

Seminole Science
Charter School
Character Education Program
2024 – 2025



We are Stingrays! Stingrays support each other,
contribute to our community, and strive for
excellence in all we do!

Introduction

Seminole Science Charter School is committed to the encouragement of intellectual, emotional, physical, and social growth of our student population. Character development is implemented daily in our classrooms. This helps directly with the improvement of academic performance, as well as decrease in undesirable behavior. SSCS wants to continue reinforcing this learning process that enables students in our school and community to understand, care about, and act on our core ethical values.

Goals

1. Students understand that good character consists of attributes reflecting positive moral values, strengths, habits, and behavior. They know that their character (who they are inside, even when others are not looking,) will define them, shape their reputation, and determine how they are likely to act.
2. Students understand that their character is a product of their values and choices.
3. Students accept and demonstrate personal responsibility to create and improve their character by truthful efforts to strengthen their commitment and adherence to ethical values and principles.

Character Strength of the Month:

Teachers include the "Character Strength of the Month" into their curriculum. Stories are read to the students reflecting the traits value of the month. Some related activities are provided for the teachers. Members of the community are invited to the school to read books addressing the value of the month. Students work together with their reading buddies monthly to enforce character strengths.

Students earn commendation points and are eligible to spend their points in the Stingray Store at the end of every quarter to earn a variety of prizes, including extra snacks, dress down passes, and lunch bunches.

Star Students of the Month are chosen from students exhibiting the Character Strength of the Month. Those students are recognized at the end of each month.

August

School Pride: Feeling a connection to the school community and a willingness to represent the school's values.

A person may show that they have School Pride by the following examples:

- Learning how to recite our core values:
 - "Our Stingray Core Values are:
 - To support each other
 - To contribute to our community
 - To strive for excellence in all we do!"
- Wearing School Colors or Apparel: Students can wear clothing that features their school's colors, logos, or mascots on designated spirit days or throughout the week.
- Participating in School Events: Engaging in school events such as assemblies, sports games, and fundraisers fosters a sense of community and pride.
- Creating Artwork: Students can create posters, banners, or artwork that celebrate their school, which can be displayed in hallways or during events.

- **Joining School Clubs or Teams:** Participation in clubs, sports teams, or student government allows students to contribute to their school community and build camaraderie.
- **Volunteering for School Projects:** Helping with school clean-up days, community service projects, or organizing events shows commitment and pride in their school environment.
- **Cheering for Peers:** Supporting classmates during sports events, performances, or competitions encourages a positive school spirit and fosters teamwork.
- **Sharing Positive Stories:** Students can share their favorite experiences or achievements related to their school, whether through presentations, writing, or social media (with parental guidance).
- **Engaging in School Traditions:** Participating in established school traditions, such as spirit weeks or annual celebrations, helps reinforce a sense of belonging and pride.

September

Respectfulness: Characterized by treating others with kindness, dignity, and consideration. It can also involve listening to others, following rules, and being honest.

A person may show Respectfulness by the following examples:

- **Listening Actively:** Paying attention when others are speaking, whether it's a teacher, classmate, or guest speaker, and showing that they value what is being said.
- **Using Polite Language:** Saying "please," "thank you," and "excuse me" in their interactions with others to show consideration and appreciation.
- **Following Directions:** Respecting authority by listening to and following the instructions given by teachers and staff.
- **Being Inclusive:** Welcoming classmates into games or group activities, ensuring that everyone feels included and valued.

- **Respecting Personal Space:** Understanding and honoring the personal boundaries of others, which helps create a comfortable environment for everyone.
- **Caring for School Property:** Taking care of classroom materials, books, and shared spaces, demonstrating respect for the resources provided by the school.
- **Acknowledging Differences:** Showing respect for diverse backgrounds, cultures, and opinions by being open-minded and accepting of others.
- **Apologizing When Necessary:** Taking responsibility for their actions and offering sincere apologies when they have hurt or disrespected someone.
- **Helping Others:** Offering assistance to classmates who may be struggling with their work or facing challenges, showing empathy and support.
- **Participating Respectfully:** Engaging in discussions and activities in a manner that is considerate of others' feelings and opinions, even when disagreements arise.

October

Reliability: The quality of being trustworthy or performing consistently well.

A person may show Reliability by the following examples:

- **Completing Assignments on Time:** Submitting homework and projects by the due date shows responsibility and commitment to their work.
- **Following Through on Commitments:** If students agree to help a classmate or participate in a group project, following through on those commitments demonstrates dependability.

- **Being Prepared:** Arriving at school with the necessary materials, such as books, supplies, and completed assignments, indicates that they can be counted on.
- **Consistent Attendance:** Regularly attending school and being present for classes shows that they value their education and are reliable members of the classroom community.
- **Respecting Rules and Guidelines:** Adhering to school rules and classroom expectations reflects a sense of responsibility and respect for authority.
- **Helping Others:** Offering assistance to classmates who may need help with their work or supporting friends in times of need can showcase a student's reliability and willingness to contribute positively to their environment.
- **Communicating Effectively:** Keeping open lines of communication with teachers and peers about any challenges they face or changes in their commitments can help maintain trust and reliability.
- **Being Honest:** Demonstrating honesty in their actions and words reinforces their reliability, as others can trust them to be truthful.

