10th Annual Northeast Conference on Character Education Workshops

National School of Character: Waterloo Middle School
Karen Moretti, Deb Barg, Doug Barg, Heather Bonetti, Susan Burgess, Joanne Corey, Kim Coriale, Jennifer Knitter, Allison Panek, Mary Beth Stowell, and Jennifer White, Waterloo Middle School

Audience – 8-12

How did Waterloo Middle School transform their school culture and become a 2008 New York State and National School of Character? You are invited to join the WMS Character Education Team as they share strategies, such as common language, a student led RESPECT team, and an advisory program. Come and learn how we STRIVE for A CULTURE of EXCELLENCE in academics AND school environment together.

New York State School of Character: Walnut Street School
Kevin Bracht and Michael Bruno, Walnut Street School, Uniondale, NY

Audience – K-12

Recognized in 2006 by the New York State Department of Education as a High-Performing/Gap-Closing School, Walnut Street School is committed to educating each student academically, socially, and emotionally in an atmosphere that promotes positive character development. Learn how your school can employ the same methods as Walnut Street School to gain recognition as a school of character.

National School of Character: Secrets of Success in Sowing Good Character
Dr. Donna Dunar, Alta S. Leary Elementary School, Warminster, PA

Audience – K-12

Come and learn the “secrets” of success of Alta S. Leary Elementary School’s journey with the CEP’s 11 Principles. This interactive presentation will focus on how to build strong ethical roots of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, citizenship, perseverance, tolerance, self-discipline, coping skills, and high academic expectations. Learn more about “Character by Design Systematic Curriculum Development,” “Character Coins Building Moral Equity,” and the secrets of success in change implementation.

Overcoming Self-Doubt: Teaching Students the Power of Authentic Self-Confidence
Dr. Steve Birchak, The College of Saint Rose

Audience – K-12, counselors

Dr. Bird examines the 10 most common self-defeating myths that lead to low self-worth. Building character is highly dependent on the creation of positive self-talk messages. Research reveals that the average person has two negative self-messages for every positive message. Dr. Bird shares insights for cognitive errors, irrational thinking, and how to reverse trends of negative thinking.

Leadership: A View from the Top: Rambo, Poets, and the Child
Dr. Andrew Rose, Nanuet, NY

Audience – Administration, K-12

Public education is under relentless assault from politicians, governmental bureaucrats, and expectations that continually change. Dr. Rose will provide historical background, leadership domains, leadership appropriate for schools, and "a recipe for success," leaving participants with a clear understanding of how character education relates to effective leadership.
Developing a Smart and Good School  
Phil Catania, Principal, National School of Character, Prince Georges County, Maryland  
Audience – K-12, counselors  
Participants will learn strategies to develop the performance and moral character of staff and students.

NYS Guidelines for Social and Emotional Development and Learning  
Mark Barth, New York State Department of Education  
Audience – K-12, Administrators, Counselors, Community Leaders  
Social and emotional development and learning programming is within your reach! Learn more about New York State’s social and emotional development and learning guidelines. Discover how these guidelines can help your school develop or maintain a caring school climate and attend to student growth and maturation.

Broadcasting to the Community: Lights, Camera, Service Learning!  
Mark Spitzer, Brunswick Central School District  
Audience – 7-12  
Learn how one program is building teamwork and pride among at-risk students through their video production program, which reaches not only the high school, but also provides valuable services to the school district as well as the entire community. See examples of service learning in action, as the cameras roll and reach outside the confines of the classroom.

“Sexting”  
James A. Murphy III, District Attorney of Saratoga County  
Audience – 7-12  
‘Sexting’ is a new trend that often involves teens sending explicit photos of themselves or others through text messaging. Saratoga County District Attorney James Murphy will raise awareness on the troubles that can come along with ‘sexting.’ Learn how to convey the consequences of careless ‘sext’ message and teach students to think twice before ‘sexting.’

Character Education through Children’s Literature  
Hilary K. Terboss, Maine-Endwell Central School District  
Audience – K-5  
Step over the stumbling block of how to incorporate character education in the classroom and learn how easily it can be incorporated using high-quality children’s literature. Discover the literature around us today that is loaded with character traits and scenarios that stimulate thought, reflection, conversation, and growth.

Developing a Professional Ethical Learning Community  
Phil Catania, Principal, National School of Character, Prince Georges County, Maryland  
Audience – Administrators and teachers  
Participants will understand the 6 principles of a Professional Ethical Learning Community (PELC) and how following these principles will positively impact school culture.
Villains, Vices, and Virtues: Fairy Tales and Character Education
Joan Monk, Peter Pan Children’s Fund, Yorktown, NY
Audience – K-12
Fairytales provide us with a safe place to embrace the archetypal battle of good and evil. By exploring the role of the villains of fairyland, we can learn who we are by either moving toward or away from them. Take a look at three classic fairy tales (Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, and Peter Pan) with this new twist.

Think Tank: Music, Theatre, and the 7 Habits
Jean Burlingame, Maine-Endwell Central School District
Audience - K-5
A group of innovative and dedicated teachers, in avoidance of the common classroom lecture, invigorate their classes through interactive dance, art, and theatre performances. These dynamic teachers work to engage students and foster leadership using modern music, Words to Live By, and Sean Covey’s 7 habits of character development.

