

Intelligence plus character – that is the true goal of education.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

Those in education have always been advocates for and developed character through education. Character education is the backbone in all content areas for guiding our students as they become caring, principled, and responsible adults.

Character education is not a simple matter because our ‘character’ is something that develops over time.

- ◆ The first way we learn about character is by watching and dealing with those around us, especially those we love and trust.
- ◆ The second way we learn about character is through action, especially service to others.
- ◆ The third strategy we use to explore character is through open dialogue about the complex situations we hear about or find ourselves involved in.

In LBUSD every school has custom designed a program that best meets the needs of its students, staff and parent/community groups. All schools use the 6 core character traits of: Respect, Trustworthiness, Responsibility, Civic Virtue & Citizenship, Caring, and Justice & Fairness. All schools incorporate character education throughout the curriculum.

All schools receive books, articles, and other support materials to motivate and enhance all character instruction. Some schools honor students and staff that personify these traits at monthly recognition ceremonies. Some schools have chosen to support their efforts with recognized curricular programs like: *Blueprints for Living*, *Learning for Life*, *CHARACTER COUNTS!*, and *Foundations for Life*.

The district supports school efforts by providing one to two trainings a year for site representatives. The district has been fortunate to host Tom Jackson, Hal Urban, Spencer Kagan, and the group “Random Acts of Kindness.”

The district realizes that teachers must inspire students’ hearts as well as their minds and must interact with students so each student can identify their strengths and areas of needed growth. They must also encourage students to take risks as they develop. “Connectedness” through a safe, caring and kind environment produces happy and achieving students.

Some schools/teachers incorporate some of the following techniques to foster a caring community of learners:

- ◆ Class meetings
- ◆ Mentor or buddy programs
- ◆ Inclusive, whole-school events
- ◆ Service learning opportunities

The district is committed to educating the whole child. For further questions regarding character education, please call the Health Curriculum Office at (562) 997-0632.

“Talent develops in tranquility, character in the full current of human life.”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe