



## Oklahoma Promising Practices through 2018



Through 2018 Character.org has recognized 20 schools, one school district, and one organization in Oklahoma with **70** Promising Practices in character development.

### **DOVE Public Charter Schools**

#### **Dove School of Discovery, Tulsa – (1)**

##### Drops of Kindness - 2018

Drops of Kindness is a school initiative that allows students to use jeans day money to make a positive difference with their chosen service/service learning project.

Principles 5 & 10

#### **Dove Science Academy OKC – (2)**

##### Charity Week - 2017

Charity Week provides students the opportunity to research charitable organizations and raise money for them while learning about the needs, services, and impacts in the field and in the classroom.

Principle 5

##### C4 Curriculum - 2018

The Dove C4 Curriculum Program requires staff and students to work together to develop monthly projects/events that tie the classroom curriculum directly to Character, Community, College, and Career.

Principles 3 & 5

#### **DOVE Science Academy Secondary Tulsa – (1)**

The Close-Up Model Citizen Mentoring Program (2016) enhances student citizenship skills helping them understand their roles as citizens in our democracy and empowering them to become agents of change and create solutions to issues that impact their communities.

Principles 4 & 6

### **Edmond Public Schools**

#### **Boulevard Academy (1)**

##### Step Day – 2016

Celebrated every six weeks Step Day publicly acknowledges students' successes in the "B.A. WAY" and our three A's: Academics, Attitude, and Attendance. For 6 years the ceremonies have helped foster a positive school climate, pride, ownership, and respect while allowing caring relationships to develop between teachers, students, administrators, and parents.

Principles 1 & 4

## **Hilldale Public Schools**

### ***Hilldale Jr. High* (4)**

#### Honoring Veterans Celebration – 2012

An annual event since 1988 that promotes positive character traits, patriotism and models appropriate behavior through direct instruction and demonstrations that engage all students. During Veterans Week students welcome and escort Veterans to the program, sing and play patriotic songs and deliver greeting speeches to the special guests. Handmade cards are also delivered by students to Veterans in the VA Hospital.  
Principles 4 & 10

#### Leadership Classes – 2012

Classes that provide students with opportunities to acquire life skills essential for responsible citizenship. Students plan activities to promote peace and respect throughout the school and community. Each month a different school wide project is organized such as: bullying or tobacco prevention activities, cancer awareness, collection drives for those in need or VA Hospital and nursing home service-learning projects.

Principles 4 & 5

#### Living History – 2013

A program that motivates students to explore our history by helping them move beyond the pages of a book. The students become the person they have researched and dress up in attire that is appropriate for their person of character in history and pose as if they were a statue becoming animated when someone pushes a button on their hand. Once animated the students begin to bring a part of history to life, not just for themselves but for everyone who happens to be present.

Principles 1 & 10

#### Peer Mediation – 2013

The program is an important aspect of the character education program at Hilldale Middle School. Since 2003 Peer Mediation has fostered listening and communication skills and given students opportunities to practice positive leadership skills while teaching strategies to young people that allows them to handle conflict in a positive and constructive manner.

Principles 4 & 5

## **Lawton Public Schools**

### ***Eisenhower High School* (5)**

#### IKE Ignition - 2015

A program that promotes integrity, knowledge, and excellence, which are our core foundations in character development. Ignition promotes all of these qualities by emphasizing positive student relationships, team building skills, community service projects, and academic skills.

Principles 3 & 5

Enough is Enough – 2016

9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students present information on bullying and cyberbullying to all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students with a special emphasis on decreasing bullying via social media.

Principle 4

United Nations Project – 2016

To motivate students to work independently and with teams the Project stimulates real-world events to foster student understanding of politics on a global level while learning the values of team-building, negotiation, collaboration, and human resources.

Principle 7

Partner's Club - 2017

Partner's Club facilitates a mentoring/partnering relationship between regular education students and students with disabilities; students interact with one another in numerous activities.

Principle 4

IKE Ignition Lead2Feed - 2017

For five years, Ike Ignition Lead2Feed has conducted an annual service learning project in which freshmen and their mentors raise funds and food through various means for our local Salvation Army.

