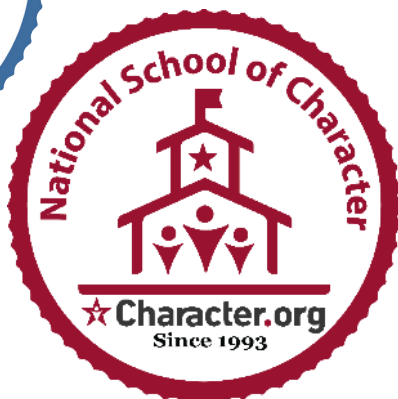




**New Jersey Alliance for
Social, Emotional, and
Character Development**

2022 Schools of Character Recognition Booklet





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.

In 2006, 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 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. State Schools of Character are then evaluated by national site visitors for recognition as National Schools of Character. National Schools of Character serve as models and ambassadors of effective character education.



2022 School of Character Honorees



2022 New Jersey State Schools of Character

A. Russell Knight Elementary School	Cherry Hill, NJ
Burlington County Alternative School	Mount Laurel, NJ
Campbell Elementary School	Metuchen, NJ
Cinnaminson Middle School	Cinnaminson, NJ
E.J.F. Aldene Elementary School	Roselle Park, NJ
Harrison Elementary School	Roselle, NJ
John A. Carusi Middle School	Cherry Hill, NJ
Maple Road School	West Milford, NJ
McGalliard School	Hamilton, NJ
Millstone Middle School	Millstone, NJ
Morgan Elementary School	Hamilton, NJ
North Plainfield High School	North Plainfield, NJ
Red Bank Charter Academy	Red Bank, NJ
Somerset Intermediate School	North Plainfield, NJ
Upper Greenwood Lake Elementary School	Hewitt, NJ
Washington Elementary School	Roselle, NJ

2022 New Jersey Honorable Mention Schools of Character

Benjamin Franklin School Number 13	Elizabeth, NJ
Child Family Center	Millville, NJ
Gov. Charles C. Stratton School	Woolwich Twp., NJ
Hully Heights Elementary School	Millville, NJ
Lakeside Middle School	Millville, NJ
Richard C. Crockett Middle School	Hamilton, NJ
Rieck Avenue Elementary School	Millville, NJ
Valleyview Middle School	Denville, NJ
West Deptford Middle School	West Deptford, NJ

2022 New Jersey Emerging Schools of Character

Beach Haven School	Beach Haven, NJ
Elmora School No. 12	Elizabeth, NJ
Millville High School	Millville, NJ
Mount Pleasant Elementary School	Millville, NJ
RM Bacon Elementary School	Millville, NJ
Silver Run Elementary School	Millville, NJ



2022 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

2022 New Jersey State Schools of Character

A. Russell Knight Elementary School, Cherry Hill ★

Grades: K-5

School District: Cherry Hill

Contact Person: Jane Rickansrud

Title: School Counselor

Email: herrickansrud@chclc.org

Street Address: 140 Old Carriage Road

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

Telephone: 856-428-0830

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



A. Russell Knight Elementary School is committed to teaching students to be the kind of people who seek to serve others and are driven to make the world a better place for all. The Knight's Creed is One for All and All for One! Knight's students have opportunities to deepen their understanding of core values through guidance lessons, family (grade level) meetings and daily morning meetings.

Burlington County Alternative School, Mount Laurel ★

Grades: 7- 12

School District: Burlington County

Contact Person: Mrs. Joan Barbagiovanni

Title: Principal/Director

Email: jbarbagiovanni@burlcoschools.org

Street Address: 1020 Briggs Road

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

Telephone: 856-266-1879

Website: www.burlcoschools.org



Burlington County Alternative School offers an opportunity for students to achieve their personal potential. Students meet/exceed state and local requirements via programs adapted to each student's needs and abilities. BCAS uses the 11 Principles, to implement character-based initiatives, to support good character, and to help students act with integrity.

