

Character Development and Staff Expectations

At LCS, character is infused throughout the culture of our school via: teacher and staff role modeling, the existing curriculum, behavior and discipline codes, and practical application.

- **Teacher and Staff Role Modeling:** Modeling by faculty members is a critical component of our emphasis on character development. In all your dealings at school, it is imperative that you model good character. The practice of good character should encompass all of your relationships at school: teacher to Executive Director of Education, teacher to board members, teacher to teacher, teacher to other staff members, teacher to parent, and teacher to student. Your own character in the form of kindness, patience, honesty, self-control, respect, responsibility, and integrity in all these relationships will be noticed and emulated by your students. The culture of character started by you will flow out to your students. Please keep in mind that a school of character is no place for teachers who demean authority, other teachers, students, or parents. Staff should always present a united front in the presence of students and parents and never undercut or disparage the authority of a colleague. Except in cases involving immediate concern for health or safety, disagreements, academic or otherwise, should always be handled privately and out of the view of students and parents. Staff members are encouraged to always “go to the source” of a conflict and avoid the temptation to gossip.
- **The Existing Curriculum:** There are a multitude of times that references to character can take place within the parameters of the existing curriculum, for example, Atticus Finch’s dictum to “walk around in somebody’s shoes for a while.” The goal is that all staff have the mindset to look for and use these opportunities.
- **Behavior and Discipline:** The common language of character should be utilized when addressing issues of behavior and discipline. Students should be directed toward the proper behavior in terms of the traits that we are seeking to impart to them. Supporting the bullying prevention and the no-harassment policies at LCS is critical to this area of character development.
- **Practical Application:** Throughout the year, opportunities will be provided for various service projects and school activities that enhance the character education experience for the students. LCS welcomes any input you have, as well, on improving these experiences.