

# BCPS Character Objectives

1. To develop the wisdom and good judgment to make reasoned decisions.
2. To develop a sense of justice that is informed by fairness, honesty, and civility.
3. To develop and demonstrate respect for self, respect for others, and respect for property.
4. To demonstrate tolerance and understanding of others regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, disability, national origin, religion, creed, socio-economic status, marital status, pregnancy, personal record, sexual orientation, or political belief.
5. To demonstrate compassion for others through the development of empathy, kindness, and service.
6. To demonstrate discipline and responsibility by exhibiting self-control and the willingness to admit mistakes and correct them.
7. To develop a positive attitude that reflects hope, enthusiasm, flexibility, and appreciation.
8. To demonstrate pride in oneself and others by doing the best for self, family, school, and community and by respecting the achievements of others.
9. To exhibit personal and academic integrity through honesty, expressing beliefs in appropriate ways, and working to one's full potential.

## Character Education Resources

- U.S. Department of Education publication "Helping Your Child Become a Responsible Citizen" (on the web at [www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/citizen/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/citizen/index.html) or by phone at 1-977-4ED-PUBS)
- Maryland State Department of Education (on the web at [www.marylandpublicschool.org/msde](http://www.marylandpublicschool.org/msde) or by phone at 410-767-0047)
- The Maryland Center for Education (on the web at [mdctrcharacter.org](http://mdctrcharacter.org))
- *27 Secrets to Raising Amazing Children* by Molly Brown Koch
- *Character Matters: How to Help Our Children Develop Good Judgment, Integrity, and Other Essential Virtues* by Thomas Lickona
- North Bay (on the web at [www.northbayadventure.com](http://www.northbayadventure.com))
- Dr. Forni's Civility website. Johns Hopkins University. (on the web at <http://sites.jhu.edu/civility/index.html>)



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# Character Development

"Intelligence plus character—that is the true goal of education."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

# What is Character Building?



Parents are their child's first and most influential teachers of values and ethics. In successful character development programs, schools, parents, and communities work together to intentionally provide opportunities for students to learn what it means to be good citizens.

Research shows that good character building programs improve school culture and climate, improve student behavior, reduce acts of violence, reduce drug and substance abuse, improve student identity and attachment to school, improve social and moral thinking, and improve academic performance.

Baltimore County Public Schools is committed to the implementation of active character ethics education in all of our schools. Each school approaches the development of character in students using a variety of strategies, depending upon the needs of the school.

**Character building is infused in the curricula** so that as students learn they will be able to discuss issues of importance in the content areas and focus upon the implications of those issues on their lives and the lives of others.

**Teachers are encouraged to provide direct instruction on appropriate behavior** to students and to use teachable moments as springboards into character development.

**Schools implement special programs or provide support services for students to enhance character development.** Programs like Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), a framework for positive behavior, and Second Step, a violence prevention program, are implemented at schools to promote positive behavior and prevent violence. Schools also utilize school counselors, pupil personnel workers, and/or school social workers to enhance character development with individual students or groups.

**Students also learn about character through the multitude of social interactions they engage in throughout their school careers.** Sports, dances, clubs, field trips, and activities such as service learning projects, student government, and peer mediation are just some of the ways that students further develop their understanding of appropriate behavior.

**Character development can be enhanced by teachers and other caring adults in a variety of ways, including:**

- Modeling appropriate behavior.
- Instilling the habits of civility and kindness.
- Using polite words.
- Recognizing role models and appreciating good deeds.
- Creating a climate of moral and social excellence.
- Participating in school and community service opportunities.
- Having students reflect on the impact of their actions.



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