

Seminole Science Charter School Character Education Program 2020 – 2021



**We are Stingrays! Stingrays support each other,
contribute to our community, and strive for
excellence in all we do!**

Introduction

Seminole Science Charter School is committed to the encouragement of intellectual, emotional, physical, and social growth of our student population. Character development is implemented daily in our classrooms. This helps directly with the improvement of academic performance, as well as decrease in undesirable behavior. SSCS wants to continue reinforcing this learning process that enables students in our school and community to understand, care about and act on core ethical values such as

Goals

1. Students understand that good character consists of attributes reflecting positive moral values, strengths, habits and behavior. They know that their character (who they are inside, even when others are not looking) will define them, shape their reputation, and determine how they are likely to act.
2. Students understand that their character is a product of their values and choices.
3. Students accept and demonstrate personal responsibility to create and improve their character by truthful efforts to strengthen their commitment and adherence to ethical values and principles.

Character Strength of the Month:

Teachers will include the "Character Strength of the Month" into their curriculum. Stories can be read to the students reflecting the traits value of the month. Some activities will be provided to the teachers. Members of the community can be invited to the school to read books addressing the value of the month. Students will work together with their reading buddies monthly to enforce character strengths.

Students will be able to earn character tags. Once a student displays the character strength of the month, they will be given that month's character tag to add to their character necklace.

A bulletin board will dedicated to Character Education displaying the character strengths of the month. Star Students of the Month will be chosen from students exhibiting the Character Strength of the Month.

September

Respect: Showing high regard for people, property, and community.

- Do not show impatience when someone takes a long time to answer or understand something.
- Learn to entertain yourself without being disruptive when waiting.
- When spoken to by an adult, please respond.
- When speaking and being spoken to, make eye contact.
- If you are asked a question in conversation, answer politely.
- Never interrupt an adult when you are being corrected: wait and then ask to explain yourself.
- Do not show disrespect with gestures or noises.
- Treat others the way you want to be treated.

October

Self-Control: Having power and control of your actions and words.

- Think before you act.
- Make good choices, even when others aren't looking.
- Follow through with plans and tasks.
- Respect others and their belongings.
- Avoid participating in gossip and name-calling.
- Try to understand that things don't just happen to you; you have some control over the circumstance and outcome.

November/December

Service: Helping those in need or those unable to help themselves.

- Contribute to our community.
- Participating in dress down for charity events.
- Volunteer your time.
- Collect food for those in need.
- Look for opportunities to provide assistance to others.
- Write letters to service men and women.

January

Responsibility: Taking care of yourself, your conduct, and your obligations.

- Show initiative and effort, put your best effort into what you do.
- Be a role model for others.
- Persevere and work hard even when you feel like giving up.
- Be accountable for your choices.
- Do your chores and keep your desk clean.
- Be honest, don't make excuses for your mistakes.

February

Kindness/Compassion: Unselfish care and concern for others.

- Be kind towards others without expecting them to treat you the same.
- Surprise others by performing random acts of kindness.
- Share with others whenever you have more than enough.
- If someone bumps you say excuse me even if it wasn't your fault.
- Do not hold a grudge, you're only hurting yourself.
- Try to understand WHY people act the way they do.

March

Courage: Overcoming fear to do what is right.

- Ask for help when afraid.
- Be willing to stand up for what is right.
- Know the truth.
- Admit your mistakes.

April

Honesty: Doing the right thing, even when it may be difficult.

- Do what is right, even when others aren't looking.
- Be willing to stand up for yourself.
- Try new things, even if you might fail.
- Speak the truth regardless of the consequences
- Admit your mistakes and learn from them.
- Help those who are being bullied or made fun of.
- Talk to someone about your fears.
- Do not give into negative peer pressure.

May

Teamwork: Working with others to accomplish a goal.

- Listen carefully to others and be sure you understand what they are saying.
- Do your part the very best that you possibly can, this will inspire others to do the same.
- Show appreciation to people for what they contribute.
- Encourage others to do their best.
- Follow through with commitments.
- Include everyone. Everybody has something valuable to offer, and nobody likes being left out.

1. Daily Message

Character Strengths of the Month will be mentioned daily during the morning announcements. A quote, short story, or example of the strength will be stated to reinforce Character Strengths of the Month.

2. Star Student of the Month

One student from each class will be chosen as Star Student of the Month. Teachers will nominate students based on commendation points and the display of the character strength of the month. Each Star Student of the Month will be announced via the schools' intercom system, receive a certificate, and be permitted to dress down. This award recognizes students who serve as positive role models by treating others with dignity, respect, and equality. The commendations are assigned via SSCS Connect by staff members.

3. Commendation Parties /Prizes

Students who go above and beyond behavior expectations will earn commendation points. Students will then be able to turn in those commendation points in for a reward. Rewards may include, electronic party, extra playground time, free dress down day certificate, etc.

4. Opportunities to Practice Character Strengths

- **Grandparent's Day: Respect**
- **Red Ribbon Week: Responsibility and Self-Control**
- **Great American Teach In: Respect and Responsibility**
- **Food Drive: Service and Kindness**
- **Adopt-A-Road: Service and Responsibility**
- **Veteran's Day Parade: Respect and Service**
- **AR Reading Celebrations: Responsibility and Self-Control**
- **RAK Week (Random Act of Kindness week): Kindness**
- **Earth Day: Service and Responsibility**
- **Talent Showcase and Club Performances: Courage and Teamwork**
- **Academic Competitions: Honesty, Courage, and Teamwork**

5. Additional Opportunities

Administration will provide you with additional ideas, book titles, websites and printables that can be used for character development. Teachers are encouraged to find additional resources and include information, values, celebrations, etc. across the different subject areas. It's in our hands to help build character in our students.