★ indicates a 2022 National School of Character



2022 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Campbell Elementary School, Metuchen ★

Grades: 1-4

School District: Metuchen Schools

Contact Person: Mrs. Brooke Kirschner

Title: Assistant Principal

Email: bkirschner@metboe.k12.nj.us

Street Address: 24 Durham Road

City/State/Zip Code: Metuchen, NJ

Telephone: 732-321-8777

Website: <https://www.metuchenschools.org/o/ces>



Campbell Elementary School has provided outreach to other schools, districts, and entities at the local, state and national levels to support character education. Campbell facilitates bi-monthly meetings where district staff collaborate regarding SEL and best practices. Campbell promotes students' personal growth and encourages moral sensitivity. Families have been overwhelmingly positive and supportive, as Campbell is responsive to their needs, and includes families in planning and decision-making.

Cinnaminson Middle School, Cinnaminson ★

Grades: 6-8

School District: Cinnaminson

Contact Person: Ms. Melissa DeClementi

Title: Character Education Facilitator

Email: declementim@cinnaminson.com

Street Address: 312 N. Forklanding Road

City/State/Zip Code: Cinnaminson, NJ 08054

Telephone: 856-786-8012

Website: <https://cms.cinnaminson.com/>



Cinnaminson Middle School has come together to support service efforts, community activities, and educational discussion forums and has been the model school for character education and service activities for the Cinnaminson school district. Cinnaminson Middle School's core values of Responsibility, Unity, Friendship, Respect, Integrity, Trust, Kindness, Tolerance, Pride, and Equality are prominently displayed and encompass all aspects of the school's culture.

★ indicates a 2022 National School of Character



2022 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

E.J.F. Aldene Elementary School, Roselle Park ★

Grades: Pre K - 5

School District: Roselle Park

Contact Person: Dr. Sloan Scully

Title: Principal

Email: sscully@rpsd.org

Street Address: 339 West Webster Ave.

City/State/Zip Code: Roselle Park, NJ 07023

Telephone: 908-245-1521

Website: <https://al.rpsd.org/>



E.J.F. Aldene Elementary School has been long referred to as “The School with a HEART.” Serving the Roselle Park Community since 1921, E.J.F. Aldene Elementary School has a very diverse population which is unified through character education. HEART – Helpfulness, Excellence, Acceptance, Respect, Trust – are the core values that make Aldene Elementary shine.

Harrison Elementary School, Roselle

Grades: Pre k - 4

School District: Roselle Schools

Contact Person: Dr. Melissa Nevarez

Title: Principal

Email: mnevarez@roselleschools.org

Street Address: 310 Harrison Ave

City/State/Zip Code: Roselle, NJ 07203

Telephone: 908-298-2052

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



Harrison Elementary School supports character building with daily routines by utilizing the pillars of character, conducting Morning Meetings and Brain Breaks throughout the day, setting the tone of being responsible school citizens. While incorporating Empathy and Virtue Language into the school culture, Harrison helped build student voices inside and outside the classroom through respect, volunteerism, and by focusing on Character in Action opportunities.

★ indicates a 2022 National School of Character



2022 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

John A. Carusi Middle School, Cherry Hill ★

Grades: 6 - 8

School District: Cherry Hill

Contact Person: Ms. Theresa Wisniewski

Title: Teacher

Email: twisniewski@chclc.org

Street Address: 315 Roosevelt Dr.

City/State/Zip Code: Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Telephone: 856-324-0509

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



John A. Carusi Middle School recognizes the importance of outreach and tries to connect to other schools and organizations in the community. Staff and students created a program called “Mustang A Go-Go” to visit elementary schools and complete buddy activities. The core values of CARUSI - Caring, Academic, Responsible, Unparalleled Students with Integrity - guide the continued investment in their children.

Maple Road School, West Milford Township ★

Grades: Pre K - 5

School District: West Milford

Contact Person: Mr. William Kane

Title: Principal

Email: bill.kane@wmtps.org

Street Address: 36 Maple Road School

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

Telephone: 973-697-3606

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



Maple Road School has adopted the core values of Project Adventure's Full Value Commitment and social decision-making model: Be Here, Be Safe, Be Honest, Be Respectful, Set Goals, Let Go and Move On. Maple Road School has embraced these core values and created a strong school community, committed to supporting the academic, social, and emotional development of every student.

