

Character Council of WNY

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Character Council of Western New York
and
City of Good Neighbors



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Character Council of Western
New York

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The Character Council of Western New York (CCWNY) exists to enrich the understanding of the benefits of good character and to facilitate the continual development of character excellence for citizens throughout our community of WNY

Our Mission: is to promote the benefits of good character and facilitate the continual development of character excellence within ourselves and those we serve.

Our Vision: Thriving communities with positive character at their core.

It starts with a Better ME...Leading to a Better WE...transforming WNY into a Better COMMUNITY.



12 Virtues and their Definitions

Respect– recognizing, accepting and demonstrating the value of people, places and things through my words and actions.

Responsibility - knowing and doing what is necessary to meet my obligations.

Gratitude - expressing thanks and appreciation for the people, places and things in my life.

Compassion - caring for ourselves and others and supporting people during times of need.

Self-Control - being mindful of my thoughts, feelings and behaviors and exhibiting restraint to yield a better outcome.

Civility - approaching others calmly, showing respect in my words and actions regardless of differences.

Generosity - giving freely of my time, talents and possessions without expecting anything in return.

Humility - limiting my feelings of self-importance and recognizing that everyone has strengths and limitations.

Determination - staying focused and overcoming challenges to finish a goal, task or objective.

Wisdom - reflecting on experiences and using knowledge gained to make good decisions.

Integrity - adhering to strong moral values and doing the right thing in a transparent and honest way.

Optimism - embracing a mindset of positivity and hopefulness that a situation will result favorably.

Welcome Letter

Dear Member School,

Welcome to the Character Council of WNY's Member Schools Alliance! The CCWNY is proud and excited to partner with you in developing character excellence in all WNY schools. Our hope is that the resources the CCWNY and our character partners provide will assist you in creating or furthering the character education and Social-Emotional Learning initiatives in your school. We are excited to share our extensive character resources with you in order to create a "Better Me, Better We, Better Community". Please review all of the provided materials and contact us with any questions or for additional support/resources at ccwnymemberschools@gmail.com.

-Member Schools Committee

Benefits of Member Schools Alliance & Resource Kit:

- 25 sets of monthly character virtue posters
- 50 character virtue pocket guides
- Character Book - "Instilling Touchstones of Character" by Gary Smit
- Character Resource Booklet
- CCWNY program/event information
- Reproducible "student reflection" form including the 12 virtues (w/antonym & definition)
- Character integration ideas for businesses, community, and schools
- Character.org (The 11 Principles of Effective Character Education)
- CITRS Information
- CHARACTER COUNTS! (CCI) information
- Access to Character.org information and complementary consulting toward becoming a NYS or National School of Character
- 12 months of support information for character virtues
- Extra \$100 for grant award recipients (\$500 vs. \$400 for non-member schools)
- Password protected page for Member Schools
- Information and discounts to character education providers
- Quick start guide to Character Clubs and Initiatives.

CCWNY Events & Programs

“Champions for Change: Character Has a Noble Goal... Excellence!” Youth Leadership Program-character based, interactive seminars targeting middle-and-high-school aged students.

Character Carnival – a fun-filled family event, targeting elementary school children. Usually held in March, the day features local entertainers who deliver a character-based message. Representatives from area schools design booths where children can learn about character virtues through games, crafts and activities.

School/Business/Organization monthly virtue poster distribution – Area schools, businesses and organizations are offered the opportunity to join the Character Council and receive the monthly character-virtue posters. Each poster highlights a certain character trait along with its definition and suggestions for implementation.

Character Chase 5K Fundraiser-our largest fundraiser at this time - Each July, in conjunction with Hamburg’s Burgerfest, the Character Council sponsors a 5K race through the Village of Hamburg. Monies raised through the race fund character initiatives for the coming year.

Ambassadors for Character Excellence - Ambassadors are highly-respected representatives from various community sectors helping us to move forward in our mission. These ambassadors will foster the growth and development of WNY’s character initiative by being visible and vocal advocates for the Character Council and [City of Good Neighbors](#).

City of Good Neighbors Award – a Character Recognition Program designed to honor individuals, businesses & organizations for the demonstration of our of monthly character trait. See www.CityofGoodNeighbors.com for details.

Character Excellence Scholarship and ECHOS Mini-Grant Program– This initiative was begun in 2013 with a \$10,000 grant from the Harvest Time Partners Foundation, David Esposito, Principal. Scholarships are awarded to deserving high-school seniors on the basis of character essay and supporting information from relatives, teachers or friends. Mini-grants are awarded to schools on the basis of character programs which will be implemented within their schools or organizations. Scholarships and grants are presented at a May dinner.

Character Partners

CITRS <https://www.citrs.org>

Character Counts!/Drake University <https://charactercounts.org>

Character.org <https://www.character.org>

Cross training Athletics <http://www.go-cta.com>

Email: Mike Masters masters@go-cta.com

Dennis George <http://quizyourmemory.com>

Email: trivialsounds@aol.com

Errol Lee <https://www.errollee.com>

Email: booking@errollee.com

Jared Campbell <http://jaredcampbell.com>

Email: jared@jaredcampbell.com

Molly Kennedy Website: <http://mollykennedyspeaks.com/about-molly/>

Email: info@mollykennedyspeaks.com

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIYAnrOu-MnESJi6tKCvklA>

Nels Ross <https://injest.com>

Email: Nels@injest.com

The Positivity Project <https://posproject.org/>

Harvest Time Partners Foundation <https://www.harvesttimepartners.com/>

“We help YOU be your BEST for those you care about most”

Integration Tips for Character Building in School Community

School-wide:

- ◆ Monthly virtue focus.
- ◆ Hallway displays tied to virtues.
- ◆ Student recognition tied to monthly virtue.
- ◆ Develop a Character Club.

Classroom:

- ◆ Morning circles - virtue discussion
- ◆ Classroom project tied to monthly virtue
- ◆ Tie virtues to classroom or online learning rules and expectations

Curriculum:

- ◆ Writing prompts - Character journal entries; poetry; self reflection; persuasive writing; creative stories; worldly events.
- ◆ Special subject areas - Create character skits; songs; PowerPoints. Tie values to game/activity expectations and sportsmanship.
- ◆ Core subject areas - Tie virtues into lessons, independent and group work expectations, and online learning.

Integration Tips for Character Building in School Community

Student Activities:

- ◆ Pen Pal Activity - Create dialogue, pose questions, encourage others. Who? Students to nursing homes, hospitals or residential facility (i.e. Kids Escaping Drugs); Older students to younger students; Peer partners; One school to another school.
- ◆ Peer shout outs - students recognize one another for demonstrating monthly virtue.

Parent/Home Connection:

- ◆ Communications about monthly virtue schedule and tips for building virtues at home.
- ◆ Tie virtues into parent events and workshops (in person or virtual).
- ◆ Create a character page as part of school website, social media, school newsletter, google classroom, Class Dojo.

CCWNY Character Virtue Posters:

- ◆ Use as discussion prompt with monthly virtue.
- ◆ Learn about highlighted monthly poster honoree and make connection through research, discussion, activity, or service learning project.
- ◆ Create your own character poster. What virtue would you choose and who would you highlight on it (friend, family member, teacher, mentor, business, community organization)?