Character Education

District Wide Resources:

Second Step: K-8th

http://www.cfchildren.org/

SECOND STEP is a violence prevention program that integrates social and emotional learning with academics. Kids from preschool through Grade 8 learn and practice vital social skills, such as empathy, emotion management, problem solving, and cooperation. These essential life skills help students in the classroom, on the playground, and at home.

The SECOND STEP program received the prestigious "Exemplary" award from the U.S. Department of Education's 2001 Expert Panel on Safe, Disciplined, and Drug-Free Schools. The SECOND STEP program was the only violence prevention curriculum to be given this top rating. Educators using the program report reductions in discipline referrals, improvement in their school climate, heightened feelings of inclusiveness and respect, and an increase in the sense of confidence and responsibility in their students.

The program includes teacher-friendly lessons, training for educators, and parent-education tools.

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS):

http://www.pbis.org – The website for the Technical Center on PBIS, established by the Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education, to give schools capacity-building information and technical assistance for identifying, adapting, and sustaining effective school-wide disciplinary practices

PBIS: School Wide Supports focuses on improving student academic and behavior outcomes and is about ensuring all students have access to the most effective and accurately implemented instructional and behavioral practices and interventions possible. School Wide Positive Behavioral Supports (SWPBS) provides an operational framework for achieving these outcomes and is a decision making framework that guides selection, integration, and implementation of the best evidence-based academic and behavioral practices for improving important academic and behavior outcomes for all students.

In general, SWPBS emphasizes four integrated elements: (a) data for decision making, (b) measurable outcomes supported and evaluated by data, (c) practices with evidence that these outcomes are achievable, and (d) systems that
efficiently and effective support implementation of these practices. These four elements are guided by six important principles:

- Develop a continuum of scientifically based behavior and academic interventions and supports
- Use data to make decisions and solve problems
- Arrange the environment to prevent the development and occurrence of problem behavior
- Teach and encourage prosocial skills and behaviors
- Implement evidence-based behavioral practices with fidelity and accountability
- Screen universally and monitor student performance & progress continuously

Schools that establish systems with the capacity to implement SWPBS with integrity and durability have teaching and learning environments that are

- Less reactive, aversive, dangerous, and exclusionary, and
- More engaging, responsive, preventive, and productive
- Address classroom management and disciplinary issues (e.g., attendance, tardies, antisocial behavior),
- Improve supports for students whose behaviors require more specialized assistance (e.g., emotional and behavioral disorders, mental health), and
- Most importantly, maximize academic engagement and achievement for all students.

**Effective Guidance Activities, SC DOE, Office of Safe Schools and Youth Services, Guidance Services (CD-Guidance at each school)**

Available at your school or contact your Guidance Director.

**Bullying:** Prevention and Intervention for School Staff by Channing Bete. Presentation to school staff about what bullying is, who gets bullied, bullying myths, prevention, and intervention.

**Chic-Fil-A Core Essentials:**

The monthly downloadable teacher's guide provides lesson plans and bulletin board ideas for two academic levels, K-2 and 3-5, for the nine-month school year. Also included in the guide, is a suggested reading list to be displayed in the school's media center. Administrators at the school can also use the weekly announcements provided in the teacher's guide to make the value emphasis school-wide. The individual monthly guides are provided quarterly and are accessible for download and distribution to the school staff.
Terrific Kids Character Education Program: sponsored by the Kiwanis Club

Terrific Kids is a student recognition program that promotes character development, self-esteem, and perseverance. Students work with their classroom teacher and establish goals to improve behavior, peer relationships, attendance, or schoolwork. Students then work toward achieving the goal during a specific time period. The teachers and principal determine the best schedule for recognition. Some schools recognize Terrific Kids during each grading period; others recognize students more often. At the end of the designated time period all students who achieved their goals are recognized as Terrific Kids. Recognition includes being pinned as a Terrific Kid; a pizza, ice cream, or other food-themed party; and presentation of certificates, and other giveaways. A sponsoring club helps support the Terrific Kids program at the school. The club plans Terrific Kids parties, provides recognition, and establishes partnerships with local community businesses to secure support for the program. Sponsoring businesses have the option of providing coupons, giveaways, or food for Terrific Kids parties.