★ indicates a 2022 National School of Character



2022 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

McGalliard Elementary School, Hamilton

Grades: K- 5

School District: Hamilton

Contact Person: Mrs. Marcie Tandy

Title: School Counselor

Email: mtandy@htsdnj.org

Street Address: 1600 Arena Drive

City/State/Zip Code: Hamilton, NJ 08610

Telephone: (609) 631-4158

Website: <https://www.htsdnj.org/Domain/389>



McGalliard Elementary School staff agreed that Social Emotional Learning was of the utmost importance. McGalliard's P.R.O.U.D. initiative is: P is for Polite, R is for Responsible, O is for Outstanding, U is for Understanding, D is for Dependable. The use of mindfulness activities throughout the day helps the students learn in a calm and stress-free environment. Students feel nurtured, valued, empowered and safe.

Millstone Middle School, Millstone ★

Grades: 6 - 7

School District: Millstone

Contact Person: Ms. Lindsay Perine

Title: School Counselor

Email: lperine@millstone.k12.nj.us

Street Address: 5 Dawson Court

City/State/Zip Code: Millstone, NJ

08535

Telephone: 732-786-0950 x.1143

Website: <http://ms.millstone.k12.nj.us/>



Millstone Middle School focuses on maintaining an environment that promotes student growth both academically and personally. Students have a safe place to be who they are so they may choose activities and initiatives where they feel supported and confident. Millstone Middle School follows the core values of RISE-UP: Respectful, Inclusive, Safe, Empathetic, United, Productive members of society. These core values foster strength to go beyond our school walls and into our community with service learning.

★ indicates a 2022 National School of Character



2022 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Morgan Elementary School, Hamilton ☆

Grades: K - 5

School District: Hamilton

Contact Person: Ms. Ashley LaRose

Title: School Counselor

Email: alarose@htsdnj.org

Street Address: 38 Stamford Rd

City/State/Zip Code: Hamilton, NJ

Telephone: 609-631-4160x2

Website: <https://www.htsdnj.org/Domain/478>



Morgan Elementary School's mantra and core values are, "We are M.A.G.I.C: Mindful, Ambitious, Genuine, Imaginative, Compassionate." These values align with Morgan's mission to provide each student with a learning environment fostering academic, emotional, physical, and social development. Morgan Elementary School uses "Magic Stars and Magic Hats" to support an intrinsic desire to learn and grow.

North Plainfield High School, North Plainfield ☆

Grades: 9 - 12

School District: North Plainfield

Contact Person: Dr. Jerard Stephenson

Title: Principal

Email: Jerard_stephenson@nplainfield.org

Street Address: 34 Wilson Ave

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

Telephone: 908-769-6000

Website: <https://www.nplainfield.org/NPHS/>



North Plainfield High School's core values are: Caring, Appreciation, Respect, Determination, which are the foundation of the Canuck Mentoring program as well as the focus for every school club and organization. North Plainfield High School's successful mentoring program has become a model for other schools around the state. North Plainfield provides a rich and meaningful curriculum and a strong character culture for their students.

☆ indicates a 2022 National School of Character



2022 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Red Bank Charter Academy, Red Bank ☆

Grades: Pre K - 8

School District: Red Bank Charter Schools

Contact Person: Dr. Kristen Martello

Title: Head of School

Email: kmartello@redbankcharterschool.co

Street Address: 58 Oakland Street

City/State/Zip Code: Red Bank, NJ 07701

Telephone: 732-450-2092

Website: www.redbankcharterchool.com



Red Bank Charter School focuses on establishing a foundation for good citizenship. The mission at Red Bank Charter School has 3 bedrock beliefs: All Children Can Learn; All Children Must Care for Themselves and Others; All Children Should Contribute to Their Larger World. These beliefs drive academics and character education at RBCS. Red Bank Charter School validates student effort. Each month, two students per grade level are recognized for demonstrating a core value, through the Charter Champion Celebration.

Somerset Intermediate School, North Plainfield ☆

Grades: 5 -6

School District: North Plainfield

Contact Person: Ms. Priscila Weber

Title: Assistant Principal

Email: priscila_weber@nplainfield.org

Street Address: 303 Somerset Street

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

Telephone: 908 769 6080

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



Somerset Intermediate School is one of the few schools accepted into Addressing ACEs and Trauma Through a Healing-Centered Engagement Model Project. Somerset School partnered with local community resources to design a multi-year Healing Centered Engagement whole-school Action Plan for school climate and culture. Somerset aims to foster meaningful bonds with stakeholders and meet the needs of students through a whole-child approach.

