



Character Counts! Newsletter

Frederick County Public Schools
Frederick, Maryland



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The *Character Counts!* newsletter is published twice a year by Janet Shipman and Pat Baisey for Frederick County Public Schools.

For more information please call 301-644-5220.

In 1996 Frederick County Public Schools adopted *Character Counts!* as a character-education program for grades PreK through 12. The 1998 Board of Education Vision Statement, which proclaims "The Frederick County public school system educates its students to become caring, respectful and responsible citizens and family members," reflects the *Character Counts!* six Pillars of Character.

Each of our schools has implemented the *Character Counts!* program. School administrators, teachers, support staff and volunteers design and present a variety of related activities throughout the year. We invite *Character Counts!* coordinators from half of the schools to submit articles for the fall newsletter. The remaining schools present articles in the spring.

Trustworthiness

Be honest. Don't deceive, cheat or steal. Be reliable—do what you say you'll do. Have the courage to do the right thing. Build a good reputation. Be loyal—stand by your family, friends and country.

Respect

Treat others with respect—follow the Golden Rule. Be tolerant of differences. Use good manners, not bad language. Be considerate of the feelings of others. Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone. Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements.

Responsibility

Do what you're supposed to do. Persevere—keep on trying. Always do your best. Use self-control. Be self-disciplined. Think before you act—consider the consequences. Be accountable for your choices.

Fairness

Play by the rules. Take turns and share. Be open-minded—listen to others. Don't take advantage of others. Don't blame others carelessly.

Caring

Be kind. Be compassionate and show you care. Express gratitude. Forgive others. Help people in need.

Citizenship

Do your share to make your school and community better. Cooperate. Stay informed—VOTE! Be a good neighbor. Obey laws and rules. Respect authority. Protect the environment.

A Message from Janet Shipman

Character Counts! Program Coordinator



FCPS Civility Awareness Week: December 4 – 8

What Is Civility?

Civility is defined as polite, reasonable, and respectful behavior. It is the behavior that promotes kindness and is what allows families, neighborhoods, schools, and communities to interact peacefully. Civility demands restraint and an ability to put the interests of the common good above personal interests. The psychological elements of civility include self-awareness, self-control, empathy, and respect.

The purpose of FCPS Civility Awareness Week is to promote a culture of civility in our schools, at home, and in our community. This week focuses on five themes:

- Respecting others
- Cultural awareness
- Digital citizenship
- What civility means to you
- Random acts of kindness

Civility is learned through respectful relationships. Parents, teachers, youth mentors, and everyone who comes into contact with kids are in the position to teach civility. We need to take advantage of every opportunity we have to teach kids the foundations of civility.

15 Ways to Foster Respectful Behavior

1. Think about the impact of words and actions on others before you use them.
2. Apologize when you are wrong.
3. Set ground rules for civil behavior at home and in classrooms.
4. Teach kids how to become engaged citizens.
5. Treat children and adults with the respect that you expect from them.
6. Demand civility of politicians and public servants.
7. Use respectful language when you disagree with someone.
8. Don't let anger and emotion get in the way of listening to others.
9. Be tolerant of people who are different from you.
10. Teach character strengths, like respect and empathy, at home and in classrooms.
11. Challenge people's views, but don't attack the person.
12. Acknowledge others for their civility and respectful behavior, regardless of their viewpoints.
13. Remind kids often why they – and you – should be civil.
14. Empower children to take a stand against bullying.
15. Lead by example.

Brunswick Middle School

By Kelly Mahn

This year Brunswick Middle School celebrated and recognized *Character Counts!* Week by holding a *Character Counts!* door decorating contest. Advisory groups decorated their classroom doors by focusing on one or more pillars of character. Students were given the opportunity to vote for their favorite door. The winning advisory group earned extra recess during ELT. Here are a few pictures of the doors. The students were very creative!





Frederick High School

By Ali Lazorchak

Gratitude. It's a word used frequently this time of year as we reflect upon the things for which we are thankful. At Frederick High, this word became a theme for us in August as students and staff entered the halls of our new school. There was a \$114 million budget to construct the new FHS, complete with the latest 21st century technology. The gorgeous, state-of-the-art facility gives us much to be grateful for. We have chosen to focus on ways for our school community to show gratitude for this amazing gift.

