

PCK Character Coaching Connection

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September, 2016

A Great Year For Great Character



Welcome back to the 2016-2017 school year!

I hope your school year is off to a great start. Things move quickly around PCK, and our Character Coaching program is no exception. Your students have been busy learning about respect, responsibility, being ready to participate, and identifying emotions. Next, we are starting our focus on the character trait of Orderliness for September.

All students in full-day kindergarten through 6th grade get Character Coaching, and each grade level focuses on a different aspect of the trait we are learning about. For example, when we talked about respect, kindergarten used puppets to explore different way of being respectful with our actions. First grade learned about respectful listening. Second grade focused on respecting each other's differences and similarities. Third grade discussed respecting other people's belongings. Fourth grade reviewed respecting our classmates, and fifth grade learned how the 3 Rs work together. Each trait has many elements to explore as students grow and mature.

Orderliness: Arranging myself and my surroundings to achieve greater efficiency.

Ask your students what they have been learning about in Character Coaching. In September they will discover the value of being neat and organized, but orderliness is more than that. Students are learning to organize things in order to be more efficient.

You can help by asking your students the following questions:

How do you organize your homework so you can get it done quickly and to the best of your ability?
How can you make sure it gets turned in?

How do you keep your backpack orderly so you can find what you need when you get to school?

Are you able to find things in your desk easily? Can you put things away in your desk quickly, or do you just toss them in when you are finished using them? What happens when there isn't a place to put something away?

When your student can't find something at home, such as his shoes, ask, "How can you organize your belongings to help you keep track of them? How can you make your room more orderly so you know where things belong and you can get them efficiently?"

Orderliness In Action

Parents have the greatest influence on their children, and you can help your students learn to be orderly by modeling it yourself and by talking about the organizational systems you use. Your kids probably haven't thought about the fact that kitchen plates, glasses, and silverware are usually stored near the dishwasher to make putting them away easy. They may not have considered why all of the cereal boxes are together in the pantry. Talk about different systems you use to keep your house, your car, or your workspace organized. While these systems may seem simple to adults, many students have never given them thought.

Once students understand how orderliness is already present in their lives, they more easily apply those principles to their school work and their bedrooms. Help them brainstorm ways they can put orderliness to work.

Want To Know More?

As the Character Coach at PCK, I work hard to make sure every student feels equipped to handle the day-to-day challenges of life that are best met with strong character. Whether it is a conflict on the playground or a decision to tell the truth in a tricky situation, I want all of our students to have the skills they need to make good choices with confidence.

In order for this to happen, students need more than a dictionary definition of each trait. At PCK we talk about what each trait means, but also how to use it, why it matters, and how it makes life better for each individual student. I work to personalize the traits for each child so students take individual responsibility for using them.

The traits we are focusing on this year are:

August: The 3 R's (respect, responsibility, ready to participate)

September: Orderliness

October: Determination

November: Compassion

December: Honesty

January: Enthusiasm

February: Diligence

March: Attentiveness

April: Gratefulness

May: Wisdom

If you ever have any questions about what we do in Character Coaching, or about any aspect of our character education program, please contact me at ddaniels@ckcs.net. I would love to talk about the great things your students are doing.