



New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional, and Character Development

2018 Schools of Character Recognition Ceremony



Friday, May 18, 2018
Rider University
The Fine Arts Building
Yvonne Theater
Lawrenceville, NJ



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



NJPSAFE



Character.org





Table of Contents



| | |
|---|------------|
| Recognition Ceremony Agenda | 2 |
| State and National Schools of Character Program Description | 3 |
| 2018 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Support | 4 |
| 2018 New Jersey Schools of Character Recipients | 5 |
| 2018 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries | 6-16 |
| NJASECD Regional Networking Centers | 17 |
| 2018 Promising Practices | 18 |
| New Jersey Schools of Character Recipients from 2016 & 2017 | 19 |
| Previous New Jersey School of Character Recipients | 20-21 |
| 2018 Keynote Panelist Bios | 22 |
| NJ Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development | 23 |
| Acknowledgments | Back Cover |

2018 New Jersey Schools of Character Recognition Ceremony Agenda

| | |
|--|--|
| Welcome / Recognition of Past NJSOC Recipients | Nina Kempf NJ Schools of Character Co-Coordinator |
| Remarks | Steve Beatty New Jersey Education Association |
| Recognition of Emerging Schools | Steve Beatty Secretary-Treasurer, NJEA |
| Remarks | Carolyn Marano Assistant Commissioner of Education |
| Recognition of Honorable Mention Schools | Nancy Curry, Kelly Allen and Luiz Periera, NJ Department of Education |
| Recognition of 2018-20 Schools of Character | Eileen Dachnowicz NJ Schools of Character Co-Coordinator, and Mona Noyes, NJASECD Trustee |
| Remarks and Announcement of 2018 National Schools of Character | Doug Karr President and CEO, Character.org |
| Closing Remarks | Dr. William Trusheim NJASECD President |



State and National Schools of Character Program Description



The School of Character 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 eighteen 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.



2018 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Support

2018 BLUE RIBBON PANEL

| | |
|--|---|
| Eileen Dachnowicz (Chair) | NJSOC State Coordinator, Character.org Trainer |
| Tom Santo | Zane North Elementary 2006, 2017 NSOC |
| Bill Trusheim | NJASECD President |
| Nina Kemps | NJSOC State Coordinator, NJASECD Vice President |
| Kathy Hoeker and Maryann Villegas | Old Bridge Township Public Schools |
| Laurie Colletti and Phyllis Bloom | James A. McDivitt Elementary |
| Elizabeth McLaughlin & Cassandra Pedrosa | Juan Pablo Duarte - Jose Julian Marti School No. 28 |

2018 SITE VISITORS

| | |
|--|--|
| Eileen Dachnowicz | NJSOC State Coordinator, Character.org Trainer |
| Nina Kemps | NJSOC State Coordinator |
| Phil Brown | NJASECD Past President |
| Mona Noyes | NJSOC Co-Chair |
| Kathy Jensen | Lawrenceville Elementary School - Retired |
| Cindy Dacey | NJSOC Co-Chair |
| Mary Reinhold | NJSOC Co-Chair |
| Melissa Cavagnino | Macopin Middle School |
| Kirk Rickansrud | Thomas Paine Elementary School |
| Kathy Hoeker and Maryann Villegas | Old Bridge Township Public Schools |
| Laurie Coletti and Phyllis Bloom | James A. McDivitt Elementary School |
| Courtney Lowery | Raymond E. Voorhees Elementary School |
| Angela Ziemba | Carl Sandberg Middle School |
| Elizabeth McLaughlin & Cassandra Pedrosa | Juan Pablo Duarte - Jose Julian Marti, School No. 28 |
| Jocelyn Rodriguez, Juliette Smith & Carla Kokoszka | Donald Stewart, School No. 51 |
| Ed Porowski | Campbell Elementary School |

2018 REVIEWERS

| | |
|--|--|
| Mona Noyes | NJSOC Co-Chair |
| Kathy Jensen | Lawrenceville Elementary School - Retired |
| Chris Kelly and Tom Gaglione | Hanover Park Regional High School District |
| Jennifer Frederico and Leslie Smith | Pauline J. Petway Elementary School |
| Amy Dickerson and Brianna Kreutzer | Macopin Middle School |
| Carlos Gramata and Lisa Bowe | Hillside Elementary School |
| Doug Stech and Dominic Esposito | Woodmont Elementary School |
| Ann Wilmot and Cindy Dacey | McGalliard Elementary School |
| Jocelyn Rodriguez, Juliette Smith & Carla Kokoszka | Donald Stewart, School No. 51 |
| Mary Reinhold and Melissa Cavagnino | Macopin Middle School |
| Kevin Stanton and Dierdre Iuliani | Merriam Avenue School |
| Jennifer Braverman | Yardville Elementary School |
| Ashley Rose | Morgan Elementary School |
| Ed Porowski and Brooke Kirscher | Campbell Elementary School |
| Joan Barbagiovanni and Michelle Delaney | Burlington Alternative High School |
| Jennifer Miller and Caitlin Helder | Paradise Knoll School |
| Anthony Tumolo and Ann T. DeRosa | Whitehouse School |
| Lillian Halden, Jennifer Aristone and Carolyn Grossi | Rosa International Middle School |
| Gene Park and Jane Rickansrud | Russell Knight Elementary School |

NJSOC CHAIRPERSONS

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Nina Kemps, NJASECD Vice President | NJSOC State Coordinator |
| Eileen Dachnowicz, NJASECD Trustee | NJSOC State Coordinator |
| Laurie Coletti, Principal - McDivitt School | NJSOC Co-Chair |
| Cindy Dacey, Retired Principal McGalliard School | NJSOC Co-Chair |
| Mary Reinhold, Retired Principal - Macopin Middle School | NJSOC Co-Chair |
| Mona Noyes, NJASECD Trustee | NJSOC Co-Chair |



