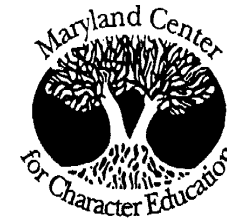


# MCCE Announces Character Education Schools of the Year

The following schools are to be honored at the Maryland Center for Character Education's Annual Luncheon on September 30, 2004 at the Maritime Institute of Technology.



## THE MARYLAND CENTER FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

FALL 2004 EDITION



County	School	Principal
Allegany Anne Arundel	West Side Elementary	Michael McGowan
	Arundel High	Sharon Stratton
	Meade High	Joan Valentine
Baltimore City	Edgecomb Circle Elementary	Herbert Miller
	Guilford Elementary/Middle School	Jacqueline Waters-Scofield
Baltimore	Woodbridge Elementary	Sharon M. Anthony
	Bear Creek Elementary	Cheryl D. Thim
Calvert	Mutual Elementary	Paul Rhodes
	Denton Elementary	Robin Daubach
Caroline	Mechanicsville Elementary	Robin Townsend
	East Middle	Buck Jones
Cecil	Bay View Elementary	Susan U. Jones
	Gale-Bailey Elementary	Carrie Richardson
Charles	Sandy Hill Elementary	Susie Price
	Whittier Elementary	Lynda Johnson
Dorchester	Frederick Career & Technology Center	Earl F. Miller
	Southern Garrett High	Tom Woods
Frederick	Southampton Middle	Barbara Canavan
	Northfield Elementary	Steve Meconi
Garret	Patapsco Middle	Carol Mohsberg
	Chestertown Middle	John Schrecongost
Harford	Washington Grove Elementary	Kathy Brake
	Julius West Middle	James Fernandez
Howard	Marlton Elementary	Carol Pica
	Hyattsville Middle	Gail Dorsey
Kent	Stevensville Middle	Denise Hershberger
	Dynard Elementary	Kim Summers
Montgomery	Leonardtwn Middle	Charlottis Woodley
	Marion Sarah Peyton Elementary	William J. Curtis
Prince Georges	Easton Elementary - Dobson	Marcia Sprankle
	Easton Middle	Joanne Laskowski
Queen Anne	Cascade Elementary	Catherine Scuffins
	Western Heights Middle	Michael Markoe
St. Mary's	East Salisbury Elementary	Lillie Giddens
	Buckingham Elementary	John Gaddis
Somerset		
Talbot		
Washington		
Wicomico		
Worcester		
<b>Private and Parochial Schools</b>		
Prince Georges	Concordia Lutheran School	Dave Falkner
Queen Anne	Eastern Shore Junior Academy	Pamela Consuegra
Baltimore County	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel High School	Kathleen Sipes

# NEWSLETTER

### Joint Conference to Highlight Character Education in Maryland Schools

The Maryland State Department of Education, Showcase of Best Practices in Character Education and The Maryland Center for Character Education announce the speakers for the Annual Recognition Luncheon. The luncheon is scheduled for September 30, 2004 at the Maritime Institute of Technology in Linthicum, Maryland.

Dr. Nancy Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools, and Mrs. Jo Ann Bell, Vice-President, Maryland State Department of Education, are the featured speakers in the morning.

Mrs. Linda McKay, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Undersecretary, Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools, is the Luncheon Speaker.

The conference is from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

The tentative schedule is:

- 9:00 -12:45 Registration • Opening • Breakout Sessions • Displays
- 12:45-3:00 Recognition Luncheon

### 38 Schools to be Recognized For Character Education

Thirty-five public schools and three private schools are to be recognized at The Maryland Character Education's Annual Recognition Luncheon on September 30.

The schools are being honored for their outstanding efforts to incorporate character education in their curriculum. Honorees will receive a flag for their school, which when flown, signifies to the community the honor bestowed on the school as well as its success in character education. The success of these schools reflects the partnership existing between the school, homes, and the community.

Schools selected for this honor come from the twenty-three counties, Baltimore City as well as three private schools. Representatives of each school, after they receive their certificate and flag, will have an opportunity to share the creative ways they present character traits within their classrooms.

The complete list of schools being honored is on page 8.

#### Maryland Center for Character Education Goals

- To assist teachers in providing students with a framework for understanding and practicing core values in our society.
- To serve as a resource center for educators, students, parents, and community leaders in affirming their roles as teachers (and models) of values.
- To foster research and publication of initiatives in values education.

