



Building LifeSkills

Key Building Blocks to Help Kids Succeed

Search Institute identified 40 building blocks of healthy development that help young people grow up healthy, caring and responsible. These building block-share referred to as "assets." This article focuses on "Respect." Young people have regard for the dignity, worth, and rights of all people, including themselves.

Brookside kids are proud to say the Pledge of Allegiance



"I believe the pledge is something we shouldn't just have to say, but something we say proudly and with a passion. Our country is more than the Pledge of Allegiance yet it means so much

when you don't realize how much it means. I stand and say the pledge because it means something to our country."

Brandon Rivera



Susan Johnston

"I stand to say the pledge of Allegiance because I have pride in my country and it is my way of acknowledging that pride. I am proud to be from the U.S. and

I am proud of all of the people who make it possible for me to live in this great country."

Hailey Smith



Students in Beth Scherry's government class at Brookside High School, have been respectfully reciting the Pledge of Allegiance this year during the Brookside 22 News program before class.



"I stand for the Pledge of Allegiance because I am proud to be an American Citizen. I want to show respect for my country and I feel that by standing and having my hand over my heart, I am doing just that. I will always stand for the pledge of Allegiance out of pride and respect for my country."

Makenna Wilson



"I stand for the pledge of Allegiance because it is a symbol of pride to my country. I do the Pledge of Allegiance every morning with the radio station 99.5 WGAR because they have schools send in their kids doing the Pledge of Allegiance from the day before. It makes me feel safe while driving to school because I know the flag will stay with me."

Eric McElheny



"We stand proud and it's a sign of respect for everyone who fought for us. The flag is ours and people fought for our freedom and our flag represents that. We

pledge to stand strong and proud for what we have and our county that holds so much meaning. Our people have died and spent many years on end to get our land and freedom. Those people need to be known because they did all of this themselves. A sign of respect for them and our country."



"I stand for the pledge because I come from a military family. If I didn't stand it would dishonor my freedoms, my country. It would dishonor the men and women who fought to establish this country and the men and women trying to serve and protect our country. This would dishonor what my family helped to fight for and are still fighting for. Not only will I be dishonoring all those things, but if I did not stand I would be dishonoring myself."

Shane McEachern



"It helped set the tone for the school year that our gold winning Summer Olympic athletes propelled our patriotism in a time when the political climate has tainted our views and desires to participate in the democratic process," said Scherry.

"It didn't hurt that Gabby Douglas made the headlines over her actions of not placing her hand over her heart during the singing of the national anthem. That action allowed us to discuss as a class the social media controversy.

Now when I attend a football game, I hear the student section singing loud and proud above the crowd. Their voice resonates not only from the pride and respect that they have for our great nation, but also the pride that they have in being a part of the Brookside family."

by: Beth Scherry
Government Teacher