street Address: 300 North 13th Street

City/State/Zip Code: Newark, NJ 07052

Telephone: 973-412-2203

Website: http://www.essextech.org/n13/n13_index.php



The mission of **North 13th Street Tech High School** is to guide every student to realize his or her full potential to become a life-long learner and active citizen. Character is embedded in all classes as well as in projects such as Senior Peer Mentoring, the Homeless Connect Initiative, the adoption of an elementary school, and the Student Council's Acts of Kindness. By participating in opportunities such as A Night of Code and internships with Panasonic and the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, students learn how to be responsible leaders both in their school and local community. In essence, many initiatives are developed to ensure that all students, teachers, parents, and community members realize that in all situations "Cougars Got Character!"

Frank J. Smith School

Grades: Pre-K – 2

School District: East Hanover Township Schools

Contact Person: Kerry A. Quinn

Title: Principal

Email: kquinn@easthanoverschools.org

Street Address: 27 Green Drive

City/State/Zip Code: East Hanover, NJ 07936

Telephone: 973-887-5650

Website: www.easthanoverschools.org



The **Frank J. Smith School** (PreK-2) fosters a community in which administration, staff, and students work together to create a positive learning environment. Recognizing the crucial need to begin character education early, the school includes a strong focus on character development in its mission statement to make sure that each student is accepted, respected, nurtured and motivated from the start. Most importantly, a strong partnership exists between parents, staff and the community, thus making this school a wonderful place to learn and grow. By showing the little ones how to be respectful, compassionate, and responsible, the school gives them a solid framework for success in school and in life.



2017 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Harrison Elementary School

Grades: 1 – 4

School District: Roselle School District

Contact Person: Dr. Lissette Gonzalez-Perez

Title: Principal

Email: lgonzalezperez@roselleschools.org

Street Address: 310 Harrison Avenue

City/State/Zip Code: Roselle, NJ 07650

Telephone: 908-298-2052

Website: <http://harrison.roselleschools.org>



Harrison Elementary School strives to prepare its scholars for college, work, and life by focusing on character development as well as academics. The emphasis is on the importance of students making good choices and considering how their choices and actions impact others. Teachers infuse character education into their everyday teaching, and the guidance counselor presents bi-weekly lessons to all scholars. Additionally, during morning announcements scholars share a “Guidance Thought of the Day,” and Student Council members announce a daily “Mindful Minute.” This school creates a positive and nurturing environment where everyone can learn and thrive!

Helen A. Fort/ Newcomb Middle School

Grades: 6 – 8

School District: Pemberton Township School District

Contact Person: Ashley B. Walulak

Title: Principal

Email: awalulak@pemb.org

Street Address: 301 Fort Dix Road

City/State/Zip Code: Pemberton, NJ 08068

Telephone: 609-893-8141 ext. 3000

Website: <http://pemberton.schoolwires.net/>

[Domain/9](http://pemberton.schoolwires.net/)



Helen A. Fort/ Newcomb Middle

School prides itself on preparing middle school students to be respectful and responsible citizens for both the present and for the future. Character education is a lively, vital force here: initiatives such as positive character messages on the daily announcements, random acts of kindness, motivational assemblies, character-infused lessons, and weekly challenges such as the “Thank You Challenge” and the “Compliment Challenge,” add zest to its program. Established partnerships with the parents, community, and state and federal representatives such as the New Jersey State Police and military mentors add to the development of caring and responsible citizens.



2017 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Howard L. Emmons Elementary School

Grades: K– 2

School District: Pemberton Township Schools

Contact Person: Amy Oattes

Title: Academic Mastery Teacher

Email: aoattes@pemb.org

Street Address: 14 Scrapetown Rd.

City/State/Zip Code: Pemberton, NJ 08068

Telephone: 609-893-8141 ext. 4500

Website: <http://www.pemberton.k12.nj.us/Do-main/11>



At **Howard L. Emmons Elementary School**, 346 students from diverse, socioeconomic, and cultural backgrounds receive a solid foundation in character based on the Time to Teach (TTT) philosophy that emphasizes self-discipline and responsible behavior. Students learn to do the right thing simply because it is the right thing to do. In addition, the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program helps educators learn how to identify, intervene, and create appropriate interventions to ensure success for every child. The school family works together to fulfill its avowed mission to teach, model, practice, and reinforce responsibility, integrity, service, respect and perseverance every day within the community.