2018 School/District of Character Honorees

2018-2020 NEW JERSEY DISTRICTS OF CHARACTER

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Mantua Township School District ★ | Mantua, NJ |
| Montville Township Public Schools ★ | Montville, NJ |
| Vineland Public Schools | Vineland, NJ |

★ Designates a 2018 National District of Character

2018-2020 NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Apshaw Elementary School ★ | West Milford, NJ |
| Bell Oaks Upper Elementary School ★ | Bellmawr, NJ |
| Fort Dix Elementary ★ | Ft. Dix, NJ |
| Green-Fields Elementary | West Deptford, NJ |
| Harker-Wylie Elementary School | Browns Mills, NJ |
| Hilltop School ★ | Mendham, NJ |
| Joseph D. Sharp Elementary School ★ | Cherry Hill, NJ |
| Joseph S. Stackhouse Elementary School ★ | Browns Mills, NJ |
| Mary E. Volz Elementary & Middle School | Runnemede, NJ |
| Moss School ★ | Metuchen, NJ |
| Pemberton Early Childhood Education Center ★ | Pemberton, NJ |
| Riverview Elementary School | Denville, NJ |
| Robert R. Lazar Middle School ★ | Montville, NJ |
| Samuel T. Busansky Upper Elementary School ★ | Pemberton, NJ |
| Terence C. Reilly, School No. 7 ★ | Elizabeth, NJ |
| Unity Charter School ★ | Morristown, NJ |
| West End Elementary School ★ | North Plainfield, NJ |
| West Milford Township High School | West Milford, NJ |
| Westbrook Elementary School ★ | West Milford, NJ |

★ Designates a 2018 National School of Character

2018 NJ HONORABLE MENTION SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Isaiah Haines Elementary School | Browns Mills, NJ |
| James F. Cooper Elementary School | Cherry Hill, NJ |
| James H. Johnson Elementary School | Cherry Hill, NJ |
| Jefferson Elementary School | Vauxhall, NJ |
| Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology and the Arts, School No. 9 | Elizabeth, NJ |
| John F. Kennedy Elementary School | Berlin, NJ |
| Kingston Elementary School | Cherry Hill, NJ |
| Marshall Hill School | West Milford, NJ |
| Piscataway High School | Piscataway, NJ |
| Signal Hill School | Voorhees, NJ |
| Swimming River School | Tinton Falls, NJ |
| William Mason Elementary School | Montville, NJ |

2018 NEW JERSEY EMERGING SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Greenwood Elementary School | Hamilton, NJ |
| Saint Leo the Great School | Lincroft, NJ |



2018 New Jersey Districts of Character Program Summaries

2018 NEW JERSEY DISTRICTS OF CHARACTER

Mantua Township School District

Grades: Pre-K–6

School District: Mantua Township School District

Contact Person: Terry Labbree

Title: Supervisor of Curriculum and Technology

Email: tlabbree@mantuaschools.com

Street Address: 684 Main Street

City/State/Zip Code: Sewell, NJ 08080

Telephone: 856-468-2225 ext. 1106

Website: <http://mantuaschools.com>



Mantua Township School District has implemented a comprehensive Pre-K—6 character education program and provides the training and time for its staff to weave character into the very fabric of the school. Two 30-minute periods per week integrate this program into the school day. Unlike many anti-bullying programs, Mantua's approach places a proactive emphasis on teaching students both virtues and principles to impact others positively. The primary approach of the program balances an emphasis on performance character traits (i.e., grit, curiosity, determination, etc.) with moral virtues (i.e., wisdom, honesty, integrity, respect, etc.). Balancing the pursuit of achievements while positively impacting others both inside and outside of the classroom are primary tenets of the program. The climate and culture of the Mantua district is one in which students, teachers and faculty *live* the principles and virtues taught in the classroom.

Montville Township Public Schools

Grades: Pre-K–12

School District: Montville Township Public Schools

Contact Person: Dr. René Rovtar

Title: Superintendent

Email: Rene.Rovtar@montville.net

Street Address: 86 River Road

City/State/Zip Code: Montville, NJ 07045

Telephone: 973-331-7100

Website: www.montville.net



Strong character development lies at the heart of the **Montville Township Public Schools**. All district buildings share a commitment to the development of students who are respectful, kind, truthful, and able to contribute to their community. Three district schools (Cedar Hill Elementary, Woodmont Elementary and Robert R. Lazar Middle School) have been named National Schools of Character, and Cedar Hill Elementary has been also honored as a Blue Ribbon School. The district's Five-Year Strategic Plan, developed through input from parents and community residents, includes a number of goals focused on character education and service learning. Montville continues to engage actively with community organizations such as OneMontville and local veterans groups on various projects and events that demonstrate the district's and the township's vigorous commitment to character education.



2018 New Jersey Districts/Schools of Character Program Summaries

Vineland Public Schools

Grades: Pre-K–12

School District: Vineland Public Schools

Contact Person: Ross Stanger

Title: Supervisor of Instruction

Email: rstanger@vineland.org

Street Address: 625 Plum Street

City/State/Zip Code: Vineland, NJ 08360

Telephone: 856-794-6700

Website: www.vineland.org



Vineland Public Schools, one of New Jersey's largest districts, is committed to improving the education and the lives of some 10,000 students in 19 schools through a district-wide emphasis on respect, responsibility, tolerance, and pride. Each school has autonomy in choosing an approach that best fits the needs of its students. The district is incredibly diverse, and both the district and individual schools make every effort to include all and to provide ways to honor their various cultures. The district has forged a strong connection to the wider community, and its ties to the Vineland Police Department and Main Street Vineland have reinforced the efforts of a very committed staff that endeavors to shape students to be caring and contributing members of society. The close association of the district with community resources has given its students many rich opportunities to learn and to serve.