The Terrific Kids program provides teachers with a tool to reward students for special achievements that may otherwise go unnoticed.

The Peaceful Classroom in Action Grades K-6- by Naomi Drew- Product Description
This inspiring, practical and highly usable activity book shows how to create peaceful, productive classrooms from the first day of school. Teach students respect, acceptance and conflict resolution skills while also improving writing and language skills—important with today’s emphasis on academics and accountability. The Peaceful Classroom in Action will show you how to:

• create a peaceful classroom from the first day of school
• build a climate of respect
• help kids resolve conflicts
• maintain an atmosphere of peacefulness throughout the year
• teach all your students, even your most difficult, how to be peacemakers
• improve your students’ writing ability as you teach peacemaking concepts
• integrate literature and peacemaking
• build collaboration across the curriculum
• implement effective techniques for dealing with challenging students

These simple peacemaking skills will enhance your students' emotional competence and make classrooms everywhere caring and inviting places.

Making Middle Grades Work and High Schools that Work: Suggestions are provided for teachers concerning positive reinforcement of student grades, behavior, and attendance.
Internet Resources:
These carefully selected web pages contain very useful material to assist your efforts in educating for character. There is a lot in this list that you can use as the basis for class discussions, writing assignments and student activities. We have not attempted to sort them according to the virtues they teach because they all teach many virtues.

Good Character Counts
www.goodcharacter.com
This website contains a list of the following websites plus free teaching guides for character education for grades K-12

The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation
www.actsofkindness.org
This website is just packed with great stuff for propagating basic human kindness. Their own description is way too modest, but here it is: "Want to encourage kindness on campus? Access our free Teacher’s Guide, lesson plans, activity ideas, teachers’ experiences, and other materials to help you successfully incorporate kindness into your school." A real gem.

Wise Skills
http://www.wiseskills.com
The Character Education and Social Emotional Learning Program you've been hearing about! The Wise Skills program, founded in 1994, is an interdisciplinary, teacher-friendly approach to character education and social emotional learning. Wise Skills emphasizes the critical traits and principles summarized in the concept of wisdom, which can be thought of as, "Making good choices for myself and others." Through its emphasis on making good choices, Wise Skills promotes the development of grit and resilience in young people.

Character Counts! - Free Lesson Plans
http://charactercounts.org/lesson-plans/index.html
These free lesson plans support the Six Pillars of Character® and are created by teachers.

Do Something
http://www.dosomething.org/
If you want your kids to be passive and docile, don't let them near this website. It'll fill their little heads with ideas about making the world a better place, and empower them to do something about it.

Kids Care Clubs
http://www.kidscare.org
Dedicated to developing compassion and the spirit of charity in children. This organization provides children, families, schools, and religious groups with meaningful opportunities to help others in their local and global communities. You can set up an affiliated club in your elementary school.
Teaching Tolerance (for teachers)
http://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources
A national education project dedicated to helping teachers foster equity, respect, and understanding in the classroom and beyond. This website offers excellent classroom activities as well as tremendously useful resources for teachers.

Conflict Resolution Activities for K-12
http://teachervision.com/lesson-plans/lesson-3038.html
From Educators for Social Responsibility.

Learn and Serve
http://www.learnandserve.gov/
A comprehensive information system that focuses on all dimensions of service-learning, covering kindergarten through higher education, school-based as well as community based initiatives.

National Student Campaign Against Hunger And Homelessness
http://studentsagainsthunger.org/
NSCAHH works with a coalition of students and community members to end hunger and homelessness through education, service and action. It’s the largest student network fighting hunger and homelessness in the country.

Moral Dilemmas - Right vs Right
http://www.globalethics.org/resources/dilemmas.htm
A whole collection of juicy ethical dilemmas for your students to gnaw on.

Learning To Give (K-12)
http://learningtogive.org/
Teaching the importance of voluntary action for the common good in a democratic society. Lesson plans, lesson plans, and much more.

Character Ed Lessons
www.character-education.info
This website contains 100’s of lesson plans, stories and activities that build character. There are many samples available. Teachers and schools can purchase a membership that allows the subscriber to use all of our online resources, including Character Illustrations, quotes, stories, etc. (over 1,850 available now and growing!), Lesson Plans and Intercom Insights (100 available now and growing!) for the specified time period.