Jonas Salk Middle School

Grades: 6 – 8

School District: Old Bridge Public Schools

Contact Person: Jason Lynch

Title: Vice Principal

Email: jlynch@obps.org

Street Address: 155 West Greystone Rd

City/State/Zip Code: Old Bridge, NJ 08857

Telephone: 732-360-4523

Website: www.jsms.com



Teachers at **Jonas Salk Middle School** see themselves as role models. Collaboration among staff, parents and the community positively shapes the social, emotional and character development of the students, who, in turn, pride themselves on their school spirit and their participation in service learning. PEER Day is a collaborative effort between the Old Bridge High School Peer Leaders and Salk's school counselors and student leaders. This day provides an opportunity for students to join together in activities that focus on personal and team PEER power, encouragement, empathy and respect. Salk aims to empower students to have a voice in creating a community of caring and empathetic citizens.



2017 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Mahala F. Atchison School

Grades: Pre-K – 2

School District: Tinton Falls School District

Contact Person: Susan Ross

Title: Building Supervisor

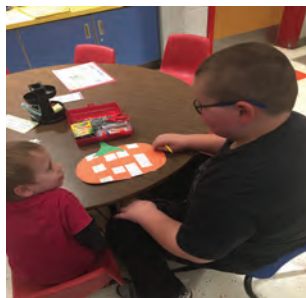
Email: sross@tfs.k12.nj.us

Street Address: 961 Sycamore Avenue

City/State/Zip Code: Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

Telephone: 732-542-2500

Website: <http://www.tfs.k12.nj.us/Domain/296>



Together Towards Tomorrow is the motto for the Tinton Falls School District, and its primary school, **Mahala F. Atchison School**, follows it intentionally in providing a solid foundation for its little ones. Students, staff, parents, and community members work together to develop productive citizens both in school and the community. Two of the school's favorite practices are grade-level Anti-Bullying Books of the Month and monthly Days of Color in which students and staff dress in the color that represents the featured character pillar. Another innovative feature is the Panther Paw Players, a group of staff members who put on performances demonstrating proper behavior.

Merriam Avenue School

Grades: Pre-K– 4

School District: Newton Public Schools

Contact Person: Deirdre Iuliani

Title: School Counselor

Email: diuliani@newtonnj.org

Street Address: 81 Merriam Avenue School

City/State/Zip Code: Newton, NJ 07866

Telephone: 973-383-7202

Website: www.newtonnj.org



The core values of **Merriam Avenue School** are clearly stated in its *Pride Expectations* – Respect for Self, Respect for Others, and Respect for Our Environment. The School Safety/Climate Team has incorporated the *Pride Expectations* into many exciting student-led practices: the student Pride Ambassadors work in partnership with staff and parents on activities such as reading the morning announcements, making welcome goody bags for new students, giving new student tours, implementing the “Socktober” sock drive, performing plays about friendship, and creating videos about the proper use of the buddy bench. “The Great Kindness Challenge” and “Random Acts of Kindness” week spur the whole school into action.



2017 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Morgan Elementary School

Grades: Pre-K – 5

School District: Hamilton Township School District (Mercer County)

Contact Person: Ashley LaRose/Regina McIntyre

Title: School Counselor/Principal

Email: alarose@hamilton.k12.nj.us/rmcintyre@hamilton.k12.nj.us

Street Address: 38 Stamford Rd.

City/State/Zip Code: Hamilton, NJ 08619

Telephone: 609-631-4160

Website: <http://www.hamilton.k12.nj.us/Morgan.cfm>



As part of the Hamilton School District, which was recognized as a NJ District of Character in 2007, 2008, and 2009, and selected as a National District of Character finalist in 2008, **Morgan Elementary School** has always maintained a robust character education program. Morgan celebrates the district-wide six Pillars of Character but also practices “Morgan M.A.G.I.C.” Each letter stands for a different performance trait: **m**otivated, **a**chieving, **g**enerous, **i**maginative, and **c**aring. Morgan focuses its character efforts on building and maintaining a comprehensive program in which students practice the same language, values and character traits which, in turn, creates a caring community that brings academic, social and emotional gains.

