

# Implementing Character Development at the Secondary Level

Circle High School, USD 375



# Circle High School

- 4A High School in Towanda, Kansas
- Encompasses 175 square miles of Butler and Sedgwick Counties
- Includes multiple municipalities
- Includes rural, suburban and urban areas
- Selected as a State School of Character in 2014
- Selected as National School of Character in 2014

# Who is your Hero?

- On the notecard you have been given, write down the name of your hero
- Then write 3 words you would use to describe your hero

## Who is your Hero?

- Share the qualities that describe your hero.
- What is your school doing to create future heroes?

# First things first...

11 principles

- Safe and Good Schools Research

Character.org

- Promising Practices
- State and National Schools of Character

Kansas State SECD Standards

- Available on the KSDE website

# Core Values – What are they?

## Elements of Core Values

- Universally valid
- Benefit every individual
- Educationally significant
- Encourage good decision making
- Make for good relationships
- Both performance and moral values should be included



# Core Values - Development

Input from all stake holders

- Community, students, staff, Board of Education

Continuous process that is never ending

- Must be updated regularly
- Develop a plan

Sharing with school and community is key


- How will your students remember them?



A faint, light blue silhouette of an elephant is centered in the background. The elephant's trunk is on the left, and its body is on the right. There are several small white stars scattered across the elephant's back and head area.

**COMPASSION**  
**INTEGRITY**  
**RESPONSIBILITY**  
**RESPECT**  
**SCHOOL**  
**PRIDE**

**CORE VALUES**



Sharing with School and Community is Key  
How will your students remember your core values?

Circle High School  
Senior Core Values Video

# The start of our journey...

## Grants

### Partnership in Character Education Program Grant

Helped develop Power2Achieve Program

Developed a pull-out class to address character with all students

### Safe and Supportive Schools Grant (S3)

Continues to address school climate issues via the “4 pillars”

This grant ends at the conclusion of this school year



# Goals of Character Development Program

## **Improve Circle High School Climate**

- Lower discipline referrals
- Improve school attendance
- Increase involvement of students in school activities

## **Improve school building and community relationships**

- Improve student-faculty relationships
- Improve school-community communication and relationships
- Increase community involvement at the school

## **Improve academic performance**

- Increase the level of academic intrinsic motivation and responsibility
- Improve standardized test scores
- Prepare students to become career and college ready

# School Structure - FIT

## Faculty Improvement Team (FIT)

- Began in January, 2011
- Volunteer membership
- Problem-solving among the faculty
- Uses consensus decision-making
- P2A was the first topic of conversation (2010-11 – all students did P2L units 1 – 4)
- Allowed faculty opinions to be shared
- Spent the entire semester discussing value of the program and implementation ideas
- Some frustration among members that other topics of importance were not being discussed

# School Structure - CDC

## Character Development Committee (CDC)

- Began in August, 2011
- Character development/P2A is the sole focus of this group
- 2011-12 – freshmen do P2A units 1 – 4, all others do lessons 5 – 8
- Development of units for juniors and seniors
- Following year they evaluated the program for the juniors and seniors
- Planned for improvement for the following year
- Teacher involvement was key
- Worked on the National School of Character application

# School Structure - SCT


## School Climate Team (SCT)

- Members include school faculty and staff, community members/parents, students
- Review grant budget
- Helped with core value decision-making
- May bring other concerns to the table
- Hear updates and give feedback on all aspects of character development at CHS

# Our Curriculum

- 50 minutes, once a week program
- Separated by grade level
- Includes over 95% of student body
- Working to align with the Kansas SECD Standards





## Utilize “canned” programs Make them your own

- Power2 Achieve
- Life Skills
- Alcohol EDU

# Freshmen Curriculum

## Alcohol EDU

- Online alcohol prevention program used on more than 500 college and university campuses nationwide.

## Power2Achieve

- Considering the Perspective of Others
- Assume Shared Responsibility for Collaborative Work and Value Contributions Made by Others
- Utilizing Time and Managing Workload Effectively
- Develop Habits for Excellence

# Sophomore Curriculum

## Life Skills

- The Value of Good Health
- Decision Making for Health
- Risk Taking and Substance Abuse
- The Media and Health
- Managing Stress, Anger and other Emotions
- Family Communications
- Healthy Relationships

## Power2Achieve

- Demonstrating Emotional Intelligence, Integrity and Responsibility
- Exhibiting Creativity and Innovation; Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Leading and Serving Others
- Living a Balanced, Purposeful and Healthy Life

# Junior Curriculum

## Career Exploration

- Kansas Career Pipeline
- Career Days

## Standardized Test Prep

*The Reader's Corner* Socratic Seminars

## Life Skills Transitions

- Goal-Setting for Success
- Effective Communication
- Managing Stress
- Decision Making and Risk Taking
- Managing Time and Money

# Senior Curriculum

## Community Lecture Series

- Recent Circle graduate panel
- FASFA and college representatives panel
- Drug and alcohol testimonials and law review
- Financial advisement for post high school
- Job interview skills and resume training

## Senior Service Learning Project

- Defined by individual class each year

# Tower Building

Taken from Power2Learn Curriculum

Purpose of the activity:

- Focus on the challenge
- Understand your limitations
- Be creative in the use of your available resources

# Supplies

## Group A

- 10 Straws
- 10 Sheets of paper
- 7 index cards
- Tape

## Group B

- 5 Straws
- 15 sheets of paper
- 10 index cards
- tape

## Group C

- 8 straws
- 10 sheets of paper
- 5 index cards
- tape

## Group D

- 10 straws
- 5 sheets of paper
- 10 index cards
- tape

# Participation Rules

## Group A

Only one person may speak. Prior to beginning, the group needs to determine who will be able to speak.

## Group B

The tallest member may use two hands; every other group member may only use one hand. (Must be the same hand the entire challenge.)

## Group C

Only one group member may stand up. All other group members must remain seated throughout the activity.

## Group D

No one is allowed to speak.



# Character education is a process, not a place.

## Yearly review of curriculum

- Meet in grade level groups at the end of each year for review
- Discuss data – try to be **data driven** in changes to the curriculum
- Implement new practices where necessary
- Fidelity to the program

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# Contact Information

**Todd Dreifort**

Principal

[tdreifort@usd375.org](mailto:tdreifort@usd375.org)

**Deb Wheeler**

Counselor

[dwheeler@usd375.org](mailto:dwheeler@usd375.org)

**Amanda Young**

Foreign Language Teacher

[ayoung@usd375.org](mailto:ayoung@usd375.org)

**Wendy Tien**

Art Teacher, S3 Grant Coordinator

[wtien@usd375.org](mailto:wtien@usd375.org)

**Circle High School**

905 Main, Towanda, Kansas, 67144

316-541-2277

[www.usd375.org/chs](http://www.usd375.org/chs)