



April 3, 2017

Dear Parents,

This school year, we chose a nationally recognized character education program called **CHARACTER COUNTS!** The Six Pillars of Character is a framework for teaching good character and is composed of six ethical values (characteristics) everyone can agree upon: Trustworthiness; Respect; Responsibility; Fairness; Caring; and Citizenship. The **CHARACTER COUNTS!** Program uses six character traits to help instill a positive learning environment for students and a "culture of kindness" making schools a safe environment for students to learn.

Your child will be involved in learning-activities designed to develop good character and empower them to make good choices. He or she may be asked to complete several tasks at home. Your cooperation with these activities will support our overall goal.

For the month of April we will focus on the **Trustworthiness Pillar**. Students will participate in group activities and discussions about being trustworthy, and about the personal benefits of making responsible choices.

Here are some things you can do to support us in teaching our students about being a caring person:

WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME

- Watch for trustworthy behavior and show your appreciation.
- If you make a mistake, admit it and don't blame others. Talk about it with your children. Model how a person of character handles making a mistake.
- Talk to your child about times in your life (and listen to theirs) when it has been hard to be honest or keep promises.
- Set family goals. Have each member of the family complete the following sentence and post it where it will serve as a reminder: I will be trustworthy by:

_____.

PARENTS CAN PROMOTE TRUSTWORTHINESS

- Model the behavior you want to see in your child and acknowledge their good behavior when you see it.

- Be clear about your expectations; expect your child to do what they say they are going to do and to be honest with you.
- Provide for basic needs on a consistent basis (love, proper nutrition, healthy activities, reading for enjoyment, faith development, etc.).
- Develop family rules and consequences. Explain them ahead of time and then use the consequences in a consistent way.
- Model relationships that demonstrate honesty, integrity, promise-keeping and loyalty.
- Develop a calm, emotionally responsive and stable home environment with a proper balance of freedom and structure.

TO HELP YOU TEACH THE SIX PILLARS

Most books you already read to or with your child can be discussed using the Six Pillars of Character. For example, discuss with your children how the character in the book demonstrated honesty, or how was a character reliable?

Let your child know that being trustworthy means to:

- Be honest.
- Not deceive, cheat or steal.
- Be reliable. Do what you say you'll do.
- Have the courage to do the right thing.
- Build a good reputation.
- Be loyal. Stand by your family, friends and country.

We look forward to working with you this school year because at Miner, CHARACTER COUNTS!

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Noakes
Dean of Students