New Brunswick Middle School

Grades: 6 – 8

School District: New Brunswick

Contact Person: Macey Marko-Baicher

Title: Algebra Teacher, Grade 8

Email: macey_marko-baicher@nbpsnj.net

Street Address: 1125 Livingston Ave.

C/S/Z: New Brunswick, NJ 08861

Telephone: 732-745-5300 ext. 8424 (Principal's Secretary Lidna Vizcaino)

Website: <http://ms.nbpschools.net>



In 2012, a group of stakeholders including administrators and teachers from **New Brunswick Middle School**, community members, and Rutgers University staff, led by Dr. Maurice Elias, met to devise a plan of action to improve school climate. As a result, the Life, College, and Career Advisory came into existence with a daily curriculum created to address students' emotional learning. Mending the school climate has resulted in an improvement in attendance and grades as well as a decrease in disciplinary issues. Parents learn of the character initiative through letters and a Back to School Night presentation; a social and emotional factor rating on report cards keeps them abreast of their child's social and emotional progress.



2017 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

New Providence School District

Grades: Pre-K – 12

School District: New Providence School District

Contact Person: Jeannie Drexinger

Title: Principal, Salt Brook Elementary School

Email: jdrexinger@npsdnj.org

Street Address: 356 Elkwood Avenue

City/State/Zip: New Providence, NJ 07974

Telephone: 908)-464-9050

Website: <http://www.npsd.k12.nj.us>



In partnership with students, parents, and community, the mission of the **New Providence School District** is to educate all students to meet high academic standards and to prepare them to be responsible citizens in a dynamic global society. Offering an outstanding educational program, the district serves a high school, middle school, and two elementary schools. Its district-wide character education program encourages creative thinking, collaboration, problem solving, and communication while fostering college and career readiness, and supporting student social and emotional growth. A highlight of this district's innovative approach is a yearly common unifying theme that all schools and the community embrace with gusto!

Paradise Knoll School

Grades: Pre-K – 6

School District: West Milford School District

Contact Person: Jennifer Miller

Title: Principal

Email: jennifer.miller@wmtps.org

Street Address: 103 Paradise Road

City/State/Zip Code: Oak Ridge, NJ 07438

Telephone: 973-697-7142

Website: http://www.wmtps.org/schools/paradise_knoll_school



The hope of **Paradise Knoll School** is to truly help students become self-aware, compassionate, empathetic, young people by providing them with the tools for successful living. The staff works collaboratively with the administration to ensure that the children understand how to take responsibility for their own thoughts and actions and that they possess the skills to manage their young lives appropriately. A decided asset in the program: teachers have been on board since the very beginning of the journey. As the school's approach evolves and grows, it is constantly adding ways to incorporate parents and community members into students' day-to-day school life.



2017 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Somerset Intermediate School

Grades: 5 – 6

School District: North Plainfield School District

Contact Person: Luis A. Jaime

Title: Assistant Principal

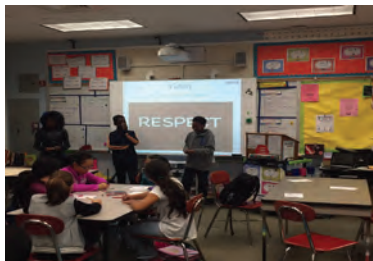
Email: Luis_Jaime@nplainfield.org

Street Address: 303 Somerset St.

City/State/Zip: North Plainfield, NJ 07060

Telephone: 908-769-6080 ext. 1119

Website: <http://www.nplainfield.org/sss1>



The core of the character education program of **Somerset Intermediate School** is its lively Advisory program, which has been in existence for five years. During Advisory students and teachers work together in small groups on character education activities that reinforce the core values of caring, appreciation, respect, and determination. Students respond positively to diverse activities such as a Culture Gram, in which they analyze their backgrounds and different heritages, Operation Gratitude, in which they honor the town's active Armed Forces, and North Plainfield Cleanup, in which students manage to inspire staff to join them in activities that beautify the town.