## WACHOVIA SUPPORTS CHARACTER EDUCATION

Wachovia Bank continued its strong and generous support of character education in Maryland with a grant which will again support the annual Recognition Luncheon and other initiatives of the Maryland Center for Character Education. This is the third year of Wachovia support.

Mark Beck, A.I. A. President of MCCE, is very appreciative of Wachovia's involvement. *"I have been with MCCE since its founding and remember that the business community was critically involved in its birth. Responsible businesses understood then, just as Wachovia understands now, that our businesses, communities, and schools simply cannot thrive without a strong foundation of trust and honesty."*

John Carroll Byrnes, chairman of MCCE, has special praises for William Knott, President of Wachovia Maryland. Byrnes said, *"President Knott has been a strong supporter of the work of the center for three years now. Because of his support and that of Wachovia Bank itself, MCCE has been able to recognize strong character education programs and leaders throughout Maryland. Bill Knott is a major civic leader in Maryland, and his leadership on the Advisory Board of MCCE is crucial to our work."*

Wachovia support has been instrumental in not only the annual MCCE recognition honors with the State Department of Education, but also supportive of MCCE literature and the future strengthening of the MCCE web site.

## UNITY

I dreamed I stood in a studio  
And watched two sculptors there,  
The clay they used was a young child's mind,  
And they fashioned it with care.  
One was a teacher, the tools he used  
Were books and music and art;  
One a parent with a guiding hand,  
And a gentle loving heart.  
Day after day the teacher toiled,  
With a touch that was deft and pure,  
While the parent labored by his side  
And polished and smoothed it o'er.  
And when at last their work was done,  
They were proud of what they had wrought,  
For the thing they had molded into the child,  
Could neither be sold or bought.  
And each agreed he would have failed,  
If he had worked alone,  
For behind the parent stood the school,  
And behind the teacher, the home.

(Author unknown)

## MCCE Awards Luncheon 2003



## Take A Look Around the State

*"The power and goodness of love is the most profound truth."* With this belief and understanding The Friends Meeting School of Ijamsville, Maryland focuses its Character Education Program. Each month, the entire school community dedicates efforts on a particular theme, which corresponds to a specific aspect of Character development. These include traits as self worth, responsibility, respect, caring, courage, honesty, peace, nonviolence, and environmental stewardship. Each theme is discussed and reflected upon throughout the month. Because of the strong commitment and dedication to Character Education at The Friends School, every class from pre-kindergarten through grade eight participates in this outstanding program.

As the program grows and evolves it has also been integrated into lessons in language arts, social studies, and science. In addition, the Peace Skills curriculum that was developed for the Character Education has been expanded to include a Peace Skills Resource Teacher.

Banners of Patriotic Pride and traits of good character such as: reliability, tolerance, honesty, determination, graciousness, and respectfulness greet visitors and challenges students to capture the spirit of good character at William H. Bates Middle School in Anne Arundel County. Every teacher devotes instructional time each day with specifically designed lessons plans that are intended to stir the student's emotions and evoke critical thinking while exploring Character Education. In small groups, under the supervision of teachers, students methodically ex-

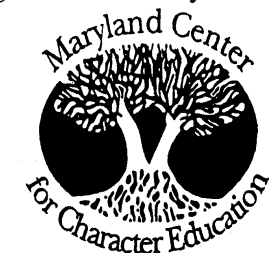


plore a work bank of phrases that reflect curt, indifferent and perhaps impolite responses that are used in the everyday vernacular of the students. The are asked to explore alternative phrases and words that represent strong character. Students who have demonstrated good character are then recognized as "Shining Stars" and they are congratulated in the monthly school newsletter. Good deeds can also lead to "Cougar Kindness Cards", i.e. students earn points and enjoy parties, music, prizes, breakfast treats, etc. William Bates Middle School has incorporated formal service learning activities into their Character Education Program such as: raising \$400.00 in Pennies for Patients Program; planting grasses and oysters to help the Chesapeake Bay's ecosystem; donating books to a children's center; raising dollars and making greeting cards for a hospice center to name a few. It is obvious to all, that, Character Education is highly valued at William H. Bates Middle School and for their efforts they were recognized as a Character Education School of the Year for 2003! Evidence that Character Education is alive and well in Maryland public schools.

