



Press Contact: Sheril Morgan, sheril@character.org 202.469.7859

Character.org Designates 73 schools as 2018 National Schools of Character and 5 districts as 2018 National Districts of Character.

Program developed in 1998 has positively impacted the lives of close to 2 million students

Washington, D.C. (May 18, 2018)— Character.org, the nonprofit organization that validates character initiatives in schools and communities around the world, today designated 73 schools and 5 districts from 17 states as 2018 National Schools and Districts of Character.

Since the inception of Character.org's Schools of Character program in 1998, 547 schools and 35 districts have been designated as National Schools or Districts of Character, impacting more than 3 million people's lives (*A complete list of the 2018 National Schools and Districts of Character is included at bottom of this release*). All designees will be announced May 18th at the conference of the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional, and Character Development conference at Rider University at 9:20am ET. The event will be live-streamed across the nation.

Each year, Character.org and its state affiliates certify schools and districts that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development with a positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior, school climate and their communities. Character.org evaluates schools and districts selected in January as State Schools of Character (along with those schools who reapplied within their 3-year designation) Character.org for consideration for national certification as [National Schools of Character](#).

Through an in-depth and rigorous evaluation process, these schools were found to be exemplary models in character development. Of the schools named today, 17 schools are former National Schools of Character that have re-applied for the national designation. Criteria for selection are based on Character.org's [11 Principles of Effective Character Education](#), a framework to assist schools in providing students with opportunities for moral action, fostering shared leadership and engaging families and communities as partners in the character-building effort.

"At Character.org, we are extremely proud of this year's National Schools of Character as well as our district recipients. Their dedication to character development is reducing the skills gap by equipping the future workforce with transferable relationship skills needed to meet tomorrow's challenges," said Doug Karr, Character.org's President & CEO. "Validating character initiatives is at the core of what we do, because they create fertile conditions for multi-generational character growth in communities of character. This year as we celebrate our Silver Anniversary, we are excited to also recognize 20 years of incredible National Schools of Character."

Character.org will honor the designated schools and districts at its 25th [National Forum on Character](#) to be held October 4-7, 2018, in Washington, D.C. Visit www.character.org to learn more about the National Forum, the Schools of Character Certification (State & National) and the 2018 national honorees.

About Character.org: Founded in 1993, Character.org, is a national nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. The mission of the organization is to provide leadership and advocacy for character worldwide. It is



Since 1993

Press Contact: Sheril Morgan, sheril@character.org 202.469.7859

dedicated to helping people everywhere become educated, inspired and empowered to be ethical and compassionate citizens. Character.org validates character initiatives in schools, sports, families and the workplace through certifications, convenings and the exchange of best practices. Results of effective character initiatives in schools typically include improved academic achievement, a decline in behavioral problems and an increase in an overall positive school climate.

About Character Education: Character education is an approach to school culture and climate improvement that supports the social, emotional and ethical development of students. It is the proactive and intentional effort by schools, districts, communities and states to help students develop important core ethical (recognizing what's right) and performance (doing what's right) values such as empathy, honesty, diligence, fairness, fortitude, responsibility, grit, creativity, critical thinking and respect for self and others.