Principle 5

***Lawton High School (1)***

Assessing and Updating Current Practices to Ensure a Caring Community – 2015

All faculty members ensure that students have access to mentors by eating lunch with students, helping them complete community service projects, making home visits, and/or volunteering to tutor students. We continue to develop school-wide programs that support and strengthen a caring community.

Principle 4

**MacArthur High School (3)**

Relay for Life: Passport to Hope - 2017

Passport to Hope is a program to raise awareness of those who are affected by cancer and to raise money for research and treatment of this disease; MHS and other schools work together.

Principle 5

The Mac Program - 2017

The Mac program is an intentional approach to instill the character traits of discipline, toughness, competitiveness, love, and energy into our athletes in order to make them successful in life.

Principle 2

MAC Deaf Community Outreach - 2018

MAC Deaf Community Outreach is a celebration of deaf culture and brings awareness of deaf culture to our students; furthermore, this club works with members of our community to build relationships.

Principle 10

## **Lexington Public Schools**

***Lexington Elementary*** (1)

Bulldog PRIDE – 2016

To promote a new set of Core Values, students developed a school-wide Touchstone called PRIDE that embodies - Positive attitude, Respect, Integrity, Determination, Empathy – thus giving the school community a shared vision and common language.

Principle 1

## **Muskogee Public Schools**

***Muskogee DISTRICT*** (5)

Character Clubs - 2004

Character Clubs in Muskogee school are an opportunity for students to encourage one another and also discuss and plan activities and events that help improve the culture of their schools.

Principles 4 & 5

Character Camps - 2012

Summer Character Camps began in 2001 to allow students from different schools to network and build character plans for the coming school year in their schools.

Principle 9

Café Conversations - 2012

Café Conversations is a student symposium where we have made collective decisions like creating our touchstone, writing our bill of rights, and choosing our service learning focus for the district.

Principles 4 & 9

City Council Student Recognition - 2013

Each May since 2003 the Muskogee City Council has recognized students of character from every Muskogee school. This regularly scheduled Council meeting has become their largest, most well attended of the year.

Principles 1 & 10

Character Celebration Banquet - 2014

There have been 13 annual banquets celebrating students of character. Students from 13 campuses and their families are celebrated as representatives of all of the students of character throughout our school district. The majority of the funding is provided by area businesses and many community stakeholders attend.

Principles 1 & 10

**Alice Robertson Jr. High School (2)**

Middle-Schoolers on a Mission (MSM) - 2013

Every Friday students prepare and serve the evening meal to dozens of individuals at the local Rescue Mission.

Principle 5

Pet Provisions - 2015

Students created this project for which they conduct online research and prepare pet food in classroom labs using health and safety techniques. The animal foods are delivered to the local animal shelters.

Principles 5 & 6

**Ben Franklin Science Academy (2)**

Hatitute: Celebrating a Rich Culture - 2014

Since 2010 Hatitute is an activity culminating Black History Month that inspires students and staff to embrace the present and look to the future by celebrating the past.

Principles 6 & 10

The Springs and Autumns of Life – 2016

Partnering with *The Springs Living Center* BFSA established an Early Childhood Center at their location where Pre-K and Kindergarten students are flourishing through cooperative learning with Senior citizens.

Principles 1 & 10

**Muskogee Early Childhood Center (6)**

St. Jude Trike-a-Thon - 2013

St. Jude Trike-A-Thon is a week-long safety curriculum and fundraising program teaching children riding safety while helping save the lives of children battling cancer and other catastrophic diseases.

Principle 5

An Attitude of Giving - 2014

An Attitude of Giving is a practice in which children are taught to give to others who are in need.

Principle 4

Celebrate America - 2015

4 year-old students learn respect for the American Flag and our military and develop an awareness of the responsibility of being a member within the community in which they are a part.

Principles 4 & 10

Teachers Engaged as Mentors - 2015

T.E.A.M. is a mentoring program that allows teachers to observe, collaborate, and give feedback to each other on practices to improve teaching and learning and prepare for future learning.

Principles 3 & 6

A Community of Advocates – 2016

MECC brings local agencies together in their work to nurture and educate children between the ages of birth and six to promote parental awareness and involvement to enhance and support their child's academic learning and well-being.

Principle 10

Honoring the Voices of Young Children - 2018

The Reggio- Emilia Philosophy focuses on student-centered experiential learning by using professional collaboration to facilitate student-led learning that honors & empowers the voice of the child.

