



Character Education Program: "Ethics" Classes

The Hilldale School implemented a character education program at the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year through new "Ethics" classes. While the first year's program is just an introduction to some important major themes everyone should know, this program will be continued and expanded in future years and will attempt to deepen the children's understanding of these ideas and to help them to put them into practice. Taught jointly by Hilldale's Principal and the classroom teachers, the program focuses on one character education theme each month. The students discuss and role play different scenarios focusing on various aspects of each theme. Help your children to internalize the lessons we have discussed during the year by pointing out the "rules" and guidelines when they are applicable to everyday situations. The themes and topics discussed during the 2004-2005 academic year include:

CITIZENSHIP	SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER
RESPECT FOR OTHERS	NOVEMBER
RESPECT FOR SELF	DECEMBER
TRUSTWORTHINESS	JANUARY
RESPONSIBILITY	FEBRUARY
CARING	MARCH
DETERMINATION	APRIL
FAIRNESS	MAY

Citizenship

- Taking pride in your home, school, community and country
- Doing what you can to make your home, school, community, and country better (e.g. school recycling program)
- Respecting authority
- Obeying rules and laws
- Believing that everyone matters and has worth
- Defending your rights and the rights of others
- Voting and the election process (electoral college, mock Presidential election on November 2, 2004)

Respect for Others

- Using manners
- Showing people that they are important to you by the way you treat them
- Listening carefully
- Thinking about the feelings of others
- Celebrating differences
- Being able to disagree with someone without anger or violence

Respect for Self

- Thinking positively about yourself
- Taking care of your body (e.g. healthy eating, not smoking)
- Doing your best and being your best
- Not comparing yourself to others
- Taking pride in your work
- Standing up for what you know is right



Trustworthiness

- Being honest
- Keeping promises
- Obeying laws and rules (even when no one is watching)
- Making good choices, admitting your mistakes or bad choices, and doing what you can to make up for them

Responsibility

- Making good choices so that other can count on you
- Remembering to do your homework and chores
- Doing your best
- Not blaming others
- Taking care of yourself and others
- Taking care of your own and others' possessions
- Taking care of your community and the environment

Caring

- Doing kind acts
- Sharing
- Being helpful
- Saying only kind words
- Thinking about others' needs and feelings
- Not leaving others out

Determination

- Deciding to do something, and sticking with it
- Making a plan to achieve your goals
- Solving problems
- Doing what's right, and not just what's easy
- Working at or practicing something to get better at it
- Not giving up, but finishing what you start

Fairness

- Sharing and taking turns
- Playing by the rules
- Doing your share of the work
- Not blaming others for your mistakes
- Treating others with kindness and honesty (not tricking them or cheating them)