HEROES: Highlighting Educational, Real, Outstanding Experiences & Stories
Mrs. Vivian Rose, M.S., Nanuet, NY
Audience - 7-12
We live in a time when heroes are needed more than ever. By studying the character development of heroes through lessons, stories, and real life experiences, students can learn to dream, admire, and hopefully emulate heroic behaviors. Participants will learn how to set up this program for their own classroom.

Bully-Proof Your School: The Magic of Character
Jim Vagias, Educational Productions, East Brunswick, NJ
Audience – K-8, Counselors, Social Workers
Discover the secret to helping students develop positive traits to help them be people of good character, to give them tools to act on these traits, and to deal with bullies who won’t go away.

Service Learning: Building Character from the Inside Out
Suzanne Myers, Brunswick Central School District
Audience – K-12, Counselors, Administrators
Service Learning taps into students’ inner feelings of self-worth, responsibility, empathy by allowing them to use their school skills to serve others. Learn about the service learning teaching model as it has been applied in grades K-12 at the Brunswick CSD. Project examples span different content areas and different magnitudes from single-class to school-wide projects.

The Power of Mentoring: Connecting with Children
Sharon Leibowitz, Walnut Street Elementary, Uniondale, NY
Audience – K-12
Walnut Street School, the 2009 NYSSOC Award winner and national finalist will share some of their outstanding character education programs and practices. The steps in developing a successful mentoring program and building strong community partnerships will be presented.
Implementing Classroom Meetings to Build a School of Character
Cyndi Herron, Jackie Hoffman and Camille Freedner, Chatham Central School District
Audience – K-8
Classroom meeting encourages adult school staff and students to examine and discuss the process of school rather than the product, allowing for social emotional development. Learn how Chatham Middle School has successfully implemented Classroom Meeting in their Middle School, and how the classroom meeting can become a part of your school culture.

Character Education: The Forgotten Aspect of the Approach to Discipline in the Schools
Bruce Weiner, School Psychologist, Berlin CSD and Adjunct Professor Sage Colleges and College of St Rose
Audience - K-12
Understand how to identify and implement the key elements involved in a character-centered approach to school discipline.

Strategies for Character Development
Dr. John Walko, Director of The Academy for Character Education
Audience – K-12, administrators
The question “Are we doing character education ‘lite’ or ‘right’?” can be answered in this session. Learn about the elements needed to develop a comprehensive character education program, evaluate your school’s progress on the five major developmental strands of an effective school program, and take away applicable strategies based on recent research.

What Makes a New York State School of Character?
Dr. Philip Fusco, Assistant Director of The Academy for Character Education
Audience – K-12, Administrators
Interested in submitting an application to become a NYS School of Character? Learn the requirements to become a school of character in New York State and some strategies that can be implemented in your own school to increase character awareness.

Seven Keys to Love & Character Education for Sustainable Development
Sanford Hinden, Executive Director of the Dix Hills Performing Arts Center, Long Island, NY
Audience – K-12
The Earth is undergoing rapid deterioration due to exponential growth in population and technology without growth in wisdom and character. This workshop will provide a clear set of values, character traits, and behaviors that can lead to sustainability on planet Earth.

Solving Ethical Dilemmas as a School Administrator: A Character Education Dialogue
Lynn Macan, Superintendent, Cobleskill-Richmondville Schools
Audience - Administrators
Character Ethics have a place in school governance; however, one of the most neglected areas in character education is school administration. Reflect on and learn how to incorporate character education into school administration.
Bullying Prevention Essentials: From In Your Face to Cyber Space
*Cathy Welling, Capital Region BOCES*
*Audience – 6-12*
Technological advances have created even more avenues for bullying behavior, following students from the schoolyard into their homes. This session will focus on the components of an effective bullying prevention program.

Strategies for Addressing Special Needs Kids Through Character
*Kathy Barlow, Wildwood School*
*Audience – K-7*
Learn strategies and best practices to address the needs of students with disabilities through character. Discover how best to enhance the learning experience of students with special needs in your school.

Character Education and Adult Workplace Bullying
*Mike Schlicht, State Coordinator, New York Healthy Workplace Advocates, Snyder, NY*
*Audience – K-12*
In today’s workplace, bullying is a serious and health-harming threat and can also be a learned behavior. Students who see employees bullying each other may become tomorrow’s bullies. Discover how to implement a character education initiative as an effective tool in recognizing and addressing workplace bullying.

Incorporating Service into Your Classroom: Visual Arts and More
*Valerie Dechene, Barbara Place, and Helen Findley, Brunswick Central School District*
*Audience – K-8*
This presentation will provide strategies that will help teachers of any discipline incorporate a service learning project into their classroom. Using visual arts and character based murals as a case example, it will walk participants through all stages of planning necessary for a student-designed project. The power and synergy resulting from the group process will be highlighted and strategies for enhancing academic performance in all subject areas will be discussed.

The OCHO Project: Read for a Need
*Marilyn Perlyn, Author of The Biggest and Brightest Light, Delray Beach, FL*
*Audience – K-6, administrators, counselors, community leaders*
Expose children to the joys of reading while teaching them that they can help others less fortunate then themselves through this character-based service-learning program. Learn how to help contribute to the improvement of literacy by understanding the need for it, encouraging a love of reading, and teaching children that when you help others, you help yourself in the process.