Principles 6 & 7

### ***Muskogee High School (8)***

R.A.I.D. - Roughers Alliance for Intelligent Decisions - 2010

R.A.I.D. is an Alliance of all high school student groups, organizations, and clubs to promote increased civic-mindedness and community service.

Principle 9

Advocacy Families - 2011

Advocate families have helped revolutionize the climate of Muskogee High School by creating a small-school atmosphere on a campus made up of almost 1,600 students and 120 staff by building relationships and a culture of caring.

Principle 4

Rougher 300 Club - 2012

Rougher 300 is a community service recognition initiative by MHS in partnership with the Muskogee Chamber of Commerce and Muskogee Non-profit Resource Center.

Principles 5 & 7

RAD (Roughers Aiding the District) - 2013

RAD is a service learning program within the Muskogee High School Football Program in which the student athletes immerse themselves in the community and provide needed services to their community.

Principle 5

Paint the Parking Lot – Citizenship in Action - 2014

Students of Advocacy Families voluntarily gather on selected Saturdays to repaint parking lots and work on other campus beautification projects.

Principles 7 & 9

Rougher Broadcasting - 2014

Students produce videos and do live broadcasts that highlight the school's Touchstone and the students and staff that live out the school's core values.

Principles 2 & 4

Covering Muskogee With Warmth – 2016

In cooperation with the Muskogee Fire Department the *Muskogee High School Band* works to collect and distribute new and gently used blankets to local families and individuals in need.

Principle 10

O.K.I.E. on the R.O.A.D. - 2017

Muskogee High School students voted to add to the touchstone, R.O.A.D. (Respect, Opportunity, Achievement, Determination); students added O.K.I.E. (Open-minded, Knowledge, Integrity, Empathy.)

Principle 1

### ***Pershing Elementary (1)***

Project S.A.V.E. - 2011

Our mission is to encourage students to become caring individuals and stop bullies from becoming a part of our environment; instead, students will focus on positive character traits and recognize and celebrate each other's successes.

Principle 5

### ***Rougher Alternative Academy (6)***

Character Club's Serve to Learn Project - 2010

This project offers the students an opportunity to serve others in an on-going capacity.

Principle 5

Ozark High Challenge Youth Trips - 2011

An extracurricular program that provides opportunities for developing character by learning the importance of taking positive risks, the effectiveness of teamwork, and they learn to appreciate the abilities of peers they have previously avoided or even shunned.

Principle 3

Serve to Learn/Animal Shelter - 2012

RAA students are scheduled one afternoon per month to volunteer their time at the local animal shelter where they walk the dogs, brush them, or just spend time petting them.

Principles 5 & 7

RAA Jump Start - 2013

Many of our students face serious life challenges and have been let down by adults and we realize that caring relationships are necessary to help them achieve their best in school. With that in mind we have a repetitive program consisting of activities in which students and teachers participate together to build relational trust.

Principles 4 & 11

Peer Tutoring 2014

RAA is a 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade alternative school. Upper class students provide academic and social tutoring for students in the lower grades.

Principles 4 and 6

Community Morning Assembly - 2015

Each morning a volunteer recites the “Three Things: What we are doing here is important. We believe you can do it. We’re not going to give up on you.” Each Monday an inspirational TGIM video by Eric Thomas is shown to set the tone for the week.

Principles 2 & 3

***Sadler Arts Academy (10)***

Capacity to Care - 2011

Creating The Capacity to Care forges friendships between fourth graders and residents of assisted living centers.

Principle 5

S.U.P.E.R. Club (Students Understanding Philanthropy and Educating Relationships) - 2012

S.U.P.E.R. Club (Students Understanding Philanthropy and Educating Relationships) is a student led humanitarian group that promotes character through service learning projects in school and community.

Principles 5 & 7

The Power of Legacy! - 2012

Our legacy lies in the quality of our lives and the preparations we are making now. By teaching students about local history and responsible citizenship, we are teaching about legacy.

Principle 6

Crossing the Finish Line - Monster Dash 5K Obstacle Run - 2013

More than a race, The Monster Dash is an opportunity to engage Sadler students in community revitalization and promotion of healthy living.