2018 NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER

Apshawa Elementary School

Grades: K–6

School District: West Milford Public School District

Contact Person: Stephanie Primavera

Title: Principal

Email: stephanie.primavera@wmtps.org

Street Address: 140 High Crest Drive

City/State/Zip Code: West Milford, NJ 07480

Telephone: 973-838-6515

Website: https://www.wmtps.org/schools/apshawa_elementary_school



Apshawa Elementary School is a family and child-centered community driven by compassion, collaboration, and commitment to academic achievement as well as to character education. Its mission is to educate and develop responsible citizens who are innovative, confident, competent lifelong learners. Knowing that the partnership between families, staff, and the community is critically important to student success, the school stresses collaboration between all in nurturing and developing students of character. Character education is infused in all grades with an emphasis on student-led activities, service learning connected to the curriculum, and thoughtful practices such as Mindfulness. The school's core values, accented in its mantra, *Be Here, Be Safe, Be Honest, Be Respectful, Let Go and Move On, and Set Goals*, are the foundation of its program, providing unity, continuity, and a common language.



2018 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Bell Oaks Upper Elementary School

Grades: 5–8

School District: Bellmawr

Contact Person: Melissa Gleason

Title: Vice Principal

Email: mgleason@bellmawrschools.org

Street Address: 256 Anderson Avenue

City/State/Zip Code: Bellmawr, NJ 08031

Telephone: 856-931-6273

Website: www.bellmawrschools.org



Bell Oaks School is a middle school that is devoted to educating the whole child through rigorous academics as well as through age-appropriate character education. Since beginning its character journey in 2008, the school has sought to infuse the six pillars into the exploratory period, to relate them to literature and life in subject classes, and to stress their practice through classroom and service activities. Bell Oaks incorporates elements of both PBIS and Responsive Classroom, honors students through a “Caught Doing Good” recognition program, and develops thoughtful and reflective learners through a One Book, One School initiative. Among other successful practices are its mentoring and student mediation programs, a whole-community literacy programs, and a “Hopes and Dreams” motivating exercise taken by staff, parents, and board of education members.

Fort Dix Elementary School

Grades: Pre-K–5

School District: Pemberton

Contact Person: Tamra Garbutt

Title: Principal

Email: tgarbutt@pemb.org

Street Address: 1199 Juliustown Road

City/State/Zip Code: Fort Dix, NJ 08640

Telephone: 609-893-8141, ext. 6003

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



Fort Dix Elementary has a unique opportunity to educate the children of military families. Unlike other neighborhood schools, it has a very high student mobility rate because of frequent Permanent Change of Duty Stations (PCS). This challenge inspired the school to develop and implement a set of core values that tie together the goals of developing character and strengthening academics. Fort Dix uses the acronym INSPIRE (*I need service, perseverance, integrity, respect and responsibility everyday*) to integrate its core values into all aspects of school life. By taking a comprehensive, proactive approach to character education, the school aims to promote the development of global citizens of good character who are committed to lifelong learning and shaping a better world. A “Character Education Day” involves parents and students working together to address and reinforce the INSPIRE values through interactive projects.



2018 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Green-Fields Elementary School

Grades: Kindergarten; 3–4

School District: West Deptford Township

Contact Person: Karry Corbitt

Title: Principal

Email: kcorbitt@wdeptford.k12.nj.us

Street Address: 15 Hill Lane

City/State/Zip Code: Woodbury, NJ 08096

Telephone: 856-845-7929

Website: <http://ges.wdeptford.k12.nj.us/>



Green-Fields School has made it a priority to focus on quality character development for all students, their families, and the school community as a whole. With a student body that consists of the entire district's third and fourth graders as well as one-third of the district's kindergarten students, the school faces a challenge in engaging all families. However, Green-Fields has found that its emphasis on character development and service learning has created a school environment that is family-focused and community-centered. Amazingly, its overall school climate has evolved into one in which respect, gratitude, citizenship, trustworthiness, responsibility, and a caring attitude are emphasized and observed each day among students and staff. The way in which the pillars of character have become the fabric of school life highlights the importance that this school places on the social and emotional development of its students.

Harker-Wylie Elementary School

Grades: K–2

School District: Pemberton Township Schools

Contact Person: Robin Blue

Title: Principal

Email: rblue@pemb.org

Street Address: 125 Trenton Road, Bldg. 3

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

Telephone: 609-893-8141 ext.7800

Website: www.pemberton.k12.nj.us



Harker-Wylie Elementary School supports and abides by its district's Mission Statement, *Pursuing Excellence, One Student at a Time*. To achieve the goal of reaching all students, the school utilizes many practices in teaching its core values of respect, Integrity, responsibility, perseverance, and service to make them a common language. Among its successful strategies are: a morning character pledge, daily lessons that incorporate character themes, motivating assemblies, the Golden Tray and quarterly Dragon Awards, and staff and student "shout-outs." The school is very proud of the carryover of these character traits to other areas of school life and to the home and wider community. A case in point: lunchroom and custodial staff consistently point out the students' good manners in the cafeteria and their equally commendable behavior in the halls and playground, even "when no one is watching."



