

CHARACTER

- C > Caring** Caring and concern for others are at the root of the “Golden Rule” – Treat others as you want them to treat you.
- H > Honesty** Be honest with yourself and with others in every interaction. Honesty and integrity are the core values that make respect, courage, and trustworthiness possible.
- A > Action** Your actions, not your intentions or words, are what define your character. Often, these become acts of courage, such as taking a stand against injustice, prejudice, cruelty, and other inhumane behaviors.
- R > Responsibility** Your sense of responsibility is what compels you to do the right thing, follow through on your promises, and be accountable for your actions. Personal rights are only possible if they are accompanied by responsibility.
- A > Acceptance** Character demands that we accept others’ differences and appreciate how diversity strengthens our society.
- C > Citizenship** People of strong moral character don’t sit on the sidelines. Contribute your “fair share” – participate fully as a concerned student, volunteer, and voter.
- T > Trustworthiness** Trust can’t be granted; it can only be earned. Deliver on your promises. Act honestly in all that you do.
- E > Empathy** When you empathize with others, you go beyond kindness and caring; you truly begin to see the world from someone else’s perspective.
- R > Respect** Respect for yourself and others is an important component of character. Without respect, caring and empathy are empty expressions. Respect is what enables us to accept and appreciate others’ differences.

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson