



Schools of Character Press Contact: Lori Soifer, lori@character.org

Character.org Certifies 47 Schools and 1 District 2021 National Schools of Character

Washington, DC (May 11, 2021) — Character.org, a national advocate and leader for character development in schools and communities, today certified 47 schools and 1 district as National Schools of Character. Schools in Brazil and Mexico were also certified.

"We are pleased to announce and celebrate the schools and school district that have earned this national recognition," said Dr. Arthur Schwartz, President of Character.org. "The educators at these schools model and reinforce the core values of respect and dignity. They are teaching their students to be honest and trustworthy, to contribute their time and talents to the common good, and when necessary, to show the courage to stand up for what is right."

Since its inception, the National Schools of Character program has impacted over 3 million students, staff, parents, and community members. The schools and districts that apply must meet the rigorous standards articulated in Character.org's *11 Principles Framework for Schools*. Each school is assessed by a team of trained evaluators.

"We congratulate these schools for completing the application and review process in a year that has been anything but typical," adds Lori Soifer, who directs the Schools of Character program. "Each of these schools has put in place a comprehensive approach to help students understand, care about, and consistently practice the character strengths that will help them flourish in school, in relationships, in the workplace, and as citizens."

Character.org will honor the 2021 National Schools of Character at its next Annual Forum, to be held virtually, October 20-22, 2021. The complete list of the 2021 National Schools of Character is attached to this release. Learn more about the district and schools being certified today on our website.

About Character.org: Founded in 1993, Character.org is a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. Our mission is to provide the voice, visibility, and resources for educators to build nurturing and supportive school cultures that focus on core values and character strengths vital to student and school success. Character.org is widely known for its *11 Principles*, a comprehensive framework developed by school leaders and character development researchers. During the past 20 years, more than 1,000 schools and school districts – after an independent and rigorous evaluation process – have been certified as National Schools of Character. The vision for Character.org is to expand our work to families, sports, and the workplace.



2021 National Schools and Districts of Character

** denotes District of Character

Brazil School of Character

CEL Intercultural School, Rio de Janeiro

Mexico School of Character

Escuela Secundaria Tecnológico de Monterrey Zacatecas, Guadalupe

Alabama

Vestavia Hills Elementary West, Vestavia Hills

California

Brentwood Lower School, Los Angeles

Florida

Orlando Science Elementary School, Orlando

Seminole Middle School, Seminole

Maryland

Thomas W. Pyle Middle School, Bethesda

Michigan

Bemis Elementary School, Troy

Hart Middle School, Rochester

Troy Union Elementary School, Troy

Missouri

Barretts Elementary, Manchester

Bayless Elementary School, St. Louis

Bayless High School, St. Louis

Belton Middle School, Belton

Busch Middle School of Character, St. Louis

Craig Elementary School, St. Louis

Don Earl Early Childhood Center, Arnold

Lincoln Elementary School, Troy

Woerther Elementary School, Ballwin



New Jersey

Alan B. Shepard Elementary School, Old Bridge

Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy, Elizabeth
Birchwood Elementary School, Dover
Carl Sandburg Middle School, Old Bridge
Caroline Reutter School, Franklinville
Cedar Hill Elementary School, Towaco
Cherry Hill East High School, Cherry Hill
Copeland Middle School, Rockaway
Donald Stewart School No. 51, Elizabeth
Hillside Elementary School, Livingston
Joyce Kilmer Elementary School-Cherry Hill, Cherry Hill
Katharine D. Malone Elementary School, Rockaway Leroy
Gordon Cooper Elementary School, Cliffwood Beach
**Rockaway Township Schools, New Jersey
Spotswood Memorial Middle School, Spotswood
Virgil I. Grissom Elementary School, Old Bridge
Woodmont Elementary School, Pine Brook

New York

Pelham Middle School, Pelham
St. HOPE Leadership Academy, New York City

North Carolina

Union Academy Charter School, Monroe

Oklahoma

Jefferson Elementary School, Pryor
Muskogee Early Childhood Center, Muskogee

Pennsylvania

Eleanor Roosevelt Elementary School, Morrisville
Manor Elementary School, Levittown
Pennsbury High School, Fairless Hills

Texas

G W Robinson Elementary School, Houston
Harmony School of Science- Houston, Houston Harmony
Science Academy- Cedar Park, Austin School of Science
and Technology- Discovery, San Antonio School of Science
and Technology- Sugar Land, Richmond School of Science
and Technology- San Antonio, San Antonio