Tinton Falls Middle School

Grades: 6 – 8

Contact Person: Mary Ehid

Title: Principal

Email: mehid@tfs.k12.nj.us

Street Address: 674 Tinton Ave.

City/State/Zip: Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

Telephone: 732-542-0775

Website: <http://www.tfs.k12.nj.us>



Tinton Falls Middle School with a diverse student population from Tinton Falls, Shrewsbury Township and the Naval Weapons Station, Earle, in Colts Neck bases its character education program on the six pillars of character: caring, responsibility, fairness, citizenship, respect, and trustworthiness. By demonstrating these traits daily, more than 500 middle school students become one unified family. Students take the lead in implementing a host of community service projects, and Student Council, Focus Groups, and the Climate and Culture Team help to guide the school in positive ways. The school views character education as an ongoing learning process that enables students to understand, care about and act on core ethical values.



2017 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Toms River High School East

Grades: 9 – 12

School District: Toms River Schools

Contact Person: Dennis Weidenbush

Title: Chairman, Character Ed Program

Email: dweidenbush@aol.com

Street Address: 1225 Raider Way

City/State/Zip: Toms River, NJ 08753

Telephone: 731-908-0389

Website: www.trschools.com/hseast



At **Toms River High School East**, character really counts, and the six pillars of character are the foundation of its program. Three years ago, the school embarked on a path of creating a revitalized character program with the goal of creating a culture of excellence committed to graduating well-educated and highly ethical students prepared to become responsible and productive citizens. Building the program around an existing infrastructure of successful practices, the school, propelled by a dynamic and caring staff, has woven character into virtually every fiber of school life. Every year sees a wellspring of additions made to the overall program by teachers, staff and students who breathe new life into it.

Whitehouse School

Grades: K – 3

School District: Readington Twp School District

Contact Person: Dr. Ann T. DeRosa

Title: Principal

Email: aderosa@readington.k12.nj.us

Street Address: (50 Whitehouse Avenue)

P.O. Box #157

City/State/Zip: Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889

Telephone: 908-534-4747

Website: www.readington.k12.nj.us/whitehouse



The character journey of **Whitehouse School** began in 2005 when the staff started working in PLC groups with a climate-centric focus. The school has since embraced social/emotional learning in many innovative ways. The schedule now has two daily time slots for teaching a “soft skills” curriculum; each day begins with a core values chant based on the R-E-S-P-E-C-T acronym mantra; the *Reflection Ramp* fosters thoughtful discussion of better choices; *Family Conferences* is a successful cross-grade level advisory program; monthly Town Hall Mindfulness Meetings spur discussion and reflection. Moreover, Whitehouse, ever alert to the use of data, analyzes survey results to plan its next steps.



2017 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Yardville Elementary School

Grades: Pre-K – 5

School District: Hamilton Township School District

Contact Person: Elena M. Manning

Title: Principal

Email: emanning@hamilton.k12.nj.us

Street Address: 450 Yardville-Allentown Road

City/State/Zip Code: Hamilton, NJ 08620

Telephone: 609-631-4170

Website: <http://www.hamilton.k12.nj.us/Yardville.cfm>



The character education program of **Yardville Elementary School** has grown tremendously over the past 14 years because of the collaborative efforts of the School Climate Committee that plans and implements programs to promote good character. As a result, the school's "Honor Our Heroes" (2004), "Race for Respect" (2008), "Cooking up Good Character" (2010) and "Disabilities Awareness Day" (2016) programs all received Promising Practice Awards. Data collected from parent, student and staff surveys drive the vision and goals of the character initiative in exciting ways. Through comprehensive efforts in developing character, Yardville is proud to report that the academic scores of its students are now high and discipline issues are low.



NJASECD is here to help schools interested in becoming the next New Jersey Schools of Character. We have four **REGIONAL NETWORKING CENTERS** that work with schools across the state to assist them in meeting the criteria developed in Character.org's **Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education**. These centers are located in the Hanover Park Regional High School District, Old Bridge Public Schools, Lawrence Township Public Schools, and Cherry Hill Public Schools.