November

Gratitude: Being thankful and appreciative for something or someone in your life and responding with feelings of kindness, warmth, and other forms of generosity.

A person may show Gratitude by the following examples:

- **Thank-You Notes:** Writing simple thank-you notes or cards to teachers, classmates, or family members to express appreciation for their help or kindness.

- **Verbal Acknowledgment:** Encouraging students to verbally thank their peers, teachers, or staff for assistance, support, or positive interactions.
- **Acts of Kindness:** Engaging in small acts of kindness, such as sharing supplies, helping a classmate with a task, or offering to assist a teacher.
- **Classroom Celebrations:** Organizing a gratitude day or celebration where students can share what they are thankful for, fostering a sense of community and appreciation.
- **Gratitude Journals:** Keeping a gratitude journal where students can write down things they are thankful for each day, helping them to reflect on positive experiences.
- **Complimenting Others:** Encouraging students to give compliments to their peers, recognizing their efforts and contributions in class or during group activities.
- **Participating in Community Service:** Engaging in community service projects as a class or individually, allowing students to give back and show appreciation for their community.
- **Sharing Stories:** Allowing students to share stories about people or experiences they are grateful for during circle time or class discussions.
- **Creating Gratitude Art:** Encouraging students to create artwork or crafts that represent what they are thankful for, which can be displayed in the classroom.
- **Mindfulness Activities:** Incorporating mindfulness exercises that focus on gratitude, helping students to cultivate a positive mindset and appreciation for their surroundings.

December

Adaptability: The ability to adjust to new conditions, changes, or challenges in one's environment. It involves being flexible, open-minded, and capable of modifying one's thoughts, behaviors, or strategies in response to varying circumstances.

A person may show Adaptability by the following examples:

- **Embracing Change:** Students can show adaptability by being open to changes in their daily routines, such as new classroom layouts, different teachers, or changes in schedules.
- **Adjusting to New Learning Environments:** When transitioning to new subjects or learning formats (like online learning), students can adapt by engaging with the material and utilizing new tools or resources effectively.
- **Problem-Solving:** When faced with challenges, such as a difficult assignment or a group project, students can demonstrate adaptability by finding alternative solutions or approaches to complete their tasks.
- **Collaborating with Peers:** Working in diverse groups allows students to adapt to different working styles and perspectives, fostering teamwork and flexibility in their interactions.
- **Receiving Feedback:** Students can show adaptability by accepting constructive criticism from teachers and peers and using it to improve their work or behavior.
- **Learning from Mistakes:** Demonstrating resilience by learning from errors and adjusting their strategies for future tasks is a key aspect of adaptability.
- **Participating in New Activities:** Engaging in extracurricular activities or trying out for new sports or clubs can help students adapt to new social situations and develop new skills.
- **Managing Emotions:** Students can practice adaptability by recognizing and managing their emotions in response to unexpected changes or challenges, helping them to remain focused and positive.

January

Positivity: Having a good attitude and looking on the bright side of things. It's about being hopeful and focusing on the good parts of life, even when things get tough. People who are positive try to see the best in situations and encourage others to do the same.

A person may show Positivity by the following examples:

- Use Kind Words: Compliment your classmates or say nice things to them. A simple "You did a great job!" can brighten someone's day.
- Help Others: Offer to help a friend with their schoolwork or share your supplies. Being helpful shows you care.
- Smile: A smile can go a long way. It makes you and others feel good and creates a friendly atmosphere.
- Be a Good Listener: Pay attention when others are speaking. Showing that you care about what they have to say is a positive gesture.
- Encourage Your Friends: If someone is feeling down or nervous, encourage them with positive words like "You can do it!" or "I believe in you!"
- Participate in Group Activities: Join in on games or group projects with enthusiasm. Being active and engaged helps create a positive environment.
- Share Your Joy: If something good happens to you, share your happiness with others. It can inspire them to feel positive too.
- Practice Gratitude: Take a moment to say thank you to teachers, friends, or family for the things they do. Expressing gratitude spreads positivity.
- Be Inclusive: Invite others to join in your games or activities, especially those who might feel left out.
- Stay Positive During Challenges: If something doesn't go your way, try to stay calm and think of a solution instead of getting upset.

February

Encouragement: The act of giving someone support, confidence, or hope. It involves offering positive words or actions that motivate someone to continue trying or to believe in themselves.

A person may show Encouragement by the following examples:

- Giving Compliments: Offering genuine compliments to classmates for their efforts, achievements, or talents, such as saying, "You did a great job on your project!"
- Cheering for Peers: Actively cheering for classmates during sports events, performances, or competitions to boost their confidence and morale.
- Offering Help: Volunteering to assist a classmate who is struggling with a task or project, showing that they believe in their ability to succeed.
- Sharing Positive Notes: Writing encouraging notes or messages to friends, such as "You can do it!" or "I believe in