☆ indicates a 2022 National School of Character



2022 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

Upper Greenwood Lake Elementary School, Hewitt

Grades: K - 5

School District: West Milford

Contact Person: Mrs. Johanna Archer

Title: Media Specialist

Email: johanna.archer@wmtps.org

Street Address: 41 Henry Road

City/State/Zip Code: Hewitt, NJ 07421

Telephone: 973-853-4466

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



Upper Greenwood Lake's Code of Conduct is: Be Here, Be Safe, Be Honest, Be Respectful, Always Do Your Personal Best, Be Kind, Let Go and Move On. Daily classroom practices and school-wide programs promote core values. During weekly Project Adventure activities, students build self-confidence and trust and practice conflict resolution. Growth Mindset "I can" statements reinforce positive language each month. Upper Greenwood Lake's focus on school-wide service projects encourages students to demonstrate good character while recognizing a positive impact on the world.

Washington Elementary School, Roselle ★

Grades: Pre K - 4

School District: Roselle Schools

Contact Person: Jason Robbins

Title: School Counselor

Email: jrobbins@roselleschools.org

Street Address: 501 Washington Avenue

City/State/Zip Code: Roselle, NJ 08846

Telephone: (908) 298-2075

Website: <https://roselleschools.org/washington/>



Washington Elementary School believes the core values of Cooperative-ness, Accountability, Responsible Decisions, Empathy, and Self-Confidence embrace the value of outreach. As the first NSOC in the district, Washington Elementary has provided guidance and assistance to many schools. Washington Elementary School strives and succeeds in offering meaningful learning experiences and academic challenges respecting all learners, supporting each student's development of character and guiding student success.

★ indicates a 2022 National School of Character



2022 NATIONAL SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER!

2022 National Schools of Character

A. Russell Knight Elementary School, Cherry Hill, NJ

Burlington County Alternative School, Mount Laurel, NJ

Campbell Elementary School , Metuchen, NJ

Cinnaminson Middle School, Cinnaminson, NJ

E.J.F. Aldene Elementary School, Roselle Park, NJ

John A. Carusi Middle School, Cherry Hill, NJ

Joyce Kilmer Middle School, Milltown, NJ

Maple Road School, West Milford, NJ

Millstone Middle School, Millstone, NJ

Morgan Elementary School, Hamilton, NJ

North Plainfield High School, North Plainfield, NJ

Red Bank Charter Academy, Red Bank, NJ

Somerset Intermediate School, North Plainfield, NJ

Washington Elementary School, Roselle, NJ



2021 Promising Practices Recipients

Character.org is honored to announce our 2021 Promising Practices. We celebrate the creative approaches these schools and organizations have put in place to help children and teens understand, care about and consistently practice the core values that will enable them to flourish in school, in relationships, in the workplace and as citizens. Each of these school or organization-based initiatives is a significant example of effective character development and aligned with one or more of our 11 Principles framework. Congratulations to the following New Jersey Schools!

- Applegarth Elementary School, Monroe Township Schools
 - Birchwood Elementary School
 - Cherry Hill High School West
 - Copeland Middle School
 - East Greenwich Township Schools
 - Greenwood Elementary School
- Hanover Park Regional High School District
 - Holmdel High School
- James A. McDivitt Elementary School
 - Joyce Kilmer Elementary School
- Katharine D. Malone Elementary School
 - Lawrence Middle School
 - Macopin Middle School
- Mahatma K. Gandhi School, P.S. 23
 - McGalliard Elementary
 - Morgan Elementary School
 - Oakview Elementary School
 - Red Bank Charter School
 - Red Bank Elementary School
 - Samuel Mickle School
- Spotswood Memorial Middle School
- The Pennsauken Campus of Camden County • Technical Schools
 - Upper Greenwood Lake Elementary School
 - West Deptford Middle School
 - West Milford High School
 - Woodcrest Elementary School

The 2022 Promising Practice applications are in and we are awaiting the results to find out which New Jersey schools will be recognized for their initiatives in 2022!



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

The New Jersey Alliance for Social Emotional and Character Development is a not-for-profit 501c3 organization, composed of volunteers who work throughout the New Jersey to support that work that schools do to improve school culture and climate by focusing on character education and social-emotional learning. One of the important missions of NJASECD is to provide useful resources for 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.

