

Dear Parents,

For the next several months your child will be participating in a Character Education program. The purpose of the program is to develop character traits in our students to enable them to be more responsible citizens. During these months, students in grades 6 – 12 will do activities during their advisory periods which will help them learn to make better choices.

These activities are developed around the six pillars of character. These pillars arise out of the values which constitute the ground rules of ethics and therefore of ethical decision making. The pillars of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship contribute to good decision making. They act as a multi-level filter through which to process decisions. They can help us detect situations where we focus so hard on upholding one moral principle that we sacrifice another – where, intent on holding others accountable, we ignore the duty to be compassionate; where, intent on getting a job done, we ignore how. In short, the Six Pillars can dramatically improve the ethical quality of our decisions and thus our character and lives.

Beginning in January, the students will take a survey to rate themselves over the first three pillars of trustworthiness, respect, and responsibility. The students will then complete a series of activities centered on those pillars. After the activities have been completed, the students will take a post survey. The goal is that students have shown development in the areas of the first three pillars.

Beginning in March, students will take a survey to rate themselves over the last three pillars of fairness, caring and responsibility. They will then complete a series of activities developed around those pillars. Once completed, students should show improvement in these areas based on the results of the last group of pillars.

As mentioned, the purpose of the program is to develop more responsible citizens. My goal is once students have completed the six pillars of character education, more responsible citizens will develop. Should you have any questions, please contact me at Bell-Herron Middle School or via the school website.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Mr. Darin Abel
Bell – Herron Middle School