

# Building Life Skills



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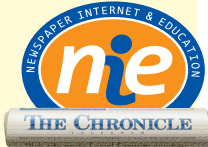
## Key Building Blocks to Help Kids Succeed

Search Institute has identified 40 building blocks of healthy development that help young people grow up healthy, caring and responsible. These building blocks are referred to as "assets." Local schools have united in identifying monthly "asset" themes for schools and communities to help kids reach their potential.

### Theme for April CITIZENSHIP

Young people are empowered to make positive changes in their community; they recognize and live up to their social and civic obligations.

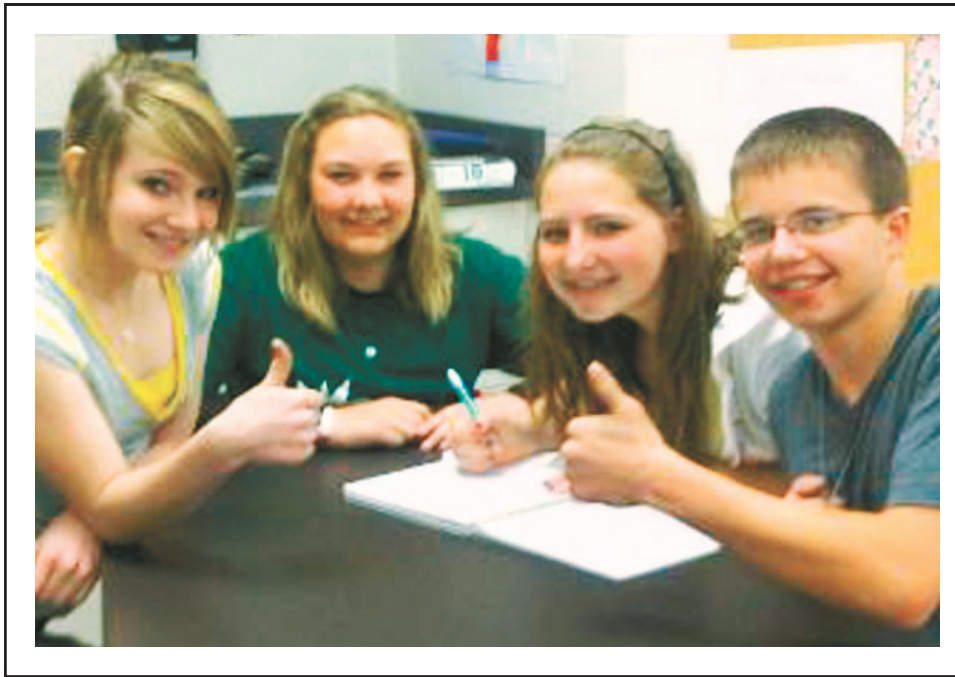
I have a useful role in my community and I know how I can contribute my services.  
I often volunteer my services in the community.  
I make choices that help me feel safe at home.  
I make choices that help me feel safe at school.  
I make choices that help me feel safe in my neighborhood.  
I make choices that help protect our environment.  
I abide by the laws of my community, my state, and my country.  
I use the democratic process to insure that all people are treated fairly and equally.  
I use the democratic process to exercise my personal rights as a citizen.



### MONTHLY THEMES

April.....Citizenship  
May.....Empowerment  
June.....Support  
July.....Constructive use of time  
August.....Commitment to learning  
September.....Decision-making  
October.....Respect  
November.....Responsibility  
December.....Caring  
January.....Fairness  
February.....Trustworthiness  
March.....Positive Identity

## Grant opens doors to "do good"



Amherst students give a thumbs-up for the "Service learning program" that allows them to design programs to serve others. Pictured left to right are: Tori Schneider, Mallory Harrell, Allie Kolakowski and Terry Schulin.

Colleen Pete and her Family and Consumer Science class at Amherst Junior High ponder what makes a good citizen. "They care about others and put others before themselves," said eighth grade Mallory Harrell, "I wish there was more selfless people. It would make this world more happy and less 'frownie'! If people would just listen to their own hearts and act on what they know is right getting past what's popular, this world would be a lot different"

This conversation in part took place after the Amherst School district received a grant from Cleveland State University to start a service learning program. Each of the six school buildings in the district received \$1,000 from the grant plus training for one person on what service learning is and how to start such a program. Pete, the Junior High's service learning advocate explained how the service learning is taking disciplines from the class room setting and melding them to servanthood and helping students use their great gifting to act for others.

"It is my plan to initiate one project this year and then expand in different areas where there is greater need. One main criteria is to allow students to choose the projects. The more ownership the students have the more likely they are to participate."

Eight-grader, Tori Schneider gets the importance of service learning. Having served at a soup kitchen in Cleveland with her confirmation class Tori understands the need for service learning projects. "I wish everyone was more active in the community! I need to be more grateful with what I have. It's the small things we do that can have a big impact." said Tori.

Students are excited for the possibilities that service learning will open to the school. Not only will it be a learning experience, but it also will be a look into what it really means to be a good citizen.

Pete's students are going to help with the Special Olympics Walk/Run/Roll fundraiser May 1st at the Beaver Creek park in Amherst. Job responsibilities are to create and distribute posters and flyers for advertising, bake for the bake sale and help out at many different stations as needed throughout the day.

"When you serve it not only makes you feel good about yourself, but it also changes your perspective about everything," said Allie Kolakowski.

Classmate Terry Schulin leaves us all with a charge to be a good citizen, "Step up and fill the need! Be the better person, the more responsible person!"

For more information on the service learning project contact Life Skills teacher, Colleen Pete at [colleen\\_pete@amherstk12.org](mailto:colleen_pete@amherstk12.org).