2018 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Hilltop School

Grades: Pre-K-4

School District: Mendham Borough

Contact Person: David Heller

Title: Principal

Email: heller@mendhamboroschools.org

Street Address: 12 Hilltop Rd

City/State/Zip Code: Mendham, NJ 07945

Telephone: 973-543-4251 ext. 125

Website: www.mendhamboro.org/hilltop



Hilltop School in Mendham Borough prides itself on developing well-rounded students who show good character. Throughout the school year, students focus on the different pillars of character through literature, role playing, music, and home projects. The school's website, handbook, assemblies, weekly take-home folder and school hallways promote the values for all to recognize. Working on service learning projects that connect with the pillars has benefitted the community near and far, and has provided students opportunities to practice positive character. All staff at Hilltop School place an emphasis on character education to help prepare students for life beyond school. The goal of Hilltop's program is to develop a positive school environment, one in which all children feel safe and valued, and can thrive both academically and socially in the classroom and beyond!

Joseph D. Sharp Elementary School

Grades: K-5

School District: Cherry Hill Public Schools

Contact Person: Kim Laskey

Title: Librarian

Email: klaskey@chclc.org

Street Address: 300 Old Orchard Road

City/State/Zip Code: Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003

Telephone: 856-424-1550

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



Sharp Elementary School is located in a community where parents and staff alike say, "This is a great place to raise kids." A comprehensive, intentional, and proactive approach to character development has always been part of Sharp's journey. The school's core values are promoted throughout the building every day, are reflected in the character attitudes, and are intertwined with the district's character education pillars of respect, responsibility, and citizenship. Students and staff begin each morning with a School Character Pledge that affirms an environment of learning and growing together. Staff continuously reflect on the efficacy and overall sustainability of the character education initiatives. A welcoming, warm, and collaborative school that focuses on both academics and character, Sharp builds strong relationships with students, families and community members.



2018 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Joseph S. Stackhouse Elementary School

Grades: 3–5

School District: Pemberton Township Schools

Contact Person: Marcy Smith

Title: Reading Specialist

Email: mmsmith@pemb.org

Street Address: 125A Trenton Road

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

Telephone: 609-893-8141 ext. 7000

Website: <https://www.pemberton.k12.nj.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=23>



Joseph Stackhouse Elementary School has actively promoted and implemented its core values of service, perseverance, integrity, responsibility, and respect in many ways. Not only are the core values highly visible around the school, but teachers continually integrate them through classroom instruction and assigning reflective journals. Character education expectations are clearly defined throughout the common areas and within the classrooms. The school has moved away from extrinsic motivation to accentuating intrinsic rewards. Student leaders have created lively videos to communicate and define core values. Proof of a school-wide commitment to service: creating a community garden with plants and painted rocks, hosting a Thanksgiving food drive for the community, and collecting Pennies for Puerto Rico resulting in a donation of over \$2,000. Character education is alive and thriving at Stackhouse Elementary School!

Mary E. Volz School

Grades: 4–8

School District: Rummelmedes

Contact Person: Phil Silva

Title: Assistant Principal

Email: psilva@rummelmedeschools.org

Street Address: 505 West 3rd Avenue

City/State/Zip Code: Rummelmede, NJ, 08360

Telephone: 856-931-5353

Website: www.rummelmedeschools.org



The goal of character education at **Mary Volz School** is to foster the development of caring, responsible, and respectful students who will make good choices and who will contribute constructively to their school community, their families, and the community at large. All strive to follow the R.E.A.C.H. philosophy, which stands for the core values of respect, effort, attitude, caring, and honesty. Different motivating practices encourage students of each grade level so everyone has an opportunity to practice the values in age-appropriate exercises. Through daily lessons, classroom practices, school-wide and family events, students experience these core values with the objective of making these traits an integral part of their daily activities and dealings with others. This will prepare them to become productive, respectful citizens with positive character traits that become lifelong habits.



2018 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Moss School

Grades: Preschool – Kindergarten

School District: Metuchen

Contact Person: Rick Cohen

Title: Principal of Moss / Assistant Superintendent

Email: rcohen@metboe.k12.nj.us

Street Address: 16 Simpson Place

City/State/Zip Code: Metuchen, NJ / 08840

Telephone: 732-321-8700

Website: <http://www.metuchenschools.org/metuchen/MOSS/>



“A Great Place to Grow” is an apt motto for **Moss School**, a highly innovative preschool that uses a carefully structured Problem-Solving Process to teach the little ones how to break down and handle difficulties—academic, social and emotional—whenever they occur. Teachers realize that they lay the foundation for life and actively teach the children to follow the research-based approach of Dr. Maurice Elias to social problem-solving / decision-making. The children transfer the same techniques to reading and math. In addition to the half-day kindergarten, Moss offers a specialized half-day program for three- to five-year-olds experiencing physical, neurological, speech or social delays. The same pedagogical approach as well as the same core values (community, empathy, honesty, perseverance, and respect) are accented in both programs so all children receive a firm foundation for life.

Pemberton Early Childhood Education Center

Grades: Preschool

School District: Pemberton Township Schools

Contact Person: Deborah Ceplo

Title: Principal

Email: dceplo@pemb.org

Street Address: 100 Arney's Mt Road

City/State/Zip Code: Pemberton, NJ 08068

Telephone: 609-893-8141

Website: www.pemberton.k12.nj.us



Pemberton Early Childhood Education Center, home to approximately 500 preschoolers, realizes it is “the gateway” to each child’s educational journey. Therefore, the staff strives to support the social-emotional and intellectual development of all children in a nurturing and secure environment. The Center’s core values are evident from the moment the child arrives since every adult in the building models them. Staff and children show *respect* by greeting each other every morning. Children show *responsibility* by independently ordering lunch, signing in, unpacking their belongings. They demonstrate *service* by participating in the many service-learning projects throughout the year. They show *perseverance* throughout the day as they learn new skills and are encouraged to keep trying. They show *integrity* as they follow the classroom expectations: *Take Care of Self, Take Care of Others, and Take Care of Classroom*.