NJASECD Officers

Dr. William H. Trusheim, President
Laurie Coletti, Vice President
Mary Reinhold, Secretary
Ted Frynkewicz, Treasurer
Dr. Philip M. Brown, Past President

NJASECD Members at Large

Pat Carr
Pete Clark
Cindy Dacey
Eileen Dachnowicz
Mona Noyes
James Sarto
Cindy Westhead

NJASECD Committee Chairs

Advocacy/Fund Raising	Mona Noyes
Conference Committee	Peter Clark, Leigh Cline, Carol Lawrence, and William Trusheim
Communications	Leigh Cline and Jim Sarto
Schools of Character	Mary Reinhold, Laurie Coletti
Regional Centers	Marc Citro, Chris Kelly, Mona Noyes, Joe Marinzoli, Jeff Havers, Cindy Dacey, and Jennifer Frederico
Membership	Peter Clark

Contact us at
njasecd@gmail.com • <http://njasecd.org/>



2022 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Volunteers



2022 BLUE RIBBON PANEL

Eileen Dachnowicz (Chair)	NJASECD Trustee
William Trusheim	NJASECD President
Thomas Santo	Retired Educator
Laurie Coletti and Phyllis Bloom	James A. McDivitt Elementary
Elizabeth McLaughlin and Cassandra Pedrosa	Juan Pablo Duarte - Jose Julian Marti School No. 28
Mary Reinhold	NJASECD Secretary
Melissa Cavagnino	Retired Educator

2022 NATIONAL EVALUATORS

Lisa Bowe	Hillside Elementary School
Phil Brown	NJASECD Past President
Cindy Dacey	NJASECD Trustee
Dominic Esposito	Woodmont Elementary School
Carlos Gramata	Hillside Elementary School
Maribeth Hall	Denville Public Schools
Bill Kane	West Milford Public Schools
Brook Kirschner	Metuchen Public Schools
Ashley LaRose	Morgan Elementary School
Elizabeth McLaughlin	Juan Pablo Duarte - Jose Julian Marti School No. 28
Debra Mineri	Denville Public Schools
Florence Norton	
Cassie Pedrosa	Juan Pablo Duarte - Jose Julian Marti School No. 28
Tom Santo	Zane North Elementary School
Ines Simoes	North Plainfield Public Schools
Allison Staffin	Cherry Hill Public Schools
Doug Stech	Woodmont Elementary School
Ann Wilmot	Hamilton Township School District

2022 STATE REVIEWERS

Allison Staffin	Cherry Hill Public Schools
Andreia Milano and Nicole Webb	Terence Reilly, School No. 7
Brooke Kirschner and Erica Hsu	Metuchen Public Schools
Cindy Dacey and Ann Wilmot	Hamilton Township School District
Dana Swarts and Bill Kane	West Milford Public Schools
Dominic Esposito, Doug Stech, and René Rovtar	Monville Township Public Schools
Eileen Dachnowicz	NJASECD Trustee
Elizabeth McLaughlin and Cassie Pedrosa	Juan Pablo Duarte-Jose Julian Marti School No. 28
Erin Branagan and Christine Genardi-Fisher	West Milford Public Schools
Ines Simoes and Leslie Castillo	North Plainfield Public Schools
Jocelyn Rodriguez, Juliette Smith, Margarita Torres, and Natalia Liquori	Donald Stewart, School No. 51
Joan Barbagiovanni and Michelle Delaney	Burlington County Schools
Joe Trentacosta and Marc Citro	West Milford Public Schools
Laurie Coletti and Phyllis Bloom	James A. McDivitt School
Leslie Finke, Krista Provost, and Joseph Andriulli	Macopin Middle School
Lisa Bowe and Carlos Gramata	Hillside Elementary School
Maribeth Hall and Debra Minieri	Denville Public Schools
Melissa Cavagnino and Mary Reinhold	Retired Macopin Middle School
Michelle dos Santos and Marilyn Quinones	West End School
Mona Noyes	NJASECD Trustee
Nina Kempes	Former Trustee, NJASECD
Pat Carr and Manju Matthew	Oxford Central School
Pete Clark	NJASECD Trustee
Todd McCabe	Denville Public Schools
Todd Peters	Franklin Township
Tricia Graney and Kristi Clave	West Milford Public Schools
William Trusheim	President, NJASECD



2022 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



PO Box 650307
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202.296.7743

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



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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
partnership with NJASECD and the
New Jersey Schools of Character Program



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