

**Question:**

**Does your school have a formalized character education program?**

**If yes, how and when is it delivered?**

**Is the program offered to all students or instead, to only freshmen, etc.?**

**What does it look like, in terms of curriculum, content and activities?**

**And lastly, how does the character education program extend into your extra-curricular programs?**

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No. Our sender schools all have character counts but we do character ed as part of our "behavior and expectations" for all students.

Pat - Lake Park

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We do not have a character education program at our school. We do need one! - Nicholas Bretz

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We have a character program entitle "First Class". We have a committee that meets monthly. We hit the freshman hard with the concept and have reminders and videos throughout the year for all students. Staff have lunches/meetings to serve as reminders as to how to implement the program.

Kate Glarner

Student Activity Director

Deerfield High School

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We have a First Class Program. Katie Biggs (kbiggs@ncusd203.org) would be able to assist you with info. Thanks.

Jennifer Baumgartner - Naperville North

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Last year at Earlville HS (and Junior High) we started Character Counts (www.charactercounts.com), which is based on 7 pillars of character. Grades 7-12 participated and it went great.

W/ CC!, as a school, you can decide just how involved you want to be--and we really did a lot the first year. To kick things off we had The Scary Guy come speak. (If you haven't seen this man speak, you should. Wow!!!! [www.thescaryguy.com](http://www.thescaryguy.com)) We had monthly drawings for Subway lunch. We dedicated bulletin boards to students who exemplified good character traits. We formed a student committee to serve as role models. We did an end of the year picnic for those students who "qualified", etc. etc. We really pumped it up the first year and I believe the kids and the staff did well with it--and it worked. We had less discipline problems, less truancy, less fights, much better morale, and so on.

However, this year, we have done very little because of the administration's lack of support. Last year, teachers got release time to plan and administer the program. We planned activities, met with the student committee, went out into the community for donations and support, discussed

how to incorporate the pillar of the month into our lesson plans, etc. This year we have not been granted the privilege of release time to do any of this. Therefore, we haven't had the time to run the program like it should be. Some teachers still work it into our lessons, but some don't. That is the one thing that I feel is the most important--running a good character education program does take time, effort, and commitment on the part of EVERYONE involved.

As far as extending the program into extracurriculars---we really didn't do a whole lot with that last year. Our Student Council did a little with it, but they already have a character clause built into their Constitution, so they are already on the ball with that. The Character Counts program does have a component especially for working it into sports, however.

Materials??? CC! has lots you can buy, but you don't have to. There are freebies and ideas online and it is possible to make it work without buying all sorts of materials. (That's where it's good to have community support. The donations businesses make can be used for prizes, purchasing posters, etc.)

So, please take from this what you can and good luck with whatever program you choose. I know there are several out there. If I can be of any other help, please feel free to contact me.

Melissa Hill

[mhill@earlville9.lasall.k12.il.us](mailto:mhill@earlville9.lasall.k12.il.us)

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Geneva High School does not have a character counts program, but I wish we did! Looking forward to the replies.

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No, west aurora does not have a character / values program -- but if there are any good ones out there, I'd like to know, thank, donna letzter

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Lincoln-Way District 210 (Central & East) incorporates 40 Monthly assets and think positive quotes into the daily routines at school. There are bulletin boards that describe the monthly asset and quote, and the community, park districts, chamber of commerce, and churches incorporate them into their events as well. Our feeder grade schools use the same program. Local banks also run the quote and asset on their signs in the community. We have tied assemblies, one book one school and other large events to the Asset Program through out the year. Please call if you would like more info. Janine Valkema 815-462-2184 or [jvalkema@lwhs.will.k12.il.us](mailto:jvalkema@lwhs.will.k12.il.us)

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Waubonsie Valley does not have a Character Counts program. - Michele Brown

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