2018 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Riverview Elementary School

Grades: K–5

School District: Denville Township

Contact Person: Mrs. Tina Theodoropoulos

Title: Principal

Email: ctheodoropoulos@denville.org

Street Address: 33 St. Marys Place

City/State/Zip Code: Denville, NJ 07834

Telephone: 973-983-6545

Website: <http://www.rv.denville.org/>



At **Riverview School** the focus is on the development of the “whole” child. Recognizing the importance of adding character education and social-emotional learning into the students’ daily instruction, the school, with input from the entire community, created a unified vision that helps guide all decisions. The vision: *Riverview School educates the whole child by engaging all learners in a rigorous academic curricula and social-emotional character development. Our learning community fosters respectful, responsible, and empathetic citizens that are able to meet challenges with grit and grace.* Throughout the school day, Riverview has created learning opportunities such as morning meetings, peer mentors, reading buddies student climate team and whole-school activities that promote the development of these traits. The school is committed to shaping all students to become responsible global citizens.

Robert R. Lazar Middle School

Grades: 6–8

School District: Montville Township

Contact Person: Susan Rappaport

Title: School Counselor

Email: susan.rappaport@montville.net

Street Address: 123 Changebridge Rd

City/State/Zip Code: Montville, NJ 07045

Telephone: 973-331-7100 ext. 2335

Website: www.montville.net



The character education program of **Robert**

R. Lazar Middle School is forever evolving. Based on the results of a 2014 survey of all stakeholders, the school has initiated an Advisory Program that has become the heart of its character efforts. Every student and staff member participates in it; a directed curriculum promotes an atmosphere of respect, tolerance and appreciation of differences through team building activities, group discussion, a focus on core values (pride, empathy, respect, cooperation, citizenship) and developing leadership. Each grade level has its own curriculum to foster growth at the targeted grade and maturity level. Upon the completion of the sixth-grade Advisory Program, students have the option to apply for a leadership program in lieu of Advisory. An application process holds all participants accountable for upholding the program’s integrity. Advisory has greatly enriched Lazar’s character-building.



2018 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Samuel T. Busansky Upper Elementary School

Grades: 3–5

School District: Pemberton Township

Contact Person: Maureen DiBella

Title: Principal

Email: mdibella@pemb.org

Street Address: 16 Scrapetown Rd.

City/State/Zip Code: Pemberton, NJ 08068

Telephone: 609-893-8141

Website: www.pemberton.k12.nj.us



Samuel Busansky is a school committed to life-long learning in character and academics. It is a school that teaches, models, and celebrates the core values of service to the community, *respect* for ourselves and others, responsibility for the choices we make, Integrity in standing-up for what we believe in, and perseverance to never give up. With the adoption of its core values, Busansky has witnessed the many benefits of teaching children about character and the way it changes school culture. Through the daily recitation of the Peace Pledge, core value anchor charts, warm and fuzzy circles, reflective journaling, and relevant literature, the students receive both a solid foundation in good character and practice in observing it in different situations. The school's mission is to train and empower all students so they can become positive role models and productive good citizens.

Terence C. Reilly, School No. 7

Grades: Pre-K; 2–8

School District: Elizabeth

Contact Person: Nicole Webb

Title: School Counselor

Email: distefanoni@epsnj.org

Street Address: 436 First Ave

City/State/Zip Code: Elizabeth NJ 07206

Telephone: 908-436-66037

Website: <https://www.epsnj.org/Domain/38>



Terence C. Reilly is a gifted and talented school that houses 1084 students. Embedding character education within such a rigorous academic program has been a priority because of the importance of creating socially responsible students and future leaders. The implementation of character education has recently had a major impact on Terence C. Reilly's positive school culture. Teachers and staff have integrated social and emotional lessons within the curriculum to give students the tools they need to be productive citizens. School-wide initiatives such as assemblies, lunch time activities, community presentations, character education displays, and character-building daily announcements have reinvigorated the program. At the core of the school's success are dedicated teachers, staff, community, and families who work selflessly to maintain high academic standards while fostering character development.



2018 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Unity Charter School

Grades: K–8

School District: Unity Charter School

Contact Person: Connie Sanchez

Title: Executive Director

Email: connie.sanchez@unitycharterschool.org

Street Address: 1 Evergreen Place, Suite A

City/State/Zip Code: Morristown, NJ 07960

Telephone: 973-292-1808

Website: <http://unitycharterschool.org/>



Founded in 1998, **Unity Charter School** provides quality public school education focused on a mission that impacts all people—the future health and sustainability of our environment. By integrating the tenets of Positive Discipline into the daily life of the school, Unity aims to model and teach students how to become responsible, respectful and resourceful members of their communities. A key emphasis is on developing the important social-emotional skills that students need to achieve success in academics and in life as well as learning the constructive use of personal power and autonomy in changing the world. The school's mission is to integrate the principles of sustainability, ecology, and diversity in their students' school experience with the ultimate goal of helping them to understand how their behavior impacts others, and to take responsibility for themselves and their world.

West End Elementary School

Grades: Pre-K–4

School District: North Plainfield

Contact Person: Filipe Luis

Title: Principal

Email: mailto:filipe_luis@nplainfield.org

Street Address: 447 Greenbrook Road

City/State/Zip Code: North Plainfield/NJ/07060

Telephone: 908-769-6083

Website: <https://npwee.nplainfield.org/>



The character education journey of **West End School** began with the caring leadership of the school's late principal, Beth Sobel, who personified the values the school stands for and shaped its first steps. When the district formally adopted the four core values of caring, appreciation, respect, and determination (CARD), the school revitalized its existing programs by connecting them to daily instruction. At the same time, it began to adopt practices that met the needs of the community while focusing on increasing intrinsic motivation. West End's initiatives—Safety Patrol, Leader Readers, and Community Is Unity—have earned it three Promising Practices in two years. It is appropriate that West End uses the acronym, WE, not just as an abbreviation of its name but to represent the power of unity and togetherness, since the staff, students, and parents function as WE, not as individual entities.



