

STUDENT LEADERSHIP – INVOLVING STUDENTS IN CHARACTERCOUNTS! WEEK

Project-based learning is a highly effective way to reach academic standards while teaching the importance of good character. This resource will help your students get started on a project that incorporates essential academic and character education elements.

1. Start with the objectives of your event. What do you want to achieve? Make a list of these and share it with your students. Ideas might include:

- Increase awareness of the importance of good character
- Involve students at all grade levels
- Inspire other teachers and classes to learn more about good character

Academic goals might include:

- Develop literacy standards throughout the school
- Improve math skills among organization group of students
- Introduce project and time management skills

2. Next, have a brainstorm session with the class for ideas that will meet the objectives and goals you've decided upon. Select the top three ideas that seem to match all your goals and divide the class into groups that will research each proposal and present their findings to the group.

Make sure everyone has a role and is engaged and involved. Assign interest-based roles to each student. For example, if you have a student who is strong at math, have them work on calculating hours and resources that will be required to complete the project. A student who is good at illustration might work on a plan for publicity.

Set the task for each group to put together a business proposal advocating for their project to be chosen.

3. Align your selected project with each of the areas in the project-based learning matrix, and begin the project.

4. Here are some ideas that would match the goals and ideas listed above:

- A school-wide read-a-thon: Enlist local libraries to sponsor read-a-thons. In the run-up, have literacy coaching sessions for younger and struggling readers.
- A community clean up: Invite local businesses to donate time and resources to keeping the area around the school free of litter. Push to have pot holes or other unsafe streets repaired.
- A character-in-the-family event throughout the entire CHARACTER COUNTS! Week. Find out what families in the school community really need and try to meet those needs for one week in different ways (e.g., babysitting, translation, food and supplies donations; job-skills support, etc).