

Building Life Skills



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40 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.

March Positive Identity

Young people have a strong sense of their own power, purpose, worth, and promise.

I believe I have control over many things that happen to me.

I can handle it calmly when things don't go the way I want them to go.

I like myself just the way I am.

I am a capable person who does many things well.

I believe my life has a purpose.

I can do useful, important things with my life.

I have dreams and goals for myself.

MONTHLY THEMES

March.....	Positive Identity
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

Character Education Program Helps JVS Student Build Positive Identity

by Tina Salyer

Students in the JVS Culinary Academy are involved in a year-long character education program designed to help build positive student identity.

The program focuses on the six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Every Friday, teachers spend at least 15 minutes on a character education activity.

"One activity had students passing a ball of string to each other to make a web. When one person tugged on their section of the web, it affected everyone else," said math instructor, Katie Street.

"This activity exemplified how one person's bad attitude or actions will affect everyone they come in contact with," Street added.

"Another activity had students tracing their hand on a piece of paper," continued Street. "The 'hands' were passed around the room for each student to write positive comments about their classmates."

Once monthly, all of the students come together for a large group project, presentation or activity. One activity included an anti-bullying presentation, after which the students created posters to hang around the school.

Students also participated in a mock hunger banquet. This simulation helped students 'experience' the lack



JVS Chef Instructor Kristian Smith and some of his students give a "thumbs up" to the character education program taking place in the school's Culinary Academy.

of food that effects almost 50 million Americans daily. This activity was done to help raise hunger awareness.

"My hope is that the character education program has a positive impact on the students in the Culinary Academy," stated Culinary Instructor Kristian Smith, who spearheaded the program. "I want students to have a great experience at the JVS."

"A positive identity usually means a positive attitude," continued Smith. "And students with a positive attitude have more success in the classroom and the workplace."

