A PERSON OF CHARACTER . . .

▷ Is a good person, someone to look up to and admire.  ▷ Knows the difference between right and wrong and always tries to do what is right.  ▷ Sets a good example for everyone.  ▷ Makes the world a better place.  ▷ Lives according to the “Six Pillars of Character”: TRUSTWORTHINESS, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, FAIRNESS, CARING and CITIZENSHIP

TRUSTWORTHINESS

**Integrity**

**DO:** Stand up for your beliefs • Follow your conscience • Be **honorable** and upright
• Live by your **principles** no matter what others say • Have the courage to do what is right and to try new things even when it is hard, costly • Build and guard your **reputation**

**DON’T:** Do anything wrong • Lose heart if you fail or don’t get what you want

**Honesty**

**DO:** Tell the truth and nothing but the truth • Be sincere • Be **forthright** and **candid**

**DON’T:** Lie • Cheat • Steal • Be sneaky, tricky, or **deceptive**

**Reliability**

**DO:** Keep your promises • Honor your word and commitments • Be dependable • Do what you are supposed to do • Return what you borrow • Pay your debts • Be on time

**Loyalty**

**DO:** Stand by and protect your family, friends, school and country • Be a good friend • Look out for those who care about you • Keep secrets of those who trust you

**DON’T:** Betray a trust • Let your friends hurt themselves • Do anything just so others will like you • Ask a friend to do anything wrong or spread **gossip** that could hurt others

RESPECT

**Golden Rule**

**DO:** Treat others the way you want to be treated • Respect the **dignity**, **privacy** and **freedom** of all individuals • Value and honor all people, no matter what they can do for you or to you • Respect others’ property — take good care of property you are allowed to use and don’t take or use property without permission • Respect the **autonomy** of others — tell them what they should know to make good choices about their own lives

**DON’T:** Use or **manipulate** others • **Abuse**, demean or mistreat anyone

**Tolerance and Acceptance**

**DO:** Judge others on their character, abilities, and conduct without regard to race, religion, gender, where they live, how they dress or the amount of money they have • Be **tolerant**, respectful and accepting of those who are different from you • Listen to others and try to understand their **points of view**

**Nonviolence**

**DO:** Resolve disagreements, respond to insults and deal with anger peacefully and without violence

**DON’T:** Use threats or **physical force** to get what you want or to express anger

**Courtesy**

**DO:** Use good manners • Be courteous, polite and **civil** to everyone

**DON’T:** Use put-downs, insults or **ridicule** to embarrass or hurt others
RESPONSIBILITY

**Duty**
- **Do:** Know and do your duty ● Acknowledge and meet your legal and moral obligations

**Accountability**
- **Do:** Accept responsibility for the consequences of your choices, not only for what you do but what you don’t do ● Think about consequences on yourself and others before you act ● Think long-term ● Do what you can do to make things better ● Set a good example
- **Don’t:** Look the other way when you can make a difference ● Make excuses or blame others

**Pursue Excellence**
- **Do:** Your best ● Persevere ● Don’t quit ● Be prepared ● Be diligent ● Work hard
  - Make all you do worthy of pride

**Self-Control**
- **Do:** Take charge of your own life ● Set realistic goals ● Keep a positive outlook ● Be prudent and self-disciplined with your health, emotions, time and money ● Be rational — act out of reason not anger, revenge or fear ● Know the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do ● Be self-reliant — manage your life so you are not dependent on others; pay your own way whenever you can

**Fairness**
- **Do:** Be fair and just ● Treat people equally ● Make decisions without favoritism or prejudice ● In imposing punishment be sure the consequences for wrongdoing are consistent, certain and proportional (not too harsh or lenient)
- **Don’t:** Take more than your fair share ● Take advantage of or blame others unfairly

**Openness**
- **Do:** Be open-minded and impartial — consider what people have to say before you decide ● Be careful — get the facts, including opposing viewpoints, before making decisions (especially blaming or accusing another)

**Caring**
- **Do:** Be compassionate and empathetic ● Be kind, loving, and considerate ● Be thankful and express gratitude for what people do for you ● Forgive others for their shortcomings
- **Don’t:** Be mean, cruel or insensitive

**Charity**
- **Do:** Be charitable and altruistic — give money, time, support, comfort without strings for the sake of making someone else’s life better, not for praise or gratitude ● Help people in need

**Citizenship**
- **Do Your Share** — **Do:** Be a good citizen and a good neighbor ● Care about and pursue the common good ● Be a volunteer — help your school and community be better, cleaner and safer ● Protect the environment by conserving resources, reducing pollution, and cleaning up after yourself ● Participate in making things better by voicing your opinion, voting, serving on committees, reporting wrongdoing and paying taxes

- **Respect Authority and the Law** — **Do:** Play by the rules ● Obey parents, teachers, coaches and others who have been given authority ● Observe just laws ● Honor and respect principles of democracy