

# What is Character Education?



## *Pleasant Prairie Elementary*

Developing positive character traits among our students is vital in today's society. Character Education should be infused into the climate and daily routine of schools. Many different schools, school districts and even states are now requiring that Character Education be specifically addressed in the classroom. “The Pleasant Prairie Way” a deliberate effort to help our students learn, care about and demonstrate core character traits. These are Pleasant Prairie Elementary School’s elementary version of Kenosha Unified School District’s Core Values, which cover a broad-ranging group of character traits:



### Character Words – School Wide



**Responsibility:** Doing what is expected of us.

**Respect:** Treat others the way we want to be treated (The Golden Rule).

**Citizenship:** Respecting all citizens and their rules



## Character Words – Grade Level



**Hope (K):** We believe that everything will be fine if we try our best.

**Courage (1<sup>st</sup>):** Brave to do the right thing.

**Compassion (2<sup>nd</sup>):** Caring and Helping.

**Self-Discipline (3<sup>rd</sup>):** Self-control and Self-Value.

**Integrity (4<sup>th</sup>):** Honesty and Knowing right from wrong

**Work Ethic (5<sup>th</sup>):** Work means Job; Ethic means Believe- We believe that working hard at our job is the right thing to do.



## Monthly Character Trait Schedule



September & October	Responsibility/Courage
November & December	Citizenship/Compassion
January & February	Integrity/Respect
March & April	Self-discipline/Work Ethic
May & June	Hope



## **Individual Counseling**



Individual counseling is available for students who could benefit from extra assistance outside of the classroom. The goal of this school-based counseling is to help children with issues that may be interfering with their learning in school. School counseling is designed to be developmental and preventative in nature. It is conducted on a limited, short-term basis and enhances character development. If long-term counseling is required, referral resources will be suggested. Students may be referred to the school counselor by parents, teachers, or other school staff. A student may also self-refer to see the school counselor.



## **Group Counseling**



Group counseling is available for all students and beneficial for those that are experiencing similar difficulties. Through this collaborative environment, students share struggles with each other and build positive coping skills and mechanism to deal with future issues. Groups offered for students change throughout the year - Some groups offered include: Friendship Building, Character Education, Self-esteem, Communication and Social Skills, School Success Topics and Coping with Change.



## Classroom Curriculum



School Counseling Lessons promote the development of academic, personal/social and career goals of all students. Lessons help create a positive culture in the school by teaching character values and interpersonal skills that build a respectful, responsible and caring community. Some topics that are covered during classroom school counseling are:

Problem Solving	Anger
Good Manners	Cooperation
Safety	Confidence
Empathy	ATODA Contests
Character Education Values	Making Choices
Feelings	Helping
Friendship	Learning Skills
Conflict Resolution	Diversity
Bullying/Teasing	Careers
Peer Pressure	Stress
Middle School Transition	Study Skills