As one means to show gratitude, we have embraced the traits that the pillars of good character represent, urging our learning community to be good stewards of our new facility. Part of being a good steward is taking responsibility for the condition of our building. Students are working diligently to keep food and drink in the cafeteria; in fact, many can be seen reminding others to be mindful of trash, neatness and cleaning up. Others tidy the chairs and desks before leaving the classroom. Students have learned to respect their new space. As they enjoy the pristine hallways, they are leaving room for one another, moving along and finding ways to greet each other and staff with friendly chatter. Some have taken to sitting on the built-in benches outside classrooms and encouraging peers to get to class. These self-appointed hall monitors brighten mornings for everyone. Students are trustworthy when staying after school for Learnings Lab or supper by remaining in supervised areas. They demonstrate good character as they move through the day, appreciating the variety of new technology. Students are thrilled to have been issued Chromebooks they may take home, and they are doing a great job protecting the investment.

We also show gratitude by sharing our new space with many groups in the community at large. We opened the school for tours so community members could see the new, high-tech facilities. Various groups within FCPS and the greater Frederick community have been able to share our space for meeting and training events. The central location and modern facility are a draw for many. We are grateful to be able to share our space with the community.

The official ribbon-cutting ceremony was an optimal time to show our gratitude. We welcomed many esteemed guests who had assisted in the building process. Some worked tirelessly to ensure this project happened. FHS is especially thankful that the Maryland legislature provided \$236,000 in support of our new LYNX Program (Linking Youth to New eXperiences). We are also very excited and thankful for the 48 wonderful local business and community partners who provide a multitude of opportunities for career exploration. We thanked so many groups and individuals during our ribbon cutting, and we continue to show great appreciation for the hard work that led to this new center of learning.





As we move into winter and settle into our new home, we continue to look ahead for ways to show our gratitude. FHS staff and students remain a bit overwhelmed by this fantastic gift. We look forward to many more opportunities to display our gratitude through the coming years.

Character Counts at Monocacy Elementary

By Christy DeFrance

Character Counts! is integrated into many things we do at Monocacy Elementary. We emphasize respect and responsibility through the common language of our three school rules: *Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Relentless*.

During quarterly awards ceremonies, we celebrate students who demonstrate trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. Students who demonstrate these pillars of *Character Counts!* with their peers and staff earn a certificate and are recognized during the assembly with their grade level. We invite families to attend as well. The students take great pride in earning these awards!

Other ways we infuse *Character Counts!* traits into our students' school experience are through sharing Ron Clark's essential 55 (we call them the ABCs of Respect) daily on our morning announcements; in our Gator Patrol support of students and staff during daily dismissal; when our 5th grade students assist in organizing their end-of-year MOES Bridge Ceremony to celebrate crossing over to middle school; and in celebrating the accomplishments of all our MOES students.

*MOES students strive every day to exemplify the pillars of Character Counts!
in their everyday interactions with peers and staff!*

At LHS, Kindness Counts

By Dawn Aburto

Linganore High School staff and students pride themselves on taking care of their community. This fall Linganore was an official participant with the Maryland Food Bank food drive, Kids Helping Kids. Several students, driven by their passion to help others, planned and implemented this food drive with lots of hard work. They decorated boxes for classroom collection and a shopping cart for the front office as the community donation drop-off spot. Throughout October they collected nonperishable food items and then donated them to local area food banks. Linganore High School students, staff and families donated 1,108 items weighing in at 1,000 pounds. This was truly a reflection of generosity and kindness.

We demonstrated our LHS “Be Kind” theme inside and outside the walls of Linganore. The “Together Against Bullying” Unity Day encouraged everyone to dress in orange; we gave out unity bracelets and stickers promoting kindness and acceptance. We hung a “Words That Encourage” wall in the cafeteria for students to share kind and encouraging words.



Out in the courtyard, sidewalk chalk pictures and words of unity and encouragement made an art scape of kindness.



