

WHY DOES CHARACTER MATTER? CONFIDENCE. COMPETENCE. COMPASSION.

Adolescence is hard—psychologically, physically, emotionally. Enhancing inner strengths in young adults empowers them to make more positive choices and overcome challenges as they progress through life. Character Connection partners with schools, teachers, and families to help adolescents develop these qualities, including confidence, competence, and compassion. Through our classroom instruction, evening family programs, and professional development training, we create safe and nurturing communities in which students learn how to be their best self.



CONFIDENCE



COMPETENCE



COMPASSION



the CHARACTER CONNECTION initiative

WHAT IS THE CHARACTER CONNECTION DIFFERENCE?

- Programming that aligns with classroom curriculum (Social Studies and English Language Arts)
- Character Connection Instructor teaches in every classroom of School & Beyond program
- Families participate in our programming
- Mindfulness grounds every class



WHO AND HOW WE HELP

Students:

- Increase self-awareness
- Improve self-expression, both written and verbal
- Enhance sense of belonging
- Connect compassionately to peers, parents, and teachers

Schools and Teachers:

- Expand classroom management tools (including managing common anger issues)
- Decrease suspensions rates
- Increase student focus on academics
- Identify deeper emotional and psychological trauma in a student

Families:

- Strengthen familial relationships
- Improve communication at home
- Build relationships with other families and communities



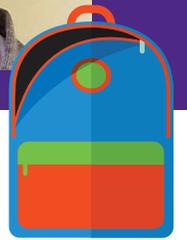


“Character Connection has brought incredible change to my classroom and our Waltersville School Community... During last year suspensions in the eighth grade decreased by slightly more than 60%! ...Character Connection’s parent workshop, in May of 2016, had the greatest parent participation of the six middle school parent functions held last year...”

CARRIE RAMANAUSKAS
Partner Teacher,
Waltersville School, Bridgeport, CT

“Since beginning Character Connection, I have learned so much about myself. I am more open and honest about my feelings.”

LUIS A.
Student, St. Thomas Aquinas
speaking at the United Nations



HOW WE MEASURE IMPACT:

- Year-End Essays provide anecdotal evidence directly from students
- Program evaluations allow us to assess the effectiveness of our curriculum
- Fordham University student evaluations will provide metrics on students’ academic performance, college expectations, grit, wellbeing, and more (anticipated roll out fall 2017)



HOW WE ALIGN WITH COMMON CORE STANDARDS:

- 7th and 8th Grade English Language Arts or Social Studies curricula connects students to each one of our character principles.
- Critical social and emotional connections are made by students to the curricular content, helping them to better understand the content and themselves.
- Comprehension, analytic, and communication skills are part of our curriculum. Every character lesson has three components to gauge students’ understanding of the material: reading, peer-to-peer conversation, and evidence-based writing.

EXAMPLE CHARACTER CONNECTION: During the perseverance unit in 7th Grade, students examine General Washington’s loss during the Battle of New York in 1776. Students connect Washington’s use of perseverance to take a failure and turn it into an opportunity. They reflect on where they have used perseverance to turn a negative situation into a positive one, sharing their experience in writing and conversation exercises. At the end of the year, students participate in an Essay Wrap-Up, reflecting on the character word that was the most impactful for them.

