



HAMILTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hamilton Township School District Receives NJ School of Character Awards

Hamilton, NJ. The Hamilton Township School District (HTSD) is the proud recipient of two 2023 [New Jersey School of Character awards](#). There are 73 award recipients for 2023, selected from 197 applications throughout the state; 24 awarded in New Jersey. Lalor Elementary School received a New Jersey State School of Character Award. Crockett Middle School received an honorable mention award for their work in character-building.

“Our school community is thrilled to be recognized as a 2023 Honorable Mention School of Character. We have made a concerted effort to convey that character-building is essential to the success of our school community. Through various initiatives and throughout the very fabric of our school culture, we emphasize daily that empathy, compassion, kindness, and respect are paramount. Initiatives, such as our *Incredible Kids’ Day*, *Crockett Parent Academy*, and *Peer Leadership Program*, exemplify our commitment to modeling the essence of good character. We expect our students to be leaders and model genuine care for each other. Our staff members support each other and express authentic consideration for their colleagues. Our success is not only our school’s but indicative of the goals of the entire Hamilton Township School District. As noted in the district’s mantra, *One Hamilton*, our school theme, *When I Rise, We Rise*, aligns and reflects that our success is a collective reflection of everyone’s effort. I am beyond proud of our school and our district,” shared Dr. Roxann Clarke-Holmes, Crockett Middle School Principal.

“Lalor Elementary School is proud to be recognized as a 2023 NJ State School of Character! Our character journey is a collaboration between the school Climate Team, teachers, staff, families, and community

members who all share a common goal of success for our students. Our mission is to build a culture of character and respect that embraces diversity, which goes beyond our classrooms and school. Lalor's character program uses a Responsive Classroom (RC) approach to foster the academic, social, and emotional development of every student so they can become leaders in a changing world. Lalor believes every interaction between a staff member and a student is an opportunity to create a positive relationship and model core values of character. Our school community is proud of the work that has been done to receive this honorable recognition, explains Ms. Jennifer Marinello, Lalor Elementary School Principal.

Congratulations to Crockett Middle School and Lalor Elementary School for this well deserved recognition. Both schools continue what has become a tradition in our school district when it comes to award winning character education programs," said Dr. Scott Rocco, Superintendent of Hamilton Township Public Schools.

Character.org, a national advocate and leader for character, designated 67 schools and 2 districts as State Schools of Character for 2022. Since its inception, Character.org's Schools of Character program has positively impacted nearly three million students, staff, parents, and other community members. Each year, Character.org certifies schools and districts at the state level that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development which has a positive effect on academic achievement, student behavior, and school climate. Schools and districts announced today will be considered for Character.org's highest distinction - National School of Character.

"We are excited to announce today the 2023 State Schools and Districts of Character," said Dr. Arthur Schwartz, Character.org's President. "Each of these schools and districts have put into place an initiative that equips and empowers their staff to reinforce and model a range of positive core values that will shape and form the hearts, minds, and choices of their students." To learn more about the schools chosen today, please visit [Character.org](https://character.org).

ABOUT CHARACTER.ORG: Character.org is a worldwide network that empowers people of all ages to practice and model the ethical core values that shape our hearts, minds and choices. Formerly known as the Character Education Partnership, the organization has relentlessly advocated for character since 1993. Today, Character.org creates and shares resources that support people around the globe, including the 11 Principles Framework for Schools: A Guide to Cultivating a Culture of Character. The organization's vision is to be the global leader and voice for developing character in families, schools, and organizations.

For more information contact Laura Geltch, HTSD Grants, Communication, and Sponsorship Coordinator.
Attachment: NJ School of Character Award logo

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