



# New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional, and Character Development

## *2016 New Jersey Schools of Character Recognition Ceremony*



Friday, May 20, 2016  
Rider University  
The Fine Arts Building  
Yvonne Theater  
Lawrenceville, NJ



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## 2016 New Jersey Schools of Character Recognition Ceremony Agenda

8:30 Welcome /Recognition of past NJSOC Recipients. .... Nina Kemps  
NJ Schools of Character Coordinator

8:35 Remarks ..... Mark Biedron  
President, NJ State Board of Education

8:40 Recognition of Emerging Schools ..... Kirsten Weigert and Allison Chavanon  
NJ Department of Education

8:45 Remarks ..... Wendell Steinhauer  
President, New Jersey Education Association

8:50 Recognition of Honorable Mention Schools ..... Wendell Steinhauer  
and Dr. Phil Brown, NJASECD Past-President

8:55 Recognition of 2016-18 NJ Schools of Character. .... Laurie Ann Coletti,  
Pat Womelsdorf, and Pat Carr, Co-Chairs

9:10 Remarks ..... Rebecca Sipos  
President and CEO, Character.org

9:15 Recognition of 2016 National Schools of Character ..... Rebecca Sipos  
and Eileen Dachnowicz, Chair, 2016 Blue Ribbon Panel

9:25 Closing Remarks. .... Dr. William Trusheim  
NJASECD President



## 2016 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Description

Through a grant from the John Templeton Foundation, Character.org, then called the Character Education Partnership, expanded its program to include State Schools of Character (SSOC). Thirty states, including New Jersey, are now conducting SSOC programs as a preliminary step to advancing to the National Schools of Character (NSOC) program. The purpose of this tiered approach is to allow more schools and districts to be recognized and to provide exemplary sites within states to serve as models for other educators.

Modeled after the National School of Character program sponsored by CEP, the Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University (CSCD) and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) coordinated the New Jersey Schools of Character program (NJSOC) from 2006 -2010. Named as CEP's first affiliate site in July 2005, CSCD piloted the first State Schools of Character program in 2006. The responsibility for the NJSOC program was transferred to the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD), a volunteer professional organization envisioned by CSCD in 2011. The New Jersey Schools of Character program recognizes schools and districts that excel in exemplifying the *Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education* and demonstrate an outstanding character education initiative that yields positive results in student behavior, school climate, and academic performance.

Teams of reviewers knowledgeable in the field of character education do an initial evaluation of all applications. A Blue Ribbon Panel of experts then conducts a second evaluation to validate the initial review and determine which schools will become New Jersey Schools of Character. The applications of these New Jersey Schools of Character are forwarded to Character.org to be considered for the 2016 National Schools of Character program.



## 2016 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Support

Nina Kemps  
Pat Womelsdorf  
Patricia Carr  
Laurie Ann Coletti

Eileen Dachnowicz

Brian Hayes  
Dr. Bradford Lerman  
Thomas Santo  
Dr. William Trusheim  
Pat Womelsdorf

Janet Czarnecki  
Jennifer Lane  
Vicki Lawrence  
Pat Carr  
Mona Noyes  
April Oliver  
Kathy Jensen  
Kathy Hoeker  
Maryann Villegas  
Barbara Caruso  
Sara Browne  
Laura Gertel  
Wendy McDermott  
Chris Kelly  
Tom Gaglione  
Laurie Colletti  
Phyllis Bloom  
Tom Ferry  
Angela Ziemba  
Jennifer Frederico  
Leslie Smith  
Faye Bodenstein  
Courtney Lowery  
Bonnie Durante  
John Hourani  
Elizabeth McLaughlin  
Cassandra Pestana  
Amy Dickerson  
Brianna Kreutzer  
Necole Jadick  
Josephine Ramirez  
Kirk Rickansrud  
Christina Robertson

Rebecca Sipos  
Sheril Morgan

### CHAIRPERSONS

NJSOC State Coordinator, NJASECD Vice-President  
NJSOC Committee Co-Chair, NJASECD Trustee  
NJSOC Committee, Co-Chair, Oxford Central School  
NJSOC Committee, Co-Chair, James McDivitt School

### BLUE RIBBON PANELISTS

Chair, Character.org Evaluator, Trainer and Writer,  
Retired from Cranford High School, 2004 NSOC  
Program Officer, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship  
Center for Applied Psychology, Rutgers University  
Principal, Zane Elementary School, 2006 NSOC  
NJASECD President, Retired Superintendent, Pequannock  
Retired Principal, Lore Elementary School, 2010 NSOC

### REVIEWERS

Lake Riviera Middle School  
Lake Riviera Middle School  
Lake Riviera Middle School  
Oxford Central School  
Cherry Hill Public Schools  
Lawrenceville Elementary School  
Lawrenceville Elementary School  
Old Bridge School District  
Old Bridge School District  
Berlin Community School  
Berlin Community School  
Henry C. Beck Middle Schools  
Henry C. Beck Middle Schools  
Hanover Park School District  
Hanover Park School District  
James A. McDivitt Elementary  
James A. McDivitt Elementary  
Cheesequake Elementary School  
Cheesequake Elementary School  
Pauline J. Petway Elementary  
Pauline J. Petway Elementary  
Raymond E. Voorhees Elementary  
Raymond E. Voorhees Elementary  
CCTS - Gloucester Township  
CCTS - Gloucester Township  
School No. 28 Elizabeth  
School No. 28 Elizabeth  
Macopin Middle School  
Macopin Middle School  
Theunis Dey Elementary School  
Theunis Dey Elementary School  
Thomas Paine Elementary School  
Thomas Paine Elementary School