*Find out more about these centers and their activities
on the NJASECD website at www.njasecd.org.*

*Follow us on Facebook (New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional, and
Character Development)
and Twitter at [@njasecd](https://twitter.com/njasecd)*



2015 and 2016 New Jersey Schools of Character

All New Jersey Schools of Character hold that designation for three years. If they are not named a National School of Character during the first year, they are encouraged to use the feedback they receive from Character.org to improve their program. Once they have done this, they may reapply to be recognized by Character.org as a National School of Character. Several New Jersey Schools of Character have reapplied this year.

NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER - 2016-2018

Alan B. Shepard Elementary School ★	Old Bridge, NJ
Carl Sandburg Middle School ★	Old Bridge, NJ
Carusi Middle School ★	Cherry Hill, NJ
Central Elementary School	East Hanover, NJ
Clara Barton Elementary School ★	Cherry Hill, NJ
Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, School No. 51 ★	Elizabeth, NJ
E. A. Bogert School ★	Upper Saddle River, NJ
Hillside Elementary School ★	Livingston, NJ
Maple Road School	West Milford, NJ
McGalliard Elementary School ★	Hamilton, NJ
Nicholas S. La Corte-Peterstown School No. 3	Elizabeth, NJ
North Plainfield High School ★	North Plainfield, NJ
Woodmont Elementary School ★	Pine Brook, NJ

★ Designates a 2016 National School of Character

NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER - 2015-2017

Camden County Technical Schools, Gloucester Township Campus ★	Sickerville, NJ
Cedar Hill Elementary School ★	Towaco, NJ
Juan Pablo Duarte – Jose Julian Marti, School No. 28 ★	Elizabeth, NJ
Liberty Corner School ★	Liberty Corner, NJ
M. Scott Carpenter Elementary School ★	Old Bridge, NJ
Macopin Middle School ★	West Milford, NJ
Old Bridge High School ★	Matawan, NJ
Old Bridge Township Public Schools ★	Matawan, NJ
Thomas Paine Elementary School ★	Cherry Hill, NJ
Upper Greenwood Lake Elementary School	Hewitt, NJ
Virgil Grissom Elementary School ★	Old Bridge, NJ
Walter M. Schirra Elementary School ★	Old Bridge, NJ
Washington Elementary School	Roselle, NJ
William A. Miller Elementary School ★	Old Bridge, NJ

★ Designates a 2015 National School of Character

★ Designates a 2016 National School of Character



Previous Recipients New Jersey Schools of Character

Alan B. Shepard Elementary School ('10, '11, '16, NSOC '11&'16)	Old Bridge, NJ
Bedwell Elementary School ('10)	Bernardsville, NJ
Ben Franklin Elementary School ('12)	Princeton Pike, NJ
Berlin Community School ('13, NSOC '13)	Berlin, NJ
Brigantine Elementary School ('08, '09, '10 & '11, NSOC '11)	Brigantine, NJ
Carl Sandberg Middle School ('16, NSOC '16)	Old Bridge, NJ
Carl W. Goetz Middle School ('07)	Jackson, NJ
Caroline L Reutter School ('14)	Franklinville, NJ
Cedar Hill Elementary School ('15, NSOC '16)	Towaco, NJ
Cheesequake Elementary School ('14, NSOC '14)	Old Bridge, NJ
Cherry Hill Alternative High School ('13, NSOC '14)	Cherry Hill, NJ
Clara Barton Elementary School ('16, NSOC '16)	Cherry Hill, NJ
Colonia High School ('08)	Colonia, NJ
Cranford High School (NSOC '04)	Cranford, NJ
Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education ('16, NSOC '16)	Elizabeth, NJ
E.A. Bogert School ('16, NSOC '16)	Upper Saddle River, NJ
East Hanover Middle School ('14)	East Hanover, NJ
Eastern Christian School Association ('14, NSOC '15)	North Haledon, NJ
Eldridge Park Elementary School ('10 & '11, NSOC '11)	Lawrenceville, NJ
Gloucester Campus, Camden County Tech School ('15, NSOC '15)	Sicklerville, NJ
Gibbsboro School ('13, NSOC '14)	Gibbsboro, NJ
Hamilton Township School District ('07, '08 & '09)	Hamilton, NJ
Hanover Park Regional High School District ('13, NSOC '13)	East Hanover, NJ
Henry C. Beck Middle School ('11, NSOC '13)	Cherry Hill, NJ
Hillside Elementary School ('16, NSOC '16)	Livingston, NJ
Horace Mann Elementary School ('08)	Cherry Hill, NJ
James A. McDivitt Elementary School ('13, NSOC '14)	Old Bridge, NJ
James H. Johnson Elementary School ('10)	Cherry Hill, NJ
John A. Carusi Middle School ('10 & '11, NSOC '11 & '16)	Cherry Hill, NJ
Joseph J. Catena Elementary School ('10 & '11, NSOC '11)	Freehold, NJ
Juan Pablo Duarte – Jose Julian Marti, School No. 28 ('15, NSOC '15)	Elizabeth, NJ
Lake Riviera Middle School ('09, '10 & '11, NSOC '11)	Brick, NJ
Lawrence High School ('14)	Lawrenceville, NJ
Lawrence Intermediate School ('09, '10 & '11, NSOC '11)	Lawrenceville, NJ
Lawrenceville Elementary School ('08, '09, '10, '12, NSOC '12)	Lawrenceville, NJ
Lawrence Middle School ('13)	Lawrenceville, NJ
Lawrence Township Public Schools ('14, NSOC '14)	Lawrenceville, NJ
Leroy Gordon Cooper Elementary School ('13, NSOC '16)	Cliffwood Beach, NJ



Previous Recipients New Jersey Schools of Character

Liberty Corner School ('07, '09, '11, NSOC '11, '15, NSOC '15)	Liberty Corner, NJ
Livingston Park School ('08)	North Brunswick, NJ
Lore Elementary School ('08, '09 & '10, NSOC '10)	Ewing, NJ
M. Scott Carpenter Elementary School ('15, NSOC '15)	Old Bridge, NJ
Macopin Middle School ('15, NSOC '15)	West Milford, NJ
Madison Park Elementary School ('13, NSOC '13)	Parlin, NJ
McGalliard Elementary School ('16, NSOC '16)	Hamilton, NJ
Memorial Elementary School ('14, NSOC '15)	Old Bridge, NJ
Memorial Middle School ('06 & '07, NSOC '07)	Fair Lawn, NJ
Montclair Kimberley Academy (NSOC '03)	Montclair, NJ
North Boulevard School ('12, NSOC '12)	Pompton Plains, NJ
North Plainfield High School ('16, NSOC '16)	North Plainfield, NJ
Northfield Middle School ('09)	Northfield, NJ
Old Bridge High School ('15, NSOC '15)	Matawan, NJ
Old Bridge Township Public Schools ('15, NSOC '15)	Matawan, NJ
Oxford Central School ('14, NSOC '14)	Oxford, NJ
Pauline J. Petway Elementary School ('12, NSOC '14)	Vineland, NJ
Pennsauken Campus, Camden County Tech School ('13, NSOC '15)	Pennsauken, NJ
Pequannock Valley Middle School ('06)	Pompton Plains, NJ
Radix Elementary School ('06 & '07, NSOC '07)	Williamstown, NJ
Raymond E. Voorhees Elementary School ('14, NSOC '14)	Old Bridge, NJ
Richard Stockton Elementary School ('12, NSOC '12)	Cherry Hill, NJ
Robert R. Lazar Middle School ('07)	Montville, NJ
Rosa International Middle School ('07 & '08, NSOC '08)	Cherry Hill, NJ
Salt Brook Elementary School ('11, NSOC '11)	New Providence, NJ
Slackwood Elementary School ('12)	Lawrenceville, NJ
South Brunswick High School ('11, NSOC '11)	Monmouth Junction, NJ
Southwood Elementary School ('14, NSOC '15)	Old Bridge, NJ
Theunis Dey Elementary School ('13)	Wayne, NJ
Thomas Paine Elementary School ('11, '15, NSOC '15)	Cherry Hill, NJ
Upper Greenwood Lake Elementary School ('15)	Hewitt, NJ
Veterans Memorial Elementary School ('08)	Brick, NJ
Virgil Grissom Elementary School ('15, NSOC '16)	Old Bridge, NJ
Walter M. Schirra Elementary School ('15, NSOC '15)	Old Bridge, NJ
Washington Elementary School ('15)	Roselle, NJ
William A. Miller Elementary School ('15, NSOC '15)	Old Bridge, NJ
Woodmont Elementary School ('16, NSOC '16)	Montville, NJ
Zane North School ('06, NSOC '06)	Collingswood, NJ



2017 Promising Practices from New Jersey Schools

The following New Jersey schools have been recognized for one or more National Promising Practices in character education by Character.org.

School Name	City
A. Russell Knight Elementary School	Cherry Hill, NJ
Alfred E. Zampella School	Jersey City, NJ
Anthony Wayne Middle School	Wayne, NJ
Apshawa School	West Milford, NJ
Bell Oaks School	Bellmawr, NJ
Berlin Community School	Berlin, NJ
Broad Street School	Bridgeton, NJ
Camden County Technical Schools, Gloucester Township Campus	Sicklerville, NJ
Camden County Technical Schools, Pennsauken Campus	Pennsauken, NJ
Campbell Elementary School	Metuchen, NJ
Cedar Hill Elementary School	Towaco, NJ
Clara Barton Elementary School	Cherry Hill, NJ
Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 51	Elizabeth, NJ
E.J.F./Aldene Elementary School	Roselle Park, NJ
East End School	North Plainfield, NJ
Elwood Kindle School	Pitman, NJ
Ezra L. Nolan Middle School	Jersey City, NJ
G.E. Wilson Elementary School	Hamilton, NJ
George Washington Middle School	Wayne, NJ
Green-Fields Elementary School	West Deptford, NJ
Helen Fort/ Newcomb Middle School	Pemberton, NJ
Highland Park Middle School	Highland Park, NJ
James A. McDivitt Elementary School	Old Bridge, NJ
Jonas Salk Middle School	Old Bridge, NJ
Joseph H. Brensinger Elementary School	Jersey City, NJ
Joyce Kilmer Elementary School	Cherry Hill, NJ
Lincoln-Hubbard Elementary School	Summit, NJ
Livingston High School	Livingston, NJ
M. Scott Carpenter Elementary School	Old Bridge, NJ
Macopin Middle School	West Milford, NJ
Manito Elementary School	Oakland, NJ
Maple Road Elementary School	West Milford, NJ
Marshall Hill School	West Milford, NJ
Montville Township School District	Montville, NJ
North Brunswick Township High School	North Brunswick, NJ
North Plainfield High School	North Plainfield, NJ
Old Bridge High School	Matawan, NJ
Old Bridge Township Public Schools	Matawan, NJ
Oxford Central School	Oxford, NJ
Paradise Knoll School	Oak Ridge, NJ
Perth Amboy High School	Perth Amboy, NJ
Pinelands Regional Junior High School	Little Egg Harbor, NJ
Samuel Mickle School	Mickleton, NJ
Samuel T. Busansky Upper Elementary School	Pemberton, NJ
Secaucus Middle School	Secaucus, NJ
Upper Greenwood Lake Elementary School	Hewitt, NJ
Valley View Elementary School	Montville, NJ
Walter M. Schirra Elementary School	Old Bridge, NJ
West End Elementary School	North Plainfield, NJ
Westbrook Elementary School	West Milford, NJ
Whippany Park High School	Whippany, NJ
William A. Miller Elementary School	Old Bridge, NJ
William Annin Middle School	Basking Ridge, NJ
Woodrow Wilson School	New Brunswick, NJ



New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD)

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<http://njasecd.org/>

The New Jersey Alliance for Social Emotional and Character Development, with the support of EIRC, is an organization, composed of volunteers, that has agreed to assume many of the responsibilities of the Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University as that valued organization's grant has ended and has gone out of existence.

With the Center's work ending in November 2010, one of the important missions of NJASECD is to maintain the resources developed by the Center and act as a conduit for that information to flow to all the educators, schools and individuals interested in promoting the social, emotional and character development of the students in our public and private schools in New Jersey. The mission of NJASECD follows:

"It is the mission of the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD) to develop life-long learners who are responsible citizens prepared to enter the global society. The Alliance assists educators and all other stakeholders in their efforts to foster ethical, responsible and caring people as they model and teach the social-emotional skills and core ethical values that lead to good character."

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2017 New Jersey Schools of Character Acknowledgments

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