Principle 10

The Nutcracker Characters Building Character - 2013

The Nutcracker is a school wide learning tradition that allows Sadler students to build character, hone scholastic skills, and create a caring community.

Principle 4

Sadler Runs For Pride - 2014

A youth fitness program designed to help children adopt healthy lifestyles, learn goal setting, perseverance, and the power of positive peer relationships. We work in tandem with Muskogee County Office of Juvenile Affairs to pair students from Sadler Arts Academy with juveniles in our area that are deemed at risk. Sadler students serve as positive peer role models and teammates with the at-risk youth with the common goal of conditioning their bodies and unlocking positive potential.

Principle 7



Warm Hugs – 2016

A K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade literature based service project that promotes character-building by having students collect and donate blankets for nursing home residents and children in foster care.

Principle 5

Warm Toes, Warm Hearts – 2016

3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students forego their traditional Fall Parties and instead use the money to purchase socks and other provisions to make “care bags” for local homeless shelters.

Principle 5

Nickels for Nets - 2017

“Nickels for Nets” It’s not how much you give, but the heart of the giver.

Principle 4

Shoes for Kenya - 2018

"Shoes for Kenya" Reaching the world one heart at a time.

Principle 2

### ***Whittier Elementary (2)***

80's for Alzheimer's -- Students Dancing for a Cure - 2012

Since 2009 Whittier Elementary has held an 80's-themed dance to raise funds to help find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. To date, students have sent over \$600 to the Alzheimer's Association.

Principle 5

Gobble Give Away - 2015

This a meaningful way for staff, students, and families to fellowship during the holiday season and has since into an opportunity to provide many of our neediest families with turkey and side accompaniments for Thanksgiving dinners without it appearing to be an “act of charity”.

Principles 4 & 5

## **Pryor Public Schools**

### ***Lincoln Elementary (2)***

H.E.S.P. – Habits to Empower Successful Parents – 2016

Each month Lincoln provides a meal, free child care, and guest speakers who share information on vital and timely subjects for parents & grandparents to be successful as they raise their children.

Principles 4 & 10

BUD-E Building Understanding Daily through Empathy - 2017

Lincoln Elementary implemented Be a BUD-E to provide opportunities for learners to practice empathy and kindness through tolerance of diversity and respect while creating an inclusive environment.

Principle 4

***Pryor Jr. High School (2)***

Day of Understanding – 2016

Designed to build empathy, mutual understanding, and trust, students share personal stories of hardships and struggles thus fostering student voice and compassion.

Principle 4

Growth Mindset – 2016

Students learn and begin to understand whether they have fixed or growth mindsets.

By nurturing a “growth” mindset students increase the strengths of their innate skill sets which fosters intrinsic motivation.

Principle 7

***Pryor High School (4)***

Walking Wednesdays – 2014

With safety training from the Pryor Police Department and Cherokee Nation, Walking Wednesday allows high school students to build relationships with over 150 elementary students, parents, and staff by taking a proactive approach in getting to know the elementary families as they walk with younger students to create safer routes to Pryor's three elementary schools while allowing physical activity to be integrated into every person's daily life.

Principles 5 & 10

Leaders of Future Tigers (LOFT) – 2015

A mentoring program between Pryor High School students and elementary students. PHS students are responsible for organizing service learning projects, must include a character development component, and fulfill a direct need of our community. LOFT members volunteer and work on various service learning projects with about 1,500 volunteer hours given to our community.

Principles 5 & 9

Covering Pryor in S.O.I.L. - 2016

A project to promote these ethical qualities selected by a consensus of students: Serve; Observe; Impact; Lead. Including a community interactive museum and book study the S.O.I.L. Challenge has been endorsed by state leaders throughout Oklahoma.

Principle 1

Tiger Time: Special Tigers Club - 2018

Special Tigers student leaders apply for leadership roles and are trained to work with special needs students to promote leadership, community service, and caring attitudes toward peers.

Principles 4 & 9

## Other Organizations:

**Skills for L.I.F.E. Foundation** – Lawton, OK

SUPER Skills (Hard + Soft Skills)

Tomorrow's workforce is in today's classroom and it is imperative students graduate high school with skills, knowledge, and experience, prepared for college, careers, and L.I.F.E.