### CHARACTER.ORG

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Director, Schools of Character



## 2016 New Jersey Schools of Character Honorees

### 2016-2018 NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER

Alan B. Shepard Elementary School ★	Old Bridge, NJ
Carl Sandburg Middle School ★	Old Bridge, NJ
Carusi Middle School ★	Cherry Hill, NJ
Central Elementary School	East Hanover, NJ
Clara Barton Elementary School ★	Cherry Hill, NJ
Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, School No. 51 ★	Elizabeth, NJ
E. A. Bogert School ★	Upper Saddle River, NJ
Hillside Elementary School ★	Livingston, NJ
Maple Road School	West Milford, NJ
McGalliard Elementary School ★	Hamilton, NJ
Nicholas S. La Corte-Peterstown School No. 3	Elizabeth, NJ
North Plainfield High School ★	North Plainfield, NJ
Woodmont Elementary School ★	Pine Brook, NJ

★ Designates a 2016 National School of Character

### 2016 NJ HONORABLE MENTION SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER

Broad Street School	Bridgeton, NJ
Burlington County Alternative School	Mount Laurel, NJ
Cinnaminson Middle School	Cinnaminson, NJ
Essex County Vocational Technical Schools	Newark, NJ
Helen Fort/Newcomb Middle School	Pemberton, NJ
Mahala F. Atchison School	Tinton Falls, NJ
Merriam Avenue School	Newton, NJ
Mine Hill School District	Mine Hill, NJ
Somerset Intermediate School	North Plainfield, NJ
Tinton Falls Middle School	Tinton Falls, NJ
Upper Township Elementary School	Marmora, NJ
Vineland Public Schools	Vineland, NJ

### 2016 NEW JERSEY EMERGING SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER

Harrison Elementary School	Roselle, NJ
John Marshall School No. 20	Elizabeth, NJ
Metuchen High School	Metuchen, NJ
Paradise Knoll Elementary School	Oak Ridge, NJ
Swimming River School	Tinton Falls, NJ



## 2016 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

All of the 2016 New Jersey Schools of Character are willing to assist schools seeking to develop their character education program. This outreach could simply be through e-mail or telephone exchanges, or if you wish, through school visits. Use the contact information below to get started. ★ designates a 2016 National School of Character!

### Alan B. Shepard Elementary School ★

Grades: K-5  
School District: Old Bridge Twp Public Schools  
Contact Person: Joseph Marinzoli  
Title: Principal  
Email: [jmarinzoli@obps.org](mailto:jmarinzoli@obps.org)  
Street Address: 33 Bushnell Road  
City/State/Zip Code: Old Bridge, NJ 08857  
Telephone: 732-360-4499  
Website: <http://www.oldbridgeadmin.org/Shepard.cfm>



Nestled in the heart of a supportive and interconnected suburban community, Alan B. Shepard Elementary School continually strives to build a loving and inclusive educational environment for all its families. After being recognized as a National School of Character, Shepard School did not rest on its laurels; it went to work bringing the 11 Principles and best CE practices to other schools within the Old Bridge Public School District. Today, Old Bridge Township Public Schools is proud to say that it has become a National District of Character. Over the last 5 years, Shepard has produced award-winning initiatives which lay the foundation to the social, emotional and academic success of its students. With three Promising Practices and two Emmy-award winning NJ Jersey Classroom Close-Up episodes, Shepard School continues to create innovative programs. This school's strength is building partnerships with universities, agencies, organizations, community members all while supporting other schools.

### Carl Sandburg Middle School ★

Grades: 6-8  
School District: Old Bridge Township Public Schools  
Contact Person: Ann Panagakos  
Title: Vice Principal  
Email: [apanagakos@obps.org](mailto:apanagakos@obps.org)  
Street Address: 3439 Route 516  
City/State/Zip Code: Old Bridge, NJ 08857  
Telephone: 732-360-4404  
Website: [www.oldbridgeadmin.org/CarlSandburg](http://www.oldbridgeadmin.org/CarlSandburg)



Carl Sandburg Middle School serves students in grades six through eight with a current population of 1,140 students. The goal of the character education program is to provide continuity, support, and consistent expectations for a diverse student population. Our CE programs include our Student Leadership Corp, Student Council, and Peer Mediators who serve as role models for the school community. Students are encouraged to be actively involved in all aspects of school including academics, athletics, the arts and service learning. Clubs and service learning projects focus on helping the local community and volunteer organizations such as the Old Bridge Animal Shelter, community food banks, St. Jude Children's Hospital, Make-a-Wish Foundation and the GI Go Fund – an organization helping returning veterans. This year the Student Council hosted a “Senior Prom” for senior citizens and coordinated efforts to help the homeless by collecting over 1000 pairs of socks during the Socktober Drive.



## 2016 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

### Carusi Middle School ☆

Grades: 6- 8

School District: Cherry Hill Public School District

Contact Person: Kelly A. McKenzie

Title: Assistant Principal

Email: [khandsmckenzie@chclc.org](mailto:khandsmckenzie@chclc.org)

Street Address: 351 Roosevelt Boulevard

City/State/Zip Code: Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

Telephone: 856-667-1220

Website: [www.carusi.us](http://www.carusi.us)



“Enter to learn, go forth to serve, building a better tomorrow for ourselves and our community” – this is Carusi Middle School’s declaration of character education. These words echo the efforts and commitment demonstrated by faculty and support staff each day to parents, students, fellow staff members, and each other. The heart of our school, the students, also promotes a pledge to become Caring, Academic, Responsible, Unparalleled Students with Integrity (CARUSI). These CARUSI Core Values help to frame our character education program. The Carusi community believes in commitment to adolescents, high expectations for all, advocacy for every student, partnerships between school and community, a positive school climate, and a unified vision and mission. At Carusi Middle School, being a Mustang is a superpower. With great power comes great responsibility, and our comprehensive approach to character development readies students for that challenge.

### Central Elementary School

Grades: 3-5

School District: East Hanover Twp School District

Contact Person: Kathryn Guenther

Title: School Counselor

Email: [kguenther@easthanoverschools.org](mailto:kguenther@easthanoverschools.org)

Address: 400 Ridgedale Avenue,

City/State/Zip: East Hanover, NJ 07936

Telephone: 973.887.0358

Website: <http://www.easthanoverschools.org/domain/123>



Our character education program possesses many strong elements which inspire students to demonstrate acts of good character both within the school community and beyond. At Central Elementary School, we emphasize core values including respect, responsibility and honesty. These values, with an emphasis on the Pillars of Character, are delivered in multi-disciplinary lessons and school-wide activities. Our students, however, are our strongest resource, as they serve as exemplary role models for their peers. Every child in our student body is encouraged to demonstrate acts of kindness, tolerance, and respect for the uniqueness of others via our 100 Acts of Character Club. We also draw meaningful experiences from our student Climate and Culture Team, who assist in making our school a place where children and staff feel valued. In addition to the aforementioned initiatives, we instill the importance of responding to bullying as an “upstander,” thereby helping to support others in challenging situations. We appreciate diverse talents and differences, and recognize the intrinsic value of all people.



## 2016 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

### Clara Barton Elementary School ☆

Grades K-5

School District: Cherry Hill Public Schools

Contact Person: Mr. Sean Sweeney

Title: Principal

Email: [ssweeney@chclc.org](mailto:ssweeney@chclc.org)

Street Address: 233 Rhode Island Avenue

City/State/Zip Code: Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Telephone: 856-667-3303

Website: <http://barton.chclc.org/>



The motto, “Learning, Growing, Giving Back,” is evident throughout Clara Barton Elementary School. The district core values of Respect, Responsibility and Citizenship are integrated in the curriculum and daily school life. Family Groups, Morning Meetings, Bucketfilling, Recess Runners, and the School Constitution enhance character efforts and provide hands-on learning experiences for all students and staff at Barton. Students are taught the importance and value of making safe and smart choices, being inclusive, and being role models to enhance their self-confidence and leadership skills. All stakeholders take part in the planning and analyzing of the comprehensive character education program. Opportunities for moral action at Clara Barton include: Barton Gives Back Food Drives, Coins For Caring, Fifth-Grade Give Back Day, and The Giving Tree. It is easy to see how students and staff take pride in character education on a daily basis.

WE ARE..... CLARA BARTON!

### Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, School No. 51 ☆

Grades: Pre-K

School District: Elizabeth

Contact Person: Mrs. Jocelyn Rodriguez

Title: Principal

Email: [rodrigjoc@epsnj.org](mailto:rodrigjoc@epsnj.org)

Street Address: 544 Pennsylvania Avenue

City/State/Zip Code: Elizabeth, NJ, 07208

Telephone: 908-436-6410

Website: <http://stewart.epsnj.org>



Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, School No.51, a dual language preschool, first opened its doors in 2004. The pillar, “Friends Care, Friends Share” though simply phrased, encompasses the significant core values necessary for developing responsible citizenship. Each day begins with reciting the Early Childhood Pledge of Ethics. The curriculum, featuring the Clifford Series, a multicultural focus, the Second Step program, instills moral values and character, and Seven Steps to Conflict Resolution guides students to peaceful problem-solving. Service learning begins in class as students volunteer to take care of pets, become line leaders, and complete team projects. The Parental Involvement Committee offers parent workshops: Goals and Roles of Parenting, Positive Behavior Approach, Keep Me Lead Free, Effective Parent/Teacher Communication, and Nutrition. The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) measures the effectiveness of classroom interactions among teachers and children. The goal remains to strive for excellence and meet the diverse needs of our ever-changing school population.





## 2016 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

### E.A. Bogert School ★

Grades: 3-5

School District: Upper Saddle River Schools

Contact Person: Sara Senger

Title: Guidance Counselor

Email: [ssenger@urschoolsk8.com](mailto:ssenger@urschoolsk8.com)

Street Address: 391 W. Saddle River Road

City/State/Zip: Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458

Telephone: (201) 961-6350

Website: <http://www.urschoolsk8.com/Bogert/Pages/default.aspx>



Bogert School's continuously evolving character journey enriches the culture of our school community. Each day, students learn how to be responsible and respectful citizens within their school and town, and teachers stress the importance of social/emotional learning. Using the Six Pillars of Character, we recognize the caring acts of our students through our "Caught Being..." program, which helps students to self-reflect upon the idea that being fair and trustworthy extends well beyond the classroom. Students also put these traits into practice through leadership programs such as Buddy Up and the Student Council. Opportunities for moral action include Care to Share, our intergenerational service-learning program. The staff helps children understand the impact that their choices have on one another, and we help them continue to grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

### Hillside Elementary School ★

Grades: K-5

School District: Livingston Public Schools

Contact Person: Carlos Gramata

Title: Principal

Email: [cgramata@livingston.org](mailto:cgramata@livingston.org)

Street Address: 98 Belmont Drive

City/State/Zip Code: Livingston, NJ 07039

Telephone: 973.535.8000 ext. 8153

Website: <http://www.livingston.org/hillside>



Hillside Elementary School is known for having "HEART" (Honesty, Empathy, Acceptance, Respect, Together) resonating throughout the school for over 10 years but wanted to develop a stronger unified character initiative. Classroom teachers, staff and parents worked together to keep their HEART, adopt the Six Pillars of Character, include service learning in their curriculum, and collect and use survey data to create a Character Education Plan. Days begin with morning meetings followed by lessons where students are immersed in reflective listening and celebrating differences. "Caring Communities" have every staff member engaging 8 to 10 cross-grade students in activities that build a sense of togetherness and friendship. Fifth graders develop leadership skills acting as "Recess Helpers" who organize activities, arts and crafts, sports, and games for younger children. Their Promising Practice, "Hillside-Horizon Helping Hands" outlines their partnership with a school for children with significant disabilities where they build empathy and acceptance. Hillside's HEART now beats very strongly.



## 2016 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

### Maple Road School

Grades: PreK-6

School District: West Milford Twp Public Schools

Contact Person: William Kane

Title: Principal

Email: [bill.kane@wmtps.org](mailto:bill.kane@wmtps.org)

Street Address: 36 Maple Road

City/State/Zip Code: West Milford, NJ 07480

Telephone: 973-697-3606

Website: [http://wmtps.org/schools/maple\\_road\\_elementary](http://wmtps.org/schools/maple_road_elementary)



Maple Road School is a safe environment for Pre-K -6 students where their Full Value Character Counts program combines Values (Be Here - Be Safe - Be Honest - Let Go & Move On - Set Goals) with the Six Pillars of Character to support character, collaboration, and a sense of community in an inclusive setting. The cohesion of general and special ed programs has resulted in a host of inclusion opportunities, which has taught students to readily accept differences and support each other. The School Safety Team (SST) created a comprehensive, holistic approach to character ed and anti-bullying. At the core of this campaign was the infusion of Project Adventure (PA) and the deliberate assessment and analysis of our school's Full Value Program. Student Council acts as character ambassadors through community outreach and student-driven service learning projects: Backpacks for Vets, Homeless Bus food collection, JDRF Walks, and partnering with senior living facilities. "Go Mustangs!"

### McGalliard Elementary School ☆

Grades: K-5

School District: Hamilton Township Public Schools

Contact Person: Mrs. Barbara Morales

Title: Principal

Email: [bmorales@hamilton.k12.nj.us](mailto:bmorales@hamilton.k12.nj.us)

Street Address: 1600 Arena Drive

City/State/Zip Code: Hamilton, NJ 08610

Telephone: (609) 631-4158

Website: <http://hamilton.k12.nj.us/McGalliard.cfm>



We are McGalliard PROUD to share our character education journey spanning more than 10 years. Many of our current programs were initiated by our principal, Mrs. Dacey, between 2004-2011. Her staff dove headlong into professional learning communities with book studies for The Responsive Classroom, The First Six Weeks of School and Parents on Your Side. Mrs. Dacey knew that school climate begins with a staff that is a family. She used time for team-building and promoted the idea of one big school community family. During her tenure, three legacy programs – "The People of Good Character Wax Museum", "Peace Begins With Me and Ends With Us" and the "School Stays Cool" mural – were all named Promising Practices. Her successor, Mr. Nate Webber brought us weekly community meetings and the McGalliard Proud Mission statement, which was also deemed a Promising Practice. We are Polite, Responsible, Outstanding, Understanding and Dependable. We are McGalliard PROUD!



## 2016 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

### Nicholas S. La Corte-Peterstown School No. 3

Grades: K-8

School District: Elizabeth

Contact Person: Jennifer A. Campel

Title: Principal

Email: [campelje@epsnj.org](mailto:campelje@epsnj.org)

Street Address: 700 2nd Avenue

City/State/Zip Code: Elizabeth, NJ 07202

Telephone: 908-436-6230

Website: <http://elizabeth.nj.schoolwebpages.com/education/school/school.php?sectionid=15>



Our character education initiative (CEI) has been a journey that spans across several years. With the help of team members, students, parents, the administrative leaders within our building, and the local community, School No. 3 has focused on improving the social-emotional learning (SEL) of our students. We set high expectations for every student to consistently demonstrate our four core values of trustworthiness, teamwork, acceptance, and effort within the school community. Team members model collegiality and a positive culture in everyday interactions with students and caregivers. Character lessons are taught in the classrooms to promote good decision-making, reflecting on others' perspectives, and learning conflict resolution. Weekly bulletins are sent out by our guidance counselor with suggested resources to teach our targeted character traits. Finally, an external reinforcement system is in place schoolwide to recognize students from all grade levels on good character development.

### North Plainfield High School ★

Grades: 9 - 12

School District: North Plainfield School District

Contact Person: Dr. Jerard Stephenson

Title: Principal

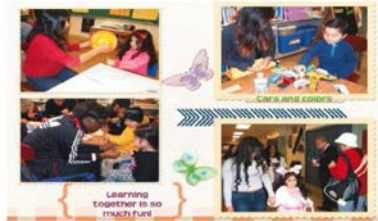
Email: [Jerard\\_Stephenson@nplainfield.org](mailto:Jerard_Stephenson@nplainfield.org)

Street Address: 34 Wilson Avenue

City/State/Zip Code: North Plainfield, NJ 07060

Telephone: (908) 769-6000

Website: <http://www.nplainfield.org/Domain/321>



Our high school, which services the entire borough of North Plainfield, has worked hard to assimilate our diverse cultures. In fact, our "Avenue of Flags" ceremony (a 2014 Promising Practice) which serves to unite the entire community to commemorate 9/11, is just one of the many strategies we have in place to transform approximately 1000 students into one harmonious family. With 66% of our students economically disadvantaged and 40% of them hailing from homes in which Spanish is the primary language spoken, we have systematically addressed our challenges through a transition program for ninth grade, mentoring, conflict resolution and service learning projects. The North Plainfield District, after surveying administrators, staff, parents and community, decided on the core values of Caring, Appreciation, Respect, and Determination. These core values drive the daily practices both inside and outside of the classroom.



## 2016 New Jersey Schools of Character Program Summaries

### Woodmont Elementary School ☆

Grades: K - 5

School District: Montville Twp Public Schools

Contact Person: Dominic Esposito

Title: Principal

Email: [dominic.esposito@montville.net](mailto:dominic.esposito@montville.net)

Street Address: 39 Woodmont Road

City/State/Zip Code: Pine Brook, NJ 07058

Telephone: 973-331-7100 ext. 1801

Website: <http://www.montville.net/Domain/282>



Woodmont's slogan is "Your journey to success begins here!". Woodmont believes that making this journey fun and engaging for all brings both individual and shared success. Administrators, staff, students, parents and community members have formed numerous teams to build student voice, transform the school building and grounds, and bring all students together across grade levels. Teachers are invited to take ongoing "journey conferences" that regularly allow time within the school day to pursue personal development that can benefit both them and their students. Woodmont's School Beautification Committee has transformed the school's grounds through gardens created by each grade level and interior renovations chosen by students. Staff members have the opportunity to form ongoing mentoring relationships with individual students, with older students providing peer mentoring. Through Woodmont's "Paws the Wildcat" YouTube channel entertaining videos showcase school happenings with the broader community. The school's culture and climate have been transformed.



**NJASECD** is here to help schools interested in becoming the next New Jersey Schools of Character. We have four **REGIONAL NETWORKING CENTERS** that work with schools across the state to assist them in meeting the criteria developed in *Character.org's* **Eleven Principles of Effective**

**Character Education.** These centers are located in the Hanover Park Regional High School District, Old Bridge Public Schools, Lawrence Township Public Schools, and Cherry Hill Public Schools.

Find out more about these centers and their activities on the NJASECD website at [www.njasecd.org](http://www.njasecd.org).

Follow us on Facebook (New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional, and Character Development) and Twitter at [@njasecd](https://twitter.com/njasecd)



## 2014 and 2015 New Jersey Schools of Character

All New Jersey Schools of Character hold that designation for three years. If they are not named a National School of Character during the first year, they are encouraged to use the feedback they receive from Character.org to improve their program. Once they have done this, they may reapply to be recognized by Character.org as a National School of Character. Several New Jersey Schools of Character have reapplied this year.

### NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER - 2015-2017

Camden County Technical Schools, Gloucester Township Campus	★	Sickerville, NJ
Cedar Hill Elementary School	★	Towaco, NJ
Juan Pablo Duarte – Jose Julian Marti, School No. 28	★	Elizabeth, NJ
Liberty Corner School	★	Liberty Corner, NJ
M. Scott Carpenter Elementary School	★	Old Bridge, NJ
Macopin Middle School	★	West Milford, NJ
Old Bridge High School	★	Matawan, NJ
Old Bridge Township Public Schools	★	Matawan, NJ
Thomas Paine Elementary School	★	Cherry Hill, NJ
Upper Greenwood Lake Elementary School		Hewitt, NJ
Virgil Grissom Elementary School	★	Old Bridge, NJ
Walter M. Schirra Elementary School	★	Old Bridge, NJ
Washington Elementary School		Roselle, NJ
William A. Miller Elementary School	★	Old Bridge, NJ

★ Designates a 2015 National School of Character  
★ Designates a 2016 National School of Character

### NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER - 2014-2016

Caroline L. Reutter School		Franklinville, NJ
Cheesequake Elementary School	★	Old Bridge, NJ
East Hanover Middle School		East Hanover, NJ
Eastern Christian School Association	★	North Haledon, NJ
Lawrence High School		Lawrenceville, NJ
Lawrence Township Public Schools	★	Lawrenceville, NJ
Memorial Elementary School	★	Old Bridge, NJ
Oxford Central School	★	Oxford, NJ
Raymond E. Voorhees Elementary School	★	Old Bridge, NJ
Southwood Elementary School	★	Old Bridge, NJ

★ Designates a 2014 National School of Character  
★ Designates a 2015 National School of Character



## Previous Recipients New Jersey Schools of Character

Alan B. Shepard Elementary School ('10, '11, '16, NSOC '11&'16)	Old Bridge, NJ
Bedwell Elementary School ('10)	Bernardsville, NJ
Ben Franklin Elementary School ('12)	Princeton Pike, NJ
Berlin Community School ('13, NSOC '13)	Berlin, NJ
Brigantine Elementary School ('08, '09, '10 & '11, NSOC '11)	Brigantine, NJ
Carl W. Goetz Middle School ('07)	Jackson, NJ
Caroline L Reutter School ('14)	Franklinville, NJ
Cedar Hill Elementary School ('15, NSOC '16)	Towaco, NJ
Cheesequake Elementary School ('14, NSOC '14)	Old Bridge, NJ
Cherry Hill Alternative High School ('13, NSOC '14)	Cherry Hill, NJ
Cherry Hill High School West ('13)	Cherry Hill, NJ
Colonia High School ('08)	Colonia, NJ
Cranford High School (NSOC '04)	Cranford, NJ
East Hanover Middle School ('14)	East Hanover, NJ
Eastern Christian School Association ('14, NSOC '15)	North Haledon, NJ
Eldridge Park Elementary School ('10 & '11, NSOC '11)	Lawrenceville, NJ
Gloucester Campus, Camden County Tech School ('15, NSOC '15)	Sicklerville, NJ
Gibbsboro School ('13, NSOC '14)	Gibbsboro, NJ
Hamilton Township School District ('07, '08 & '09)	Hamilton, NJ
Hanover Park Regional High School District ('13, NSOC '13)	East Hanover, NJ
Henry C. Beck Middle School ('11, NSOC '13)	Cherry Hill, NJ
Horace Mann Elementary School ('08)	Cherry Hill, NJ
James A. McDivitt Elementary School ('13, NSOC '14)	Old Bridge, NJ
James H. Johnson Elementary School ('10)	Cherry Hill, NJ
John A. Carusi Middle School ('10 & '11, NSOC '11 & '16)	Cherry Hill, NJ
Joseph J. Catena Elementary School ('10 & '11, NSOC '11)	Freehold, NJ
Juan Pablo Duarte – Jose Julian Marti, School No. 28 ('15, NSOC '15)	Elizabeth, NJ
Lake Riviera Middle School ('09, '10 & '11, NSOC '11)	Brick, NJ
Lawrence High School ('14)	Lawrenceville, NJ
Lawrence Intermediate School ('09, '10 & '11, NSOC '11)	Lawrenceville, NJ
Lawrenceville Elementary School ('08, '09, '10, '12, NSOC '12)	Lawrenceville, NJ
Lawrence Middle School ('13)	Lawrenceville, NJ
Lawrence Township Public Schools ('14, NSOC '14)	Lawrenceville, NJ
Leroy Gordon Cooper Elementary School ('13, NSOC '16)	Cliffwood Beach, NJ
Liberty Corner School ('07, '09, '11, NSOC '11, '15, NSOC '15)	Liberty Corner, NJ



## Previous Recipients New Jersey Schools of Character

Livingston Park School ('08)	North Brunswick, NJ
Lore Elementary School ('08, '09 & '10, NSOC '10)	Ewing, NJ
M. Scott Carpenter Elementary School ('15, NSOC '15)	Old Bridge, NJ
Macopin Middle School ('15, NSOC '15)	West Milford, NJ
Madison Park Elementary School ('13, NSOC '13)	Parlin, NJ
Memorial Elementary School ('14, NSOC '15)	Old Bridge, NJ
Memorial Middle School ('06 & '07, NSOC '07)	Fair Lawn, NJ
Montclair Kimberley Academy (NSOC '03)	Montclair, NJ
North Boulevard School ('12, NSOC '12)	Pompton Plains, NJ
Northfield Middle School ('09)	Northfield, NJ
Old Bridge High School ('15, NSOC '15)	Matawan, NJ
Old Bridge Township Public Schools ('15, NSOC '15)	Matawan, NJ
Oxford Central School ('14, NSOC '14)	Oxford, NJ
Pauline J. Petway Elementary School ('12)	Vineland, NJ
Pennsauken Campus, Camden County Tech School ('13, NSOC '15)	Pennsauken, NJ
Pequannock Valley Middle School ('06)	Pompton Plains, NJ
Radix Elementary School ('06 & '07, NSOC '07)	Williamstown, NJ
Raymond E. Voorhees Elementary School ('14, NSOC '14)	Old Bridge, NJ
Richard Stockton Elementary School ('12, NSOC '12)	Cherry Hill, NJ
Robert R. Lazar Middle School ('07)	Montville, NJ
Rosa International Middle School ('07 & '08, NSOC '08)	Cherry Hill, NJ
Salt Brook Elementary School ('11, NSOC '11)	New Providence, NJ
Slackwood Elementary School ('12)	Lawrenceville, NJ
South Brunswick High School ('11, NSOC '11)	Monmouth Junction, NJ
Southwood Elementary School ('14, NSOC '15)	Old Bridge, NJ
Theunis Dey Elementary School ('13)	Wayne, NJ
Thomas Paine Elementary School ('11, '15, NSOC '15)	Cherry Hill, NJ
Upper Greenwood Lake Elementary School ('15)	Hewitt, NJ
Veterans Memorial Elementary School ('08)	Brick, NJ
Virgil Grissom Elementary School ('15, NSOC '16)	Old Bridge, NJ
Walter M. Schirra Elementary School ('15, NSOC '15)	Old Bridge, NJ
Washington Elementary School ('15)	Roselle, NJ
William A. Miller Elementary School ('15, NSOC '15)	Old Bridge, NJ
Zane North School ('06, NSOC '06)	Collingswood, NJ



## National Schools of Character Program Description

Beginning in 2011, the goal of the National Schools of Character Program became to recognize all schools and districts that demonstrate an exemplary level of implementation of the *Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education*. National Schools of Character are recognized for their exemplary work at the annual National Forum on Character Education.

The applications of schools designated as New Jersey Schools of Character are forwarded to Character.org to be evaluated at the national level. The National Schools of Character are named in early May. State Schools of Character who are not designated as national models receive feedback to help them develop an action plan for attaining the national designation. They are encouraged to reapply during the three years that they hold the New Jersey School of Character designation.

National Schools of Character serve as models and ambassadors of effective character education. They hold staff development trainings at their sites and are available for consultation and mentoring. The National Schools of Character receive a small grant to help with outreach. The schools become members of a communication network where they share best practices. Schools and districts should apply to be a National School of Character when they feel they have achieved a standard of excellence and are ready to be a leader among their peers.

Achieving National School of Character status is an achievable goal for all schools and districts. The national designation is renewable after five years. Therefore, Character.org encourages former National Schools of Character to apply again if they became an National School of Character in 2011 or earlier.

New Jersey historically ranks as one of the premier states in the National School of Character program with well over 100 schools recognized as National Schools of Character, National Finalists, and recipients of Promising Practices.





## 2016 National Schools of Character

The following thirteen schools from New Jersey have been named 2016 National Schools of Character. These schools are recognized for their exemplary level of implementation of the *Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education* and will be honored at the 2016 National Forum of Character.org in Washington, D.C. in October 2016. These schools will also participate in outreach activities to help other schools continue their character education journey.

### 2016 NATIONAL SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER

Alan B. Shepard Elementary School ★	Old Bridge, NJ
Carl Sandburg Middle School ★	Old Bridge, NJ
Carusi Middle School ★	Cherry Hill, NJ
Cedar Hill Elementary School ★	Towaco, NJ
Clara Barton Elementary School ★	Cherry Hill, NJ
Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, School No. 51 ★	Elizabeth, NJ
E. A. Bogert School ★	Upper Saddle River, NJ
Hillside Elementary School ★	Livingston, NJ
Leroy Gordon Cooper Elementary School ★	Cliffwood Beach, NJ
McGalliard Elementary School ★	Hamilton, NJ
North Plainfield High School ★	North Plainfield, NJ
Virgil Grissom Elementary School ★	Old Bridge, NJ
Woodmont Elementary School ★	Pine Brook, NJ

***Congratulations to our 2016 National Schools of Character!***



## 2016 Promising Practices from New Jersey Schools

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Name of Promising Practice</b>
A. Russell Knight Elementary	Buddy Bench - Make Buddies Not Bullies
A. Russell Knight Elementary	Family Meetings
Alan B. Shepard Elementary School	Disability Awareness--Ability Focus
Avon Elementary School	The Rufus Project
Berlin Community School	Reading and Character Connections
Broad Street School	Parent & Child Art Club
Camden County Technical School, Gloucester Township Campus	Unity Power Yoga
Camden County Technical Schools Pennsauken Campus	Student Support Program (SSP)
Cedar Hill School	Diversity Committee at Cedar Hill School
Clara Barton Elementary School	Family Day
Colonia High School	Patriot Pride #BTru2U
Dogwood Hill School	Dogwood Day
Donald Stewart Center, School No. 51	Multicultural Week: A Celebration of Diversity
East Greenwich Township Schools	Lunch Bunch
East Hanover Middle School	Warm Up America!
Fairfield Township School	Character Education to Improve Student Achievement
Franklin Ave MS Peer Leadership Corps	Peer Leadership Corps VIP Celebration
George Washington Middle School	STARS
Hanover Park High School	Voter Registration Day
Harrison Schools	A Taste of Diversity Multicultural Pot Luck Dinner
Helen Fort/Newcomb Middle School	Hornets Engaged in Learning & Leading Others
Hoboken Charter School	The Senior Eyes Project - Empowering Your Educational Services
Jerome Dunn Academy, School No. 9	Leaders of Tomorrow (L.O.T.)
Lawrence Middle School	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service
Leroy Gordon Cooper Elementary School	Readers of The Pack
Lincoln-Hubbard Elementary	Captain Pillar and the Pillar Patrol
Macopin Middle School	Operation Thank You
Macopin Middle School	Walking in Their Shoes
Manito Elementary School	Education with Heart
Mantua Township Public Schools	Leadership Delivery Unit
Memorial Elementary School	Husky Pawing Pillow
Metuchen High School	Breaking the Chain Through Education
North Brunswick Township HS	POSSibilities Plus Cafe
North Plainfield High School	From Toddlers to Teens: Building a Love of Reading
North Plainfield Middle School	Holocaust and Genocide Initiative
Oxford Central School	Got to Have that Attitude of Gratitude!!
Oxford Central School	The C.O.R.R.E.C.T. Force for Good
Paradise Knoll Elementary School	Paradise Knoll Honors Our Veterans
Parkway Elementary School	Pawsitive Panthers Days of Service
The Peck School	Assembling to Promote Kairos Night
Upper Greenwood Lake School	UGL Friendship Benches
Valley Middle School	Frost Valley Experience
West End Elementary School	WE Safety Patrols
West Milford Field Hockey Team	West Milford Field Hockey Program
West Milford Township High School	Holocaust Elective and Interaction with Survivors
West Milford Township HS	Cross Country Sportsmanship Run for Breast Cancer
Whippany Park High School	Sharing Character Education through Literature and the Arts
Woodstown Middle School	Restorative Practice-Student Circle Meetings
Yardville School	Disability Awareness Day



## New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD)

NJASECD @ Educational Information Resource Center (EIRC)  
South Jersey Technology Park  
107 Gilbreth Parkway, Suite 200  
Mullica Hill, New Jersey 08062-4466  
856-582-7000 EXT 156  
NJASECD@gmail.com  
<http://njasecd.org/>

The New Jersey Alliance for Social Emotional and Character Development, with the support of EIRC, is an organization, composed of volunteers, that has agreed to assume many of the responsibilities of the Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University as that valued organization's grant has ended and has gone out of existence.

With the Center's work ending in November 2010, one of the important missions of NJASECD is to maintain the resources developed by the Center and act as a conduit for that information to flow to all the educators, schools and individuals interested in promoting the social, emotional and character development of the students in our public and private schools in New Jersey. The mission of NJASECD follows:

"It is the mission of the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD) to develop life-long learners who are responsible citizens prepared to enter the global society. The Alliance assists educators and all other stakeholders in their efforts to foster ethical, responsible and caring people as they model and teach the social-emotional skills and core ethical values that lead to good character."

### **NJASECD Officers**

President	Dr. William H. Trusheim
Vice President	Nina Kemps
Secretary	Laurie Ann Coletti
Treasurer	Ted Frynkewicz
Past President	Dr. Philip M. Brown

### **NJASECD Members at Large**

Eileen Dachnowicz	Dr. Kathleen Hoeker
Dr. Millicent H. Kellner	James Sarto
Terry Vanaman	Cindy Westhead
Pat Womelsdorf	

### **NJASECD Committee Chairs**

Advocacy/Fund Raising	Mona Noyes and Carol Dougherty
Conference Committee	Dr. Millicent Kellner, Leigh Cline, Amy Amiet, Peter Clark
Communications	Leigh Cline and Jim Sarto
Schools of Character	Nina Kemps, Pat Womelsdorf, Pat Carr
Regional Centers	Cindy Westhead, Tom Gaglione, Mona Noyes, and Laurie Ann Coletti
Membership	Christine Corriston and Ed Canzanese

**NJ DOE Liaison:** Kelly Allen

### **SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS**

Educational Information and Resource Center (EIRC)  
New Jersey Education Association (NJEA)  
New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association (NJPSA)



## 2016 New Jersey Schools of Character Acknowledgments

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The New Jersey School of Character Program is affiliated with the National Schools of Character which is a program of



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Washington, DC 20006  
202-296-7743

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NJASECD wishes to recognize the New Jersey Education Association for their generous support of the New Jersey Schools of Character Program



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180 West State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08607-1211  
[www.njea.org](http://www.njea.org)  
Phone: 609-599-4561 Fax: 609-599-1201

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NJASECD wishes to recognize the Educational Information and Resource Center (EIRC) for their administrative support of the New Jersey Schools of Character Program



Educational Information and Resource Center  
South Jersey Technology Park: 107 Gilbreth Park, Suite 200  
Mullica Hill, NJ 08062-4446  
[www.eirc.org](http://www.eirc.org)  
Phone: 856-582-7000

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NJASECD wishes to recognize



for providing the site and facilities as our  
conference host.