2018 National Districts of Character

Michigan

Birmingham Public Schools

Beverly Hills, Michigan

Public•Pre-K-12

New Jersey

Cherry Hill Public Schools

Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Public•Pre-K-12

***East Hanover Park Regional High School District**

East Hanover, New Jersey

Public•9-12

Mantua Township School District

Sewell, New Jersey

Public •Pre-K-6

Montville Township Public Schools

Montville, New Jersey

Public •Pre-K-12

*indicates that the school or district is re-certifying

2018 National Schools of Character

Alabama

Deer Valley Elementary

Hoover, Alabama

Public•K-4

Arizona

Imagine Rosefield

Surprise, Arizona

Charter•Pre-K-5

California

Sitting Bull Academy

Apple Valley, California



Since 1993

Press Contact: Sheril Morgan, sheril@character.org 202.469.7859

Public•Pre-K-8

Florida

Imagine School Land O' Lakes

Land O' Lakes, Florida

Charter•K-8

***Wilton Manors Elementary**

Wilton Manors, Florida

Public•PreK-5

Georgia

Liberty Elementary School

Canton, Georgia

Public•K-4

Illinois

Ellis Elementary

Belleville, Illinois

Public•Pre-K-3

Indiana

Christel House Academy South

Indianapolis, Indiana

Charter•K-12

Kansas

Beloit Jr./ Sr. High School

Beloit, Kansas

Public•7-12

Nemaha Central Elementary & Middle School

Seneca, Kansas

Public•Pre-K-8

Maryland

Catoctin High School

Thurmont, Maryland

Public•9-12

Glyndon Elementary School

Reisterstown, Maryland

Public•Pre-K-5

Piney Ridge Elementary School

Sykesville, Maryland

Public•K-5

Warren Elementary

Cockeysville, Maryland

Public•PreK-5

Michigan

***Beverly Elementary School**

Beverly Hills, Michigan

Public•K-5

***Birmingham Covington School**

Bloomfield Township, Michigan

Public•3-8

***Greenfield Elementary School**

Beverly Hills, Michigan

Public•K-4

Quarton Elementary School

Birmingham, Michigan

Public•K-5

***West Maple Elementary**

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

Public•PreK-5



Since 1993

Press Contact: Sheril Morgan, sheril@character.org 202.469.7859

Missouri

Ballwin Elementary

Ballwin, Missouri

Public•K-5

***Beasley Elementary**

St. Louis, Missouri

Public•Pre-K-5

***Chesterfield Elementary**

Chesterfield, Missouri

Public•K-5

***Discovery Ridge Elementary**

O'Fallon, Missouri

Public•K-6

Farmington Middle School

Farmington, Missouri

Public•7-8

***Independence Elementary**

St. Charles, Missouri

Public•K-5

***Jefferson City Academic Center**

Jefferson City, Missouri

Public•6-12

Kentucky Trail Elementary

Belton, Missouri

Public•K-4

***LaSalle Springs Middle School**

Wildwood, Missouri

Public•6-8

***Long Elementary**

St. Louis, Missouri

Public•K-8

***Mehlville High School**

St. Louis, Missouri

Public•9-12

Parkway Central Middle School

Chesterfield, Missouri

Public•6-8

Parkway Early Childhood

Chesterfield, Missouri

Public•Pre-K

Ray and Nancy Hodge Elementary

Imperial, Missouri

Public•Pre-K-5

Reed School

St. Louis, Missouri

Public•K-4

***Ross Elementary**

St. Louis, Missouri

Public•K-5

Windsor Elementary

Imperial, Missouri

Public•K-2

New Jersey

Alexander Denbo Elementary School

Browns Mills, New Jersey

Public•3-5

Apshawa Elementary School

West Milford, New Jersey

Public•K-6

Bell Oaks Upper Elementary School



Since 1993

Press Contact: Sheril Morgan, sheril@character.org 202.469.7859

Bellmawr, New Jersey
Public•5-8

Bret Harte Elementary
Cherry Hill, New Jersey
Public•K-5

Fort Dix Elementary
Fort Dix, New Jersey
Public•PreK- 5

Frank J. Smith
East Hanover, New Jersey
Public•Pre-K-2

Hilltop School
Mendham, New Jersey
Public•Pre-K-4

Howard L. Emmons Elementary
Pemberton, New Jersey
Public•K-2

Joseph D. Sharp Elementary School
Cherry Hill, New Jersey
Public•K-5

Joseph S. Stackhouse Elementary School
Browns Mills, New Jersey
Public•3-5

***Madison Park Elementary**
Parlin, New Jersey
Public•K-5

Moss School
Metuchen, New Jersey
Public•Pre-K-K

Pemberton Early Childhood Education Center
Pemberton, New Jersey
Public•Pre-K

Robert R. Lazar Middle School
Montville, New Jersey
Public•6-8

Samuel T. Busansky Upper Elementary School
Pemberton, New Jersey
Public•3-5

Terence C. Reilly
Elizabeth, New Jersey
Public•Pre-K and 2-8

Unity Charter School
Morristown, New Jersey
Charter•K-8

West End Elementary School
North Plainfield, New Jersey
Public•Pre-K-4

Westbrook Elementary School
West Milford, New Jersey
Public•K-6

New York

Como Park Elementary School
Lancaster, New York
Public•K-3

Palmyra-Macedon Middle School
Palmyra, New York
Public•6-8



Since 1993

Press Contact: Sheril Morgan, sheril@character.org 202.469.7859

Plaza Elementary
Baldwin, New York
Public•K-5

William H. Barton Intermediate School
Queensbury, New York
Public•4-5

North Carolina

Ridgewood Elementary School
Winterville, North Carolina
Public•K-5

STEM Early College at NC A&T
Greensboro, North Carolina
Public•9-12

Ohio

Imagine Bella Academy of Excellence
Cleveland, Ohio
Public•K-6

Imagine Great Western Academy
Columbus, Ohio
Public•K-8

Stingley Elementary
Centerville, Ohio
Public•2-5

Oklahoma

Dove School of Discovery
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Charter•K-6

Dove Science Academy – Tulsa
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Charter•7-12

MacArthur High School
Lawton, Oklahoma
Public•9-12

Texas

Flower Mound Elementary
Flower Mound, Texas
Public•K-5

***Kay Granger Elementary**
Fort Worth, Texas
Public•K-5

Lonnie B. Keller Middle School
Pasadena, Texas
Public•5-6

McAuliffe Elementary
Highland Village, Texas
Public•PreK-5

Medlin Middle School
Trophy Club, Texas
Public•6-8

***North Pointe Elementary School**
Houston, Texas
Public•Pre-K-5