

## **CHARACTER COUNTS AUGUST/SEPTEMBER SUMMARY**

Parents,

For our first month (August/September) of Character Counts, we are focusing on RESPECT. Learning happens best when it is done both at school and at home. Below are many ways that you can help your child continue to learn about the theme of RESPECT through reading about it, talking about it, and practicing it! We have introduced and are exploring this topic at school, and we hope your family will enjoy it just as much as we do.

### **FAMILY & AT HOME ACTIVITIES**

#### **Read About It!**

**Here are some books to help you learn more respect:**

**Rude Cakes by Rowboat Watson**

**Dude That's Rude by Pamela Espeland**

**Do Unto Otters by Laurie Keller**

#### **Practice It!**

**Think about the specific needs and preferences of everyone in your house. Make a list. Spend one week together trying to be mindful of each other's needs and wants. Talk about the effects this experiment has on your family.**

#### **Talk About It!**

**Here are some discussion points to help you talk about respect with your child:**

- **What do you think it means to be respectful and why is it important?**
- **What are some ways you can be more respectful at home, at school and in the community?**
- **Are there any ways that you would like me to be more respectful to you?**
- **What are some reasons it can be hard to be respectful?**

### **5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Character Counts**

At times we will cover more specific and detailed topics with 5-8 grade classes than we will with our PK-4 grades. Some of these topics may be of a more sensitive nature than themes presented to younger students. Each month we will share information on the topics that will be covered so that parents may add on to and extend the conversation in a manner they feel that is most appropriate for their family.

#### **5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Character Counts Topics Covered**

- passengers on public transportation, how to act
- to fight or not to fight conflict, which choice do I make
- taunting, what is taunting
- sharing difficult information respectfully, how to help someone without hurting them
- respectful listening, two ears one mouth
- the art of peacemaking, remember we are to be peacemakers
- being a house guest, how to act at someone else's home
- respecting classmates

- bully busting, help to stop the bullying and breaking the bully cycle, stop the bullying
- discussion points and survey, do not use put-downs when someone has a different view
- stereotyping in the media, try to see the person on the inside
- SUICIDE - The subject of suicide will be discussed and we would like for you, the parents, to talk to your children also about this topic. This is a scary topic for all, but we have to talk about it with our children. The message to our students is that if they become aware of someone having these feelings or if they themselves have them, they must report that information so that we can help the person. We will continue to deliver the theme of see something, say something and we will continue to emphasize reporting any threats made towards the school or individuals within our school, or threats made by a person towards themselves.