2018 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

West Milford Township High School

Grades: 9–12

School District: West Milford Township

Contact Person: Jennifer Monego

Title: Teacher

Email: jennifer.monego@wmtps.org

Street Address: 67 Highlander Drive

City/State/Zip Code: West Milford, NJ 07480

Telephone: 973-697-1700

Website: www.wmtps.org/schools/west_milford_highschool



Challenged with the goal of building strong, independent students who also possess good citizenship qualities, **West Milford High School** began its character initiative in 2012 by implementing a developmental program starting in freshman year. One of the school's strengths is the success of the "Full Value" (FV) character program in which staff and students are trained and which sets the tone for WMHS to work, play and learn at its fullest potential. The school proactively deals with the challenge of bullying by stressing acceptance for all and addressing the needs of its students with ongoing character lessons, relevant assemblies, and motivating speakers that renew its commitment to tolerance and practicing Highlander PRIDE. Yearly, the school assesses climate and makes efforts to adopt changes with the support of staff, students, and administrators.

Westbrook Elementary School

Grades: K–6

School District: West Milford Township

Contact Person: Dr. Dana Swarts

Title: Principal

Email: dana.swarts@wmtps.org

Street Address: 55 Nosenzo Pond Road

City/State/Zip Code: West Milford, NJ 07480

Telephone: 973-697-5700

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



Westbrook began its character journey several years ago in response to the West Milford's adoption of its "Full Value" core values: *Be Here, Be Safe, Be Honest, Be Respectful, Let Go & Move On, & Set Goals*. As part of Westbrook's mission, the development of the whole child has become a priority, and character education is integral to fulfilling that mission. The staff is passionate about shaping children to be valuable and giving citizens with a strong ethical and empathetic nature. To develop rich initiatives, the Character Education Committee has branched out to include every facet of the school community, bringing together all staff, parents, and students collaboratively to weave the Full Value philosophy into the fabric of everyday life. The goal is to develop strong and responsible citizens that are ready to learn, grow, and care through academic and service-learning experiences.

REGIONAL NETWORKING CENTERS



NJASECD is here to help schools interested in becoming the next New Jersey Schools of Character. We have established 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 and to provide professional development and networking opportunities for teachers, administrators and other interested individuals.

NORTHERN REGIONAL NETWORKING CENTER

*Hanover Park Regional High School District
Dan Austin and Thomas Gaglione, Regional Coordinators
daustin@hpreg.org; tgaglione@hpreg.org
Mary Reinhold, NJSOC Co-Chair - karkev179@gmail.com*

EASTERN REGIONAL NETWORKING CENTER

*Old Bridge Township Public Schools
Laurie Coletti, Regional Coordinator and NJSOC Co-Chair
lcoletti@obps.org*

WESTERN REGIONAL NETWORKING CENTER

*Lawrence Township Public Schools
Cindy Westhead, Regional Coordinator
CWesthead@ltps.org
Cindy Dacey, NJSOC Co-Chair - cndacey@yahoo.com*

SOUTHERN REGIONAL NETWORKING CENTER

*Cherry Hill Public Schools
Mona Noyes, Regional Coordinator and NJSOC CO-Chair
mknoyes@comcast.net*

*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***



2018 Promising Practices from New Jersey Schools

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| A. Russell Knight E.S. | Kindness Heroes | Cherry Hill |
| Alexander Denbo E.S. | Bus Buddies | Browns Mills |
| Anthony Rossi Int. School | Make A Change | Vineland |
| Aphsawa School | Character Club | West Milford |
| Barclay Early Childhood Center | Reverse Inclusion with Speech Support | Cherry Hill |
| Bell Oaks School | One Book, One School | Bellmawr |
| Berlin Community School | Connections and Reflections | Berlin |
| Camden County Technical School | Athletes Against Bullying Club and All Lives Matter | Sicklerville |
| Camden County Technical Schools | CBP--Character Building Plus | Pennsauken |
| Campbell Elementary School | The Happiness Initiative and Creating a Culturally Sensitive Community | Metuchen |
| Chaplain Charles J. Watters PS #24 | Restorative Justice Practices | Jersey City |
| Cherry Hill High School East | Project SUCCESS and Go Do Good Unit | Cherry Hill |
| Cherry Hill Public Schools | The Power of Words and Transition with a Twist | Cherry Hill |
| Cinnaminson Middle School | Take a Veteran to School Day | Cinnaminson |
| D'Ippolito Elementary School | B.R.A.V.O. to D'Ippolito Elementary School | Vineland |
| Dogwood Hill School | Dogwood Character Contest | Oakland |
| Donald Stewart School No. 51 | Panda Pride Parade | Elizabeth |
| East Greenwich Township Schools | Character is Magical and "Buzz Buddies" Mentor Club | Mickleton |
| Fort Dix Elementary School | Start the Day in a Positive Way!: 3 H's/F | Fort Dix |
| G.E. Wilson Elementary School | We Learn Together Nights | Hamilton |
| Greenwood Elementary School | Greenwood Character Themes | Hamilton |
| Hanover Park High School | Happy Hive | East Hanover |
| Horace Mann Elementary School | Recess Buddies | Cherry Hill |
| Howard L. Emmons School | Autistic Buddies | Medford |
| James F. Cooper Elementary School | Cooper Pride Paw Initiative | Cherry Hill |
| Joseph H. Brensinger PS #17 | JHB's Peer Mediation Service | Jersey City |
| Joseph S. Stackhouse E.S. | Leaders of the Pack | Browns Mills |
| Juan Pablo Duarte-Jose Julian Marti | Truck-or-Treat | Elizabeth |
| Kuser Elementary School | Kuser Early Act Program | Hamilton |
| Leroy Gordon Cooper E.S. | Coop's Free Little Pantry | Old Bridge |
| Liberty Corner School | Connection Day | Liberty Corner |
| Lincoln-Hubbard E.S. | Mission: PILLAR | Summit |
| Lord Stirling School | Lord Stirling Knights Ride with Pride | New Brunswick |
| Macopin Middle School | The Make a Change Club | West Milford |
| Madison Park E.S. | Halloween Costume Swap and Shop | Old Bridge |
| Maple Road School | First Friday Celebration | West Milford |
| Marshall Hill Elementary School | Character Ambassador Program and Eagle Pride Program | West Milford |
| Martin J. Ryerson Middle School | The Ringwood Character Education Program | Ringwood |
| Memorial Elementary School | Hope's Heroes | Laurence Harbor |
| Montgomery Upper Middle School | Character Counts Series | Skillman |
| Morris Hills Regional District | Morris Hills Summer Read Program | Rockaway |
| Moss School | Moss School Problem Solving Process | Metuchen |
| Paul Robeson Community School | SEL Character Day | New Brunswick |
| Old Bridge High School | OBHS Attendance Madness | Matawan |
| Old Bridge School District | Project Unified | Matawan |
| Pemberton Township HS | L.O.C.K.- Ladies of Character and Knowledge | Pemberton |
| Perth Amboy High School | Be the Change and Heroes & Cool Kids | Perth Amboy |
| Riverview Elementary School | SEL Resource Center/ "SEL Nook" | Denville |
| Schirra Elementary School - OBPS | Project BLUE | Old Bridge |
| Vineland, NJ School District | Search for Conscience | Vineland |
| Stackhouse Elementary School | Kindness Catcher | Browns Mills |
| Stony Brook School | Learning Impacts Tomorrow and Stony Brook PULSE | North Plainfield |
| Sunnybrae Elementary | Building Character Through a Team Approach | Rockaway |
| Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 | Human Rights At Risk | Elizabeth |
| Unity Charter School | Positive Discipline | Morristown |
| Upper Greenwood Lake School | Third Grade Heroes Play | Hewitt |
| Valley Middle School | Character Education | Oakland |
| Warren H Wolf | Leaders of the Pack | Brick |
| West Milford Field Hockey Program | A Program of True Character | West Milford |
| West Milford High School | Giving Back to the Community, Annual Spooktacular | West Milford |
| | Benefit, Notebook Recycle Program, & Highlaner Helpers | |
| West Milford HS Cheerleading | Handbags for the Homeless | West Milford |
| West Milford Highlander Basketball | Rivals Unite Holiday Gift Drive | West Milford |
| West Milford Twp Public Schools | S.A.F.E. Night | West Milford |
| Westbrook Elementary School | Westbrook Inspires! | West Milford |
| William Annin Middle School | Day of Giving | Basking Ridge |
| Woodmont Elementary School | Woodmont Pathways Peer Mentoring Program | Pine Brook |



2016 and 2017 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

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| 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 2016 National School of Character

★ Designates a 2017 National School of Character

NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER - 2017-2019

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| 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 |

★ Designates a 2017 National School of Character

★ Designates a 2018 National School of Character



Previous Recipients New Jersey Schools of Character

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| A. Russell Knight Elementary School ('17, NSOC '17) | Cherry Hill, NJ |
| Alan B. Shepard Elementary School ('10, '11, '16, NSOC '11&'16) | Old Bridge, NJ |
| Alexander Denbo Elementary School ('17) | Pemberton, NJ |
| Bedwell Elementary School ('10) | Bernardsville, NJ |
| Ben Franklin Elementary School ('12) | Princeton Pike, NJ |
| Berlin Community School ('13, NSOC '13) | Berlin, NJ |
| Bret Harte Elementary School ('17) | Cherry Hill, NJ |
| Brigantine Elementary School ('08, '09, '10 & '11, NSOC '11) | Brigantine, NJ |
| Broad Street School ('17) | Bridgeton, NJ |
| Burlington County Alternative School ('17, NSOC '17) | Mount Laurel, NJ |
| Campbell Elementary School ('17, NSOC '17) | Metuchen, 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 |
| Cherry Hill High School West ('13) | Cherry Hill, NJ |
| Cherry Hill Public Schools ('17) | Cherry Hill, NJ |
| Cinnaminson Middle School ('17, NSOC '17) | Cinnaminson, 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 School No. 51 ('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, '17) | Lawrenceville, NJ |
| Essex County North 13th Street Tech High School ('17) | Newark, NJ |
| Frank J. Smith School ('17) | East Hanover, 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 |
| Harrison Elementary School ('17, NSOC '17) | Roselle, NJ |
| Helen A. Fort/Newcomb Middle School ('17) | Pemberton, 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 |
| Howard L. Emmons Elementary School ('17) | Pemberton, 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 |
| Jonas Salk Middle School ('17, NSOC '17) | Old Bridge, 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 |



Previous Recipients New Jersey Schools of Character

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Leroy Gordon Cooper Elementary School ('13, NSOC '16) | Cliffwood Beach, NJ |
| 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 |
| Mahala F. Atchison School ('17) | Tinton Falls, NJ |
| Maple Road Elementary School ('16, NSOC '17) | West Milford, 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 |
| Merriam Avenue School ('17, NSOC '17) | Newton, NJ |
| Montclair Kimberley Academy (NSOC '03) | Montclair, NJ |
| Morgan Elementary School ('17, NSOC '17) | Hamilton, NJ |
| New Brunswick Middle School ('17, NSOC '17) | New Brunswick, NJ |
| New Providence School District ('17, NSOC '17) | New Providence, NJ |
| Nicholas S. LaCorte/Peterstown, School No. 3 (NJSOC '16) | Elizabeth, 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 |
| Paradise Knoll School ('17, NSOC '17) | Oak Ridge, 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, '17) | Cherry Hill, NJ |
| Robert R. Lazar Middle School ('07) | Montville, NJ |
| Rosa International Middle School ('07 & '08, NSOC '08, '17) | Cherry Hill, NJ |
| Salt Brook Elementary School ('11, NSOC '11) | New Providence, NJ |
| Slackwood Elementary School ('12) | Lawrenceville, NJ |
| Somerset Intermediate School ('17, NSOC '17) | North Plainfield, NJ |
| South Brunswick High School ('11, NSOC '11, '17) | 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 |
| Tinton Falls Middle School ('17, NSOC '17) | Tinton Falls |
| Upper Greenwood Lake Elementary School ('15, NSOC '17) | 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, NSOC '17) | Roselle, NJ |
| Whitehouse Elementary School ('17, NSOC '17) | Whitehouse Station, NJ |
| William A. Miller Elementary School ('15, NSOC '15) | Old Bridge, NJ |
| Woodmont Elementary School ('16, NSOC '16) | Montville, NJ |
| Yardville Elementary School ('17, NSOC '17) | Hamilton, NJ |
| Zane North School ('06, NSOC '06, '17) | Collingswood, NJ |

2018 KEYNOTE PANELISTS

Laurie Coletti, Principal, James McDivitt Elementary School



Laurie Coletti is a Kean University graduate and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, a Master's Degree in Special Education, a Master's Degree in Educational Administration and a Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant Certification. Mrs. Coletti has been involved in education since 1979 and has taught first grade, seventh grade, preschool handicapped, primary autistic, self-contained, and communication handicapped classes. She has served as a high school vice principal and an adjunct at Kean University. She is currently the principal of McDivitt Elementary School and has instituted various activities to enhance the elementary curriculum including: Character Education Initiative, Spelling Bee, Writing Contests, STEM Club, K-Kids Club, and Math 24. Encouraging our K-5 students to succeed and enjoy

learning is paramount. Mrs. Coletti has served as the president of the Middlesex County Principals and Supervisor's Association, and as a member of the Civil Air Patrol. She is a member of NJASECD, NJPSA, and the National Association for Elementary School Principals. Mrs. Coletti has been married for over 35 years and has three sons, all of whom are proud graduates of Old Bridge Township Public Schools.

Dr. Joseph Meloche, Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools

After more than 20 years in public education, Dr. Joseph Meloche was appointed Superintendent of the Cherry Hill Public Schools on August 25, 2015. His educational background includes teaching Humanities and English at the middle school level and serving Cherry Hill as the principal of Kingston Elementary School, Carusi Middle School, and Cherry Hill High School West. In 2013, he became Director of Curriculum and eight months later was appointed the Assistant Superintendent for Pre-K-12. Dr. Meloche earned degrees from DeSales University, Holy Family University, and Widener University. As Superintendent, Dr. Meloche provides the critically essential leadership required to provide an academic environment of excellence, while motivating and engaging students to share their voices as scholars and as people. He was recently recognized as the New Jersey PTA Superintendent of the Year for 2018 and as a "Leader to Learn From" by Education Week.



Jeannie Drexinger, Principal, Salt Brook Elementary School



Jeannie Drexinger is principal of Salt Brook Elementary School in New Providence, NJ. She has been a school administrator for 21 years, 16 of those years serving as the principal of Salt Brook. Mrs. Drexinger has been active in the area of character education for over 16 years and has successfully guided her school to be named a NJ State School of Character and a National School of Character (2011). Most recently, she assisted her district as it earned both state and national recognition (2017) as well. Mrs. Drexinger has presented at both state and national conferences and firmly believes that character education should be fun, meaningful, relevant, and, most importantly, that it should be an integral part of the school day.



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

njasecd@gmail.com

<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."

NJASECD Officers

President

Dr. William H. Trusheim

Vice President

Nina Kemps

Secretary

Laurie Coletti

Treasurer

Ted Frynkewicz

Past President

Dr. Philip M. Brown

NJASECD Members at Large

Pat Carr

Mary Reinhold

Cindy Dacey

James Sarto

Eileen Dachnowicz

Cindy Westhead

Mona Noyes

NJASECD Committee Chairs

Advocacy/Fund Raising

Mona Noyes

Conference Committee

Peter Clark, Leigh Cline, William Trusheim

Communications

Leigh Cline and Jim Sarto

Schools of Character

Nina Kemps, Eileen Dachnowicz, Mona Noyes, Mary Reinhold, Laurie Coletti, and Cindy Dacey

Regional Centers

Cindy Westhead, Dan Austin, Mona Noyes, and Laurie Coletti

NJ DOE Liaisons: Kirsten Weigert, Luiz Periera

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

New Jersey Education Association (NJEA)

New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association (NJPSA)



2018 New Jersey Schools of Character Acknowledgments

The New Jersey School of Character Program is affiliated with the National Schools of Character which is a program of



1634 I Street NW, Suite 550
Washington, DC 20006
202-296-7743

NJASECD wishes to recognize the
New Jersey Education Association for their generous support of the
New Jersey Schools of Character Program



New Jersey Education Association
180 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08607-1211
www.njea.org
Phone: 609-599-4561 Fax: 609-599-1201

NJASECD wishes to recognize the
New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association
and the Foundation for Educational Administration for their
administrative support of NJASECD and the
New Jersey Schools of Character Program



12 Centre Drive
Monroe, NJ 08831
(609) 860-1200

**This program is independently owned and operated by NJASECD.
NJASECD is not affiliated with Rider University.**