***Linganore High School is a school with true character
and a place where kindness counts!***

Middletown Middle School

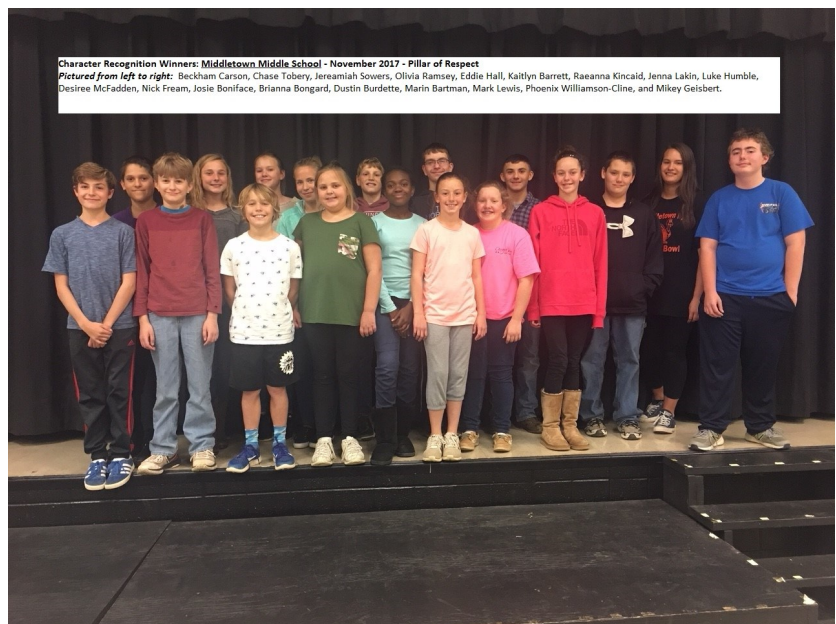
By Matt Butts

Middletown Middle School strives to recognize students with fantastic character throughout the school year and will continue to do so through the pillars of character: trustworthiness, responsibility, respect, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Teachers and other staff members have the opportunity to give every student in our school a chance to be nominated and possibly recognized as a winner. Students who win receive a certificate that shares positive highlights about them. Winning students also receive a delicious pizza luncheon, provided through the care and support of our Middletown community small-business owner Glenn James and James Gang Pizzeria!



We celebrated students (in the photo on the left), recognizing them at school on Friday, October 6 for showing outstanding responsibility in September and October.

We celebrated students (in the photo on the right), recognizing them at school on Thursday, November 16 for showing outstanding respect this school year.



Character Counts at Emmitsburg Elementary

By Tamm Reed and Sarah Fawley

Character Counts! is incorporated into the daily instruction and activities occurring at Emmitsburg Elementary. From morning announcements through the end of the day, good character messages are intertwined in many ways. This year Emmitsburg Elementary is using the book *The Leader in Me* by Steven Covey to encourage our community to Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be a Leader.



Throughout the school year, teachers work hard to build and promote good character in every classroom. We integrate the pillars of good character into all academic areas including art, music, physical education, media, and school counseling. A school-wide positive-behavior management plan called "PBIS" ensures that all students are held accountable to the same expectations regardless of where they are in the building.

We prominently display a *Character Counts!* bulletin board as a reminder to students that we value the good choices they make in and outside of school. As part of our PBIS program, students may earn tickets when they display acts of leadership and exemplary character. Staff recognize students' daily displays of good character,

no matter how big or small. At the end of each week we hold a drawing and permit two classes to cash in tickets for items at our Emmitsburg Soar Store. This is a highly anticipated event for the student body.

We encourage *Character Counts!* in other ways throughout the school. Some classrooms use a token system allowing students to make purchases from a classroom treasure box or purchase coupons for lunch with the classroom teacher or other staff member.

Building character through good attendance is a major focus in our school. We have an **End of the Term Celebration** for students with exemplary attendance and exemplary character. We recognize the students earning a certificate and an award.

During Bullying Prevention Month and *Character Counts!* Week in October, we encouraged students and staff to show their commitment to good character by wearing the color that matched each character trait. We provided a library book matrix to teachers with a read-aloud resource to model the character traits through literature. This was a fantastic opportunity to model fluency with children.

Also during this time Master Jay So from Next Step Martial Arts Studio taught a series of lessons about bullying, manners, and the pillars of character. Master Jay offered a celebration to students at his studio for completing a 48-hour character challenge. Students will enjoy a celebration at the Next Step Martial Arts Studio in Fairfield, PA.

Emmitsburg Elementary supports the community and shares great character through several outreach programs such as Red Ribbon Week, Kids Care, and adopting needy families during the holidays. As leaders, Emmitsburg Elementary students participated in the Kids Helping Kids Food Drive to support the Maryland Food Bank. Through all of these activities, being a leader of exemplary character counts at Emmitsburg Elementary School!



We are Brunswick Strong!

Character Counts at Brunswick Elementary

By Kathleen Klecan, School Counselor

At Brunswick Elementary, we are working on having students show that they are “Brunswick Strong” each and every day.

Being “Brunswick Strong” means leading and modeling all six pillars of good character—responsibility, respect, caring, fairness, trustworthiness, and citizenship. It is also a way that students can show that they are following our four school rules: Be respectful, be responsible, be safe, and be ready to learn.

We started the year with a visit from The NED Show. This was a great opportunity for students to learn and think about NED’s core principles to Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best. Information about The NED Show is online at <http://www.thenedshow.com/>. Staff members appreciated all the free character-education resources that The NED Show provides, and it continues to be a topic of discussion in classroom lessons.

Students were able to connect the NED message to our understanding of the six pillars during *Character Counts!* Week. Students wore colors to represent each pillar and had the opportunity to earn brag tags when they were “caught” exemplifying one of the pillars. We kicked off the week with our first Kids of Character assembly, celebrating students with awesome respect and responsibility. We also gave out our first round of Brunswick Strong awards. This award is peer nominated so students select the winners. This is a great way to have students encourage each other.

We will celebrate The Great Kindness Challenge at BES from January 22-26. Information about this national program is online at <https://thegreatkindnesschallenge.com/>. We look forward to emphasizing kind acts this week as well as continuing to recognize good character. Our PTO will give each student a good-character token during this event.

Each of these initiatives has helped to ensure that Brunswick Elementary is a kind (and cool) place to be!

Character and Kindness Count at Catoctin High School

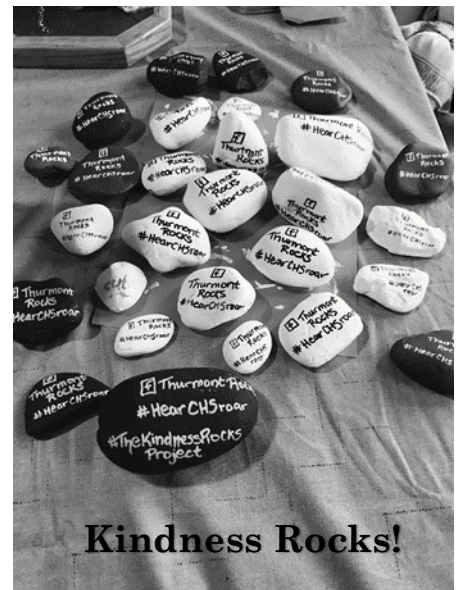
By Dana Brashear



Catoctin High School has been busy making connections with others over the past several months. There were themes picked for each month to address virtues that tied into health and wellness. The key activities for September were developed with suicide awareness and friendship in mind. The students at CHS learned about taking care of themselves mentally, along with ensuring that their classmates were not feeling alone in their journey through high school. The students were able to sign a banner that stated, "You are not alone," and we placed it in the hallway for all to see. We used a bulletin board in the hallway to

display available supports and services for students and adults in the community.

In October our ROAR club wanted to emphasize kindness with CHS students and staff. Some of the activities the students embraced were coloring Kindness Rocks (then hidden in the community to be enjoyed when found). Wags for Hope was available to lift the spirits of students and staff. A Commitment Banner was created to encourage students to commit to certain Acts of Kindness throughout the month. These were all special ways to include the entire student body in the activities for our school.



November is a month for gratitude. Our Leo and freshmen clubs have worked together to create opportunities for students to show gratitude towards staff and family. Small cards of gratitude have already been given to each staff member. There is also a gratitude tree that we will fill with “leaves” that display what people are grateful for in our community. These are all ways that CHS is supporting a positive character initiative this year.



Character Counts Every Day at Carroll Manor Elementary

By Lisa Frederick

At Carroll Manor Elementary, we regularly celebrate good character in many ways. Students receive tickets, paw awards, positive office referrals with a phone call home, and class rewards for exemplary behavior. At Carroll Manor Elementary, we “PAWS” for great character!

In addition to our *Character Counts!* PAWS, we nominate students monthly for a *Character Counts!* Luncheon. Each teacher nominates one student and prepares a certificate that our principal signs. The students are honored with lunch on the stage, where tables are decorated with cloths and centerpieces. The students enjoy eating lunch with parents and/or family members. The counselor reads the names as each student receives the certificate. We celebrate good character during lunchtime, selecting classes each month to receive an award!

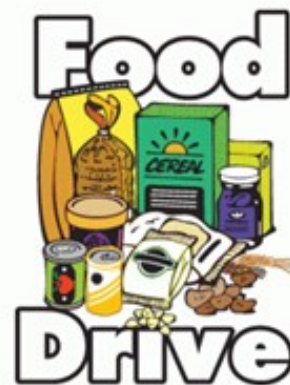


Students at CMES attended a Box Out Bullying Prevention Awareness Assembly. Through lessons and activities, they have learned about the difference between bullying and normal peer conflict. They also learned how to prevent bullying by speaking up and taking a stand against it. We encourage students to focus on cultivating positive friendships and to stand together against bullying.

During Red Ribbon Week our students enjoyed daily activities reminding them to Stay Drug Free!

At Carroll Manor Elementary, we are committed to good citizenship and caring. To practice this, we held a holiday food drive and have collected donations to help support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Everyone at Carroll Manor Elementary School works hard to make good choices and show that character counts every day. We are very proud to be a community of outstanding character. Students, staff and community members work together to be good citizens and demonstrate caring and a commitment to learning.



Governor Thomas Johnson Middle School

By Kim Long and Brian Dwyer



Caring was the *Character Counts!* pillar highlighted in October, as we participated in the national initiative celebrating Unity Day October 25. Peer Power students wrote encouraging post-it notes for every student and placed them on student lockers. They also wrote notes for teachers and staff and placed them on the classroom doors.