## Carroll County Schools

Carroll County Public Schools held its Fifth Annual Character Education Institute on June 22, 2004 at Carroll Community College. Participants from Carroll and surrounding counties attended this event which featured Ron Clark, American Disney Teacher of the Year 2001. In the afternoon participants were able to select from a variety of breakout sessions focusing on Character Education issues.

Additionally, the Character Education Steering Committee developed a monthly Character Education television show featuring students and staff practicing and reinforcing various character traits. The Building Character show is broadcast several times a day on the local Education Station. It is seen by parents, students, and community members throughout the county.



## Gaithersburg Middle School

Congratulations to Gaithersburg Middle School in Montgomery County for being honored as a "Character Education School of the Year" for 2003. To earn such a great honor the entire school participated in quality Character Education in both thought and action. It all started with a mission statement which reads "We seek to develop a community of caring, where Character Counts."

The following is a short list that demonstrates how Character Education functions within each component of Gaithersburg Middle School:

- They recognize students who display great character: every month students who display the Character Counts Pillar for the preceding month are honored
- Journey into a classroom and see how Character Education is routinely integrated into daily lessons.
- Morning announcements are presented by previous Character Education honorees. They share Character Education quotes and current events that demonstrate good character.
- Character Education projects permeate the school environment all year long. Some of the ongoing projects that Gaithersburg Students can get involved with are the environmental clean-up day, walk-for-the-homeless, fund-raising to support the troops in Iraq, a nine-week rotational class required for the study of ethics and decision-making, responsibility journals, *Koins for Kids Penny Campaign*, and Power Point presentations by every 8th grade student.

Gaithersburg Middle School operates smoothly because it helps to support and reinforce the tenets for Character Education daily.

Congratulations Gaithersburg!

### FROM THE EDITOR

Share your Character Education events by sending them to Editor Bob McNeish, 427 Deacon Brook Circle, Reisterstown, MD 21136. You may call Bob at 410-833-0558. He receives E-mail at [pardnerswvoh@aol.com](mailto:pardnerswvoh@aol.com).

## Buckingham Elementary School

Like many schools in Maryland, Buckingham Elementary School has adopted the Character Counts six pillars of Character Education.

Each day the morning announcements begin with a caring message" emphasizing one of the pillars of Character Education.

All classrooms and hallways display the "Together For Success-Respect" Posters. These posters have four components: Respecting yourself, others, learning, and environment. Adults in school give out "Bucky Bucks" on a daily basis to recognize the students demonstrating positive character traits. At the end of each day, Monday through Thursday a "Golden Bucky Buck" awarded to a student who displays exceptional respect all day. These are put in a pot by grade level and on Friday mornings one student from each grade level is selected to sit at a special table with a friend that they select to have lunch with in the cafeteria. At the end of each month all "Golden Bucky Buck" winners are eligible to have a McDonald's "Happy Meal" with a friend. Over 10,000 "Bucky Bucks" were awarded in September. Other recognitions include the B.U.G. (Being Unusually Good) Program, "Students of the Month Luncheon", and the "Quarterly Awards Assemblies." Local business representatives are invited to the Special Luncheon catered by Outback Steakhouse. As a connection to the community and parents, each month the school newsletter suggests strategies that parents can use to instill character values in their children at home.

(Submitted by George-Ann Wingrove, Counselor)

**"Creativity is inventing  
experimenting, growing,  
taking risks, breaking rules,  
making mistakes, and  
having fun"**

Mary Lou Cook

## How The Maryland Center for Character Education Can Benefit

### SCHOOLS

- Organize seminars for teachers and administrators.
- Maintain a file of activities and sources for teachers.
- Maintain ongoing relationships with schools of teachers education programs and the larger community.

### FAMILIES

- Maintain a file of activities and sources of values' information for families.
- Identify successful means of addressing problems or needs.

### COMMUNITIES

- Bring nationally recognized speakers and consultants to the area.

### BUSINESS

**Care of Property** - Taking care of equipment; driving company vehicles sensibly, employee theft; shoplifting.

**Responsible Use of Time** - Punctuality, being efficient, no laziness, or dealing with private matters during work.

**Customer Relationships** - Protecting reputations, professional dress, language and behavior.

**Employee Relations** - Cooperation and teamwork.

**Employer Relations** - Accepting instruction.

## How to Use the Center

- Contact the Maryland Center for Character Education by phone to discuss your needs on values education or find out what resources are available. The phone number is 410-828-9220.
- Visit the Maryland Center for Character Education to peruse the materials and/or discuss your needs with a staff member.
- Write to the Maryland Center for Character Education describing your needs, concerns, or suggestions.
- For new resources log onto our website, [www.mdctrcharacter.org](http://www.mdctrcharacter.org).

## More Honorees from the 2003 Luncheon



# Character Counts on the Eastern Shore

## Good Character Begins At Home Tips For Parents

### Respect on the Telephone

(Teaching Values - Reaching Kids, The Learning Works, Inc.)

Ask your children to make a list of telephone etiquette. In doing so, make sure to include the following:

- Ask the person you are calling if it is a good time to talk;
- Don't call friends or family during the hours around dinner time;
- Keep background noise down when someone is on the phone;
- Limit the amount of time you talk on the phone as a courtesy to other family members;
- Take accurate phone messages;
- Don't interrupt. Wait until the other person on the phone is finished speaking before you begin to speak.
- Don't forget to use please and thank you!

Submitted by Richard Allen



## CITIZENSHIP OBJECTIVES

1. Patriotism: love, respect, and loyalty to the United States of America, and the willingness to correct its imperfections by legal means.
2. An understanding of the rights and obligations of a citizen in a democratic society,
3. An understanding of other societies in the world which do not enjoy the rights and privileges of a democratic government.
4. Respect of the U. S. Constitution, the rule of the law, and the right of every citizen to enjoy equality under the law. An understanding of the Bill of Rights and a recognition that all rights are limited by other rights and by obligations.
5. Respect for legitimate authority at the local, state, and federal level.
6. Allegiance to the concept of democratic government as opposed to a totalitarian rule. A recognition that such government is limited by the separation of powers and by the countervailing role of other institutions in a pluralistic society—principally the family, religion, the school, and the private sector of the economy.
7. Recognition of the need for an independent county system to protect the rights of all citizens.
8. An acceptance of all citizenship responsibilities at the local, state, and national levels and a commitment to preserve and defend the United States and its democratic institutions.



## Words of Wisdom

### From the ages Pertaining to Character

This above all- to thine own self be true, And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man.

William Shakespeare  
Hamlet, Act I, Scene 3, Lines 78-79

*“What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow man. This is the law: all the rest is commentary.”*

Talmud, Shabbat 31a

*“May I do to others as I would that they should do unto me.”*

Plato: (Greece; 4th century BCE)

*“None of you [truly] believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself.”*

Islam: Number 13 of Imam  
Al-Nawawi's Forty Hadiths

*“I would like to work as a mediator and share my poetry, essays, and philosophy with others so that they may be inspired to work with other people, too.”*

We each have one heart.  
We each have one life  
We are growing up, together,  
So we must live as one family.

Mattie Stepanek

*“So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.”*

Jesus of Nazareth, 1st Century CE



## History of Character Education In Maryland

On May 16, 1979, the Governor of the State of Maryland approved SJR 64 sponsored by State Senator Lawrence Levitan of Montgomery County. The Resolution established a balanced and diverse study group called the Values Education Commission. The legislature had found deterioration “in the normal standards of individual behavior and violation of public trust.” The Commission’s mandate was “to identify and assess ongoing programs in morals and values education in the schools of Maryland,” and to make recommendations to reinforce “our traditional adherence and devotion to high standards of moral and ethical conduct.”

The Values Education Commission reported to Governor Harry R. Hughes in 1983, recommending that attention be given in schools to two sets of “objectives.”

### CHARACTER OBJECTIVES

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Personal integrity and honesty rooted in respect for the truth, intellectual curiosity, and love of learning.</li><li>2. A sense of duty to self, family, school, and community.</li><li>3. Self esteem rooted in the recognition of one’s potential.</li><li>4. Respect for the rights of all persons regardless of their race, religion, sex, age, physical condition, or mental health.</li><li>5. A recognition of the rights of others to hold and express differing views, combined with the capacity to make discriminating judgements among</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. differing opinions.</li><li>6. A sense of justice, rectitude, fair play and a commitment to them.</li><li>7. A disposition of understanding, sympathy, concern, and compassion for others.</li><li>8. A sense of discipline and pride in one’s work; respect for the achievement of others,.</li><li>9. Respect for one’s property and the property of others, including public property.</li><li>10. Courage to express one’s conviction.</li></ol> |
|--|---|