

## GEARUP SUCCESS PARTNERSHIP

UPCOMING EVENTS  
AT CINCINNATI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Dec. 24-Jan. 3**  
Winter Recess. Schools closed.

**Friday, Jan. 4**  
End of Second Quarter.  
Parent Conference Day. No pupils.

**Jan. 14-23**  
High Schools of Choice  
Application Period.

**Friday, Jan. 18**  
Staff Development Day. No pupils.

**Monday, Jan. 21**  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Schools Closed.

For parents only:  
TEACH CHARACTER!

Remember how you taught your child to say "please" and "thank you"?

**Be equally repetitive in teaching your child the importance of character.**



Ask your child whether kids in school are cheating or stealing.

**Let him talk.**



**Don't be value-neutral.**

Tell your child it is very important to you that she is honorable and trustworthy. Make sure there is no doubt in her mind that you think cheating and stealing are wrong.



**Encourage courage.**

Tell your child you expect him to have the strength of character to be honest, no matter what's going on around him.



Serving 3,800 students in  
23 Cincinnati Public Schools

**For more information:**  
phone 513-556-3611  
or fax 513-556-1037



## Feeling good can lead to being good!

Adolescence is a time when your child may rebel, struggle in school or suffer from low self esteem. As a parent, **you can help build your child's self esteem** – and help her get back on track to success.

Through relationships with others, children learn that they are loved. Sometimes, however, they need to be reminded. As a parent, **it is important to show your child affection**, whether it is a hug before they leave for school or a verbal "I love you." **It is also important for your child to know that they are special, through praise, listening and family time spent together.** Though a teenager may roll his eyes or even make fun of the idea, posting his good qualities and accomplishments on the refrigerator is a powerful, but simple way to support his self esteem. Add to the list when needed, and **celebrate a job well done.**

Try completing a chore or project together. If your child attempts something new, be patient. Encourage her, but don't jump in too quickly to help. No matter what the outcome, praise her courage for attempting it, and point out that her willingness to risk failing will actually allow her to succeed in the future.

**Although teenagers want a lot of independent time with their friends, insist on some family time as well.** Make contributing to the family, through chores and family meetings, a must.

Remember, it is never too late to help make your child feel better about himself.

**And feeling good is the first step to being good.**

CHARACTER  
COUNTS! SM

**W**ho we are is more than what clothes we wear, how tall we are, or what part of town we live in. It's also our actions and our attitude. Good character affects the way other people see us and is necessary to successfully meet life's challenges.

Good character helps us gain respect from others and for ourselves.

Unlike some of our other characteristics, we have control over what kind of character we have. Establishing good personal character takes time and commitment, but the results are worth the effort.

Setting a positive example is one of the best ways to teach character. While parents are primarily responsible for their child's character education, there are supporting roles for everyone in the community — from teachers, youth leaders and clergy, to business people and entertainers.

It's up to all of us to teach young people right from wrong.

**Good character helps us gain respect from others and for ourselves.**

Millions of students across the country receive additional support from the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition, an alliance of human-service agencies and educational organizations that work to teach the universal moral truths that define good character.

CHARACTER COUNTS! advocates core ethical values that transcend political, religious, class and ethnic divisions. They help youth develop the "Six Pillars of Character:" trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

These core values were defined by a diverse group of educators, youth leaders and ethics experts who agreed that, no matter what cultural differences people may have, the "Six Pillars of Character" remained constant and important for personal growth.

And CHARACTER COUNTS! really works.

Schools that have worked with the CHARACTER COUNTS! program have seen higher standardized test scores and an improved commitment to academics from their students.

Other schools have reported that CHARACTER COUNTS! sharply cuts drug and alcohol use among students, and has significantly improved the school's atmosphere.

Teachers have seen better student behavior towards each other and have reported positively changing their own behavior as a result of using the CHARACTER COUNTS! program.

Children and adults alike can strengthen their lives with character education.

Character counts in all aspects of life — in your personal relationships, in school, in the community and in the workplace. Who you are makes a difference.

CHARACTER COUNTS! and Six Pillars of Character are service marks of the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics. [www.charactercounts.org](http://www.charactercounts.org)

## Did You Know?

It's best to apply for financial aid as early as possible, beginning January 1 of each year. And don't forget that colleges and states have their own deadlines – contact them for exact dates. Find out more: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