Peer Power created a Unity Banner with the declaration “To Show Unity, I Will. . .” and students signed the banner by naming ways they would support each other.



We held a special raffle at each grade level. To be eligible, students had to wear something orange. The theme for the month was showing kindness and support to those who have been mistreated at our school.



Crestwood Middle School

By Lauren Underhill

Students at Crestwood Middle have been busy this fall collecting items to send to our troops stationed overseas and organizing a canned-food drive for those who are hungry. Eighth graders in Mrs. Ritz's Life Skills class have spearheaded this generous endeavor.



Students Jalynn Summers, Stephanie Orellana, Emmy Adzannur, Avontae Burns, Tre Hamilton, Analice Covington, and Emma Livingston were the main organizers of these charity drives. Students donated an abundance of items generously shared with local homeless shelters.



We collected over 600 items for our troops and sent them to Iraq and Afghanistan. We included inspirational quotes, funny puns, and letters, as well. The soldiers LOVE receiving items that are hard to find on military bases, so our students are going to make many soldiers very happy!

Go eighth graders at CMS—Crestwood proud!





Knights Make Character Count!

By Janice Police

Middletown Primary staff incorporates *Character Counts!* into everyday learning.

Since the beginning of school, students have helped in the community by donating food and canned goods to the Middletown Food Bank for families in need. We also participate in the Weekend Bag Program to help students who may need food through the weekend. MPS staff also adopts a family to help during the holiday season. Both MPS and MES have a donation drive for the holidays of coats and clothing. The donations are distributed to families in need through Middletown Valley People Helping People and the Zion Clothing Closet.

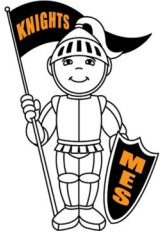
Each quarter our school meets in grade level assemblies with the principal, assistant principal and counselor to focus on “bucket filling” and the pillars of character. The goal for each student is to be recognized by a teacher during the 9-week term for using the pillars of character and filling someone’s bucket. Students then get *Character Counts!* stickers, and we place their names in a teacher’s bucket. At the next assembly, the principal draws two names from each classroom bucket, and those students have a special lunch in the activity room with the principal, assistant principal and counselor. In addition to the lunch, students get a special bookmark and stickers, and they sign a pillar poster. The poster has the Bucket Buffet group lunch picture, and we display the pillar on the cafeteria wall until the end of the year. MPS also recognizes *Character Counts!* Week with activities such as dress up days throughout the week. In addition, we recognize American Education Week to promote character and to connect with our community.

Our school has implemented an Acts of Kindness Tree, on which students and staff can recognize others for acts of kindness. Students and staff write messages on leaves that are read on the announcements and hung on the tree. In addition, our front lobby has a Donation Tree from which parents and community members can take a request from the staff and help meet a classroom need. Our kindergartners also complete a “Gift from the Heart” project, doing a good deed for someone in the community. The first grade organizes a Teddy Bear Picnic with activities centered around *Character Counts!* pillars. Our second grade develops a year-long program with Character Cash, permitting students to earn cash dollars for showing good character. The students also earn pieces to complete the *Character Counts!* necklaces they wear on Fridays and to gain extra recess time.

Since MPS has a wonderful Challenges Program, we have disability awareness lessons in each classroom. Second grade students who are great *Character Counts!* role models are chosen to help each week with a student from Challenges in the Peer PE and Peer Music programs. They help the Challenges student play games and then help with the same student all year long.

Another way MPS promotes the *Character Counts!* program is through each specials area (PE, music, art and media). We use a point system (1-4) for each class time with the students. At the end of each month, the class with the highest points wins a *Character Counts!* award. We also focus our field day, which includes all our students, on *Character Counts!*

The primary school setting helps to instill positive values and pillars of good character necessary for shaping our students into good community citizens. We teach and reinforce good character daily.



Middletown Elementary School

WHERE CHARACTER COUNTS EVERY DAY

By David Shafer and Joe Basford

The students and staff of Middletown Elementary have been demonstrating that character does indeed count each and every day! Here, we have pulled together to help others. We are becoming a community of people who are learning to appreciate others and what everyone has to offer. Here are some of the activities we have participated in so far this school year.

Character Counts! Awards are presented each month to students whose teachers select them for excellence in all the six pillars of good character. We invite parents for breakfast with their children, at which time we provide a certificate and shield explaining why each student is being recognized.



Veterans Day Celebration On November 9, all MES students assembled in the gym to honor men and women serving or having previously served in the military. We held a special program with music and guest speakers. All students wore **red, white, or blue**. After the program we invited our military guests to classrooms to share their experiences with students.



Here at MES we are talking a lot about **GRIT**. **G** is for Getting along with others. **R** is for Responsibility (to family, community, church, country, learning, health, nutrition, fitness). **I** is for Integrity (honesty, kindness, compassion, sincerity). And **T** is for Tenacity (perseverance, determination, never giving up).

Hard hats, rope, and running shoes.

These are symbols that represent hard work, determination and perseverance (never using excuses) in all kinds of conditions.



Centerville Elementary Stars Shine Brightly!

By April Miller and Sara Mullenix

Centerville students continue to show star behavior and great character through making good choices and decisions, reflecting on challenges and using positive problem-solving strategies. We encourage our students to be mindful of their words and actions, and we promote mindfulness to help students be more focused, less impulsive, more thoughtful and less reactive. Our students use mindfulness strategies to problem solve and to stay calm and centered. They are learning that mindfulness can help them succeed at school, sports, music and other extracurricular activities, and in personal/social friendships and relationships. We also promote a growth mindset in our school to encourage students to put in extra effort, keep trying, never give up, and ask for help. We believe in the power of YET. We might not be able to do something yet, but we will be able to persevere. All of these practices help our students build positive character. We also provide incentives that encourage our students to demonstrate the pillars of good character.



Star Bux/Class Stars

At Centerville Elementary, students can earn Star Bux by demonstrating positive behavior and making good choices. Students have various options for spending Star Bux. Some teachers have items or privileges students can purchase with them or students can spend their Star Bux at the Centerville School Store. The

PTA provided the school with a budget to stock the store, and students are able to spend anywhere from 10 to 40 Star Bux on items that interest them. Students can buy pencils, erasers, notepads, plush animals, plush Minecraft cubes, etc. The goal is for every student to be able to purchase at least one 10-Star Bux reward item per month.

Classes can earn Centerville Star Medallions from any staff member for showing good character! Each classroom sets a goal and then chooses a reward to enjoy together when they reach that goal. This motivates students to work as a team to show good character. The goal is for every class to earn a reward every 3-4 weeks.

Whole Brain Teaching

One way staff at Centerville work to increase student engagement is using Whole Brain teaching strategies. At the beginning of the year, staff received an overview of Whole Brain teaching including techniques to engage and encourage students to actively participate in their learning. Frequently, we provide staff links to new ideas and suggestions so they can continue to develop their teaching styles to incorporate more Whole Brain teaching techniques. Several techniques seen around Centerville are Attention Getters (ex., "Class!" to which students respond "Yes!" or "Classity-Class!" to which they respond "Yessity-yes!"), Scoreboard ("Oh Yeah!" when they get a positive point or groans when they get a negative point), Mirror Words (when students repeat words and mirror gestures as you teach), and "Class, Teach!" in which students paraphrase key ideas from the lesson to a partner.



Red Ribbon Week

Centerville Elementary's Red Ribbon Week theme this year was "We Rock Good Character: Drug and Bully-Free!" Each day, the students rocked a different color that not only represented Red Ribbon Week and Bully Prevention month but also

each of the six pillars of character. We made an announcement each day reminding students ways to show good character by staying drug and bully free!

Centerville Elementary models great character and a growth mindset!





Character Counts Every Day at Ballenger Creek Elementary!

By Cindy Hunt

It has been a productive year for *Character Counts!* at Ballenger Creek Elementary. BCES teaches character education through our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program and received the Gold Award again last year for our outstanding PBIS program!

Our STARS program continues to focus on the positive! When students show STAR behaviors we reward them with Star necklaces, Star Student capes and Star bracelets. Every month our teachers nominate a student who represents STAR behaviors, and the students appear on our morning announcements and have their photos proudly displayed on our Wall of Fame. BCES added a STAR cart that our 5th grade leaders bring to the classroom hallways so the children can trade their Star Bucks for fun tangibles.

BCES has many student leadership roles including AM Hall Greeters, Naturalists, Specials Helpers, Leaders, Morning Announcers, Dismissal Helpers (patrols), and Student Ambassadors. During *Character Counts!* Week BCES SuperStars, participated in a school-wide activity. This year every class was given a large star on which the children proudly signed their names. In addition the students wrote what character trait makes them a successful leader. Parents appreciated seeing the students' work during American Education Week.

BCES continually explores exciting new programs to enhance our PBIS school! We added a Leader in Me club for our 4th and 5th grade boys; we named it "NGU" for "Never Give Up!" We obtained a grant to purchase leadership books for the students. The club meets twice monthly to learn leadership skills from selected role models. The students also interact with the Mount St. Mary's basketball players for lunch groups! We provide interactive lessons on leadership, and fun field trips such as to the Pumpkin Patch are always a success. BCES has also added classroom Yoga practices to provide mindfulness. Our STARS are learning *the 7 Habits of Leadership*. Teachers and the school counselor are using Stephen Covey's book to engage the 7 Habits in the classroom through researched lessons that provide students and staff a common language for leadership and problem solving. Habit #1 is being proactive not reactive. It's exciting to hear the children say, "Look, I am being proactive today!" BCES classrooms always start the day in *Circle Time* to allow the children to say how they feel and how they can all have a successful day. We also use *Restorative Practices* in our classrooms. With the child's permission, this practice allows the student who may not have made a positive choice to hear how his/her actions have affected others. We invite parents for Restorative Circles as well. This practice has been proven to change behaviors in positive ways for all involved.

BCES students receive lessons on bullying/kindness from our school counselor. The lessons teach them how to identify bullying behaviors, how to respond peacefully using kindness and how to get help if needed. SuperStars are taught to forgive and to help others who are making a negative choice. (*continued*)



We display visual reminders about character throughout our school. BCES has colorful STAR posters in every hallway and in all classrooms, reminding students to Make safe choices, Take responsibility, be Always ready to learn, Respect self and others and use Self Control. Our hallways are character-named streets such as Caring Court, Fairness Way and Respect Road. We even have a Ramp of Responsibility to the cafeteria!

In addition to STAR incentives, students have been earning and saving their STAR bucks all year for a chance to participate in our school-wide special events that include a basketball shootout during March Madness, limo rides to McDonalds, and playing Minute to Win It with administrators and teachers. Our SuperStars also enjoy fine dining on the stage and being served by the school counselor and community liaison teacher. Our Bobcats cannot wait for all our STAR PBIS fun-filled events!

Our BCES annual Bobcat Run was once again a huge success. It was exciting for everyone to cross the finish line! BCES was featured in *The Frederick News Post* for collecting hundreds of books for a school devastated during the hurricane in Houston. Our SuperStars signed each book with a positive note to students in Houston. BCES is a very positive place to be! #BCES SuperStars!

FCPS and The Great Frederick Fair Recognize FFA Members from Each High School



The Great Frederick Fair has a tradition of recognizing a student of good character from each FFA chapter in our high schools. These students have experienced the *Character Counts!* program since elementary school and are exemplary models of good character who make their families, schools and communities proud. In a ceremony at the fair in September, Career and Technology Education Curriculum Specialist Dr. Kristine Pearl presented each 2017 *Character Counts!* student with a certificate recognizing good character. Listed below are each of the award winners with a description of their character.

Brunswick High: Jack Wilson demonstrates outstanding character. He is dependable, honest and loyal. He has remarkable moral strength. Jack is serving as chapter president this year. He is trusted to provide genuine leadership to the Brunswick FFA chapter. Jack meets the daily demands of his FFA office, school responsibilities and family obligations by exercising self-control and diligence. He is accountable for his actions and handles all assignments with enthusiasm. When Jack accepts a responsibility you can bet he will complete it with outstanding results. Jack promotes cooperation, citizenship and volunteerism among students at Brunswick High School. He encourages positive interactions that respect the differences of a diverse and changing society. He is a role model for students interested in building a better community.

The FCPS Career and Technology Center (CTC): Brett Wilcom is a senior at Urbana High School and a second-year student in the welding program at the Career and Technology Center. Brett serves as Sentinel in the Urbana FFA Chapter and has extended his learning by participating in local FFA meetings and regional leadership workshops. At the CTC, Brett serves as a student ambassador, visiting middle schools to promote Career and Technology Education and answer questions about the welding program. In all his dealings with students and adults, Brett is an excellent communicator. He speaks and listens when it is appropriate, and he does so with maturity and sincerity. Furthermore, Brett is cooperative, respectful and trustworthy, traits that make him a deserving candidate for FCPS *Character Counts!* recognition. Although Brett will likely become a certified welder this year, he has a bigger passion for the business side of golf and caring for the greens. Having worked several years for Whiskey Creek Golf Course, Brett plans to attend the University of Maryland and study golf course management.

Catoctin High: Jimmy Kempisty exemplifies the pillars of *Character Counts!* He is caring and hardworking. He is a dedicated, trustworthy and very reliable member of the Catoctin Ag Education and FFA programs. He works well with fellow students and adults in school and in the community. Jimmy is consistently positive. He has taken Ag Mechanics courses at Catoctin High School and will graduate as an Ag Mechanics completer this spring. Jimmy enjoys playing football and volunteering for the Catoctin Senior Center and Catoctin Mountain Parks. Very active in the Catoctin FFA Chapter, he holds the position of reporter. He helps Catoctin FFA by participating in many fundraiser and community service projects, the Ag Day event and the Frederick County Safety camp. Jimmy also participates in many Career Development Events and is a member of the Envirothon team. He is willing to fill in whenever needed and maintains an upbeat attitude throughout the school year.



FCPS and The Great Frederick Fair Recognize FFA Members from Each High School

Frederick High: Courtney Grove is the ideal agriculture student at FHS. She has completed several animal science classes and is the FFA vice president. Courtney shows immense dedication to the program on a daily basis in the ag room by leading demonstrations and helping her peers. She displays positive character not only in the ag room but also throughout the whole school—and while she is barrel racing or goat tying. Courtney is everything one could want in a student who exemplifies the pillars of *Character Counts!* in everything she does.

Linganore High: Emily Lindsey is a fourth year agriculture student, FFA member and Agriculture completer. She is vice president of the Linganore FFA and has been a member of the officer team the past three years. She has been involved in several Career Development Events including Creed, Extemporaneous Speaking, Prepared Public Speaking, and has been on the Vet Science team three years. This year her team placed first in the state, so she will participate in the National FFA Vet Science CDE in Indianapolis. Emily is very responsible and compassionate, always thinking of others. She is a mentor in her classes and takes pride in all she does. Emily's Supervised Agricultural Experiences involve her rabbits and horses and most recently participating in an Agriculture Work Experience at a local horse farm. Others look up to Emily because of her patience, drive and determination.

Middletown High: Lauren Graham is kind, honest and trustworthy. A senior, she has taken agriculture classes at MHS for years. She is always the first student to sign up for community service activities. She co-chaired the Ag Day committee and planned all the activities, bringing in animals for elementary students to meet. When she commits to anything in FFA, she follows through and exceeds expectations. She is an Animal Science completer, who competed and placed in the Veterinary Science Career Development Event. She joined the Flowers and Plants club last year and loved it so much that she signed up for Horticulture this year. She is a Student Service Learner for the Introduction to Agricultural Sciences class and enjoys assisting students.

Oakdale High: Allie DiRocco is treasurer of the Oakdale FFA Chapter. She has also chaired a committee and works with horses as part of her Supervised Agricultural Experience. Allie is steadfast in her beliefs of how to treat others with respect and is willing to stand up and speak out for her beliefs. She is passionate for agriculture and FFA and is enthusiastic in encouraging others to become involved in FFA. Allie follows through on any responsibility given to her and is quick to offer assistance when a need arises. The school staff is proud to recognize Allie for her outstanding character and service to the students and FFA members of Oakdale High School.

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Tuscarora High: Marcos Gonzalez is a person of good character who represents all six pillars within *Character Counts!* He is a great role model for other FFA members and students and is respectful not only to staff members but his peers as well. Marcos is a four-year member of the Tuscarora FFA; he has served as Sentinel and is the vice president. He recently placed 2nd in the State Poultry Evaluation Career Development Event and will compete at the national convention in October. Marcos has also been a member of the Food Science, Marketing Plan and Veterinary Science CDE's. He is active with community service projects and has already started planning this year's activities. He is a dependable, honest and trustworthy student and will graduate this year as an Animal Science completer. Marcos is an exemplary member of the Tuscarora FFA Program and Tuscarora High School.

Urbana High: Adelia Chandan is a hardworking and determined student and outstanding role model. She is president of the Urbana FFA Chapter. Adelia is respected by peers and works well with others for the betterment of the group. She listens to advice, respects the opinions of everyone and strives to do her best. Adelia chairs our Ag Day committee. She exhibits outstanding qualities in all six pillars of character and understands the importance of respect, fairness and trustworthiness. Adelia was involved in the "Food for All" project the past 3 years, assisting with workshops and growing produce in the greenhouse and raised garden beds. She was instrumental in our first Food Insecurity Awareness Dinner, which raised \$2,500 for The Greater Urbana Area Food Bank. A member of our state-winning parliamentary procedure team, Adelia will travel to Indianapolis. Her supervised agricultural experience program is in diversified livestock and agriculture placement; she is employed at Green Meadows Petting Farm. Adelia's plans include running for a State FFA Officer position and ultimately becoming a large-animal veterinarian.

Walkersville High: Sydnie Grossnickle brings out the best in the people around her. From inspiring collaboration to organizing a fundraiser she gets it done. Sydnie is chapter vice president of the Walkersville FFA. She has attended many leadership events including the COLT Conference and the National FFA Convention. She holds Placement in Dairy Production as her Supervised Agricultural Experience and will compete in the National Milk Quality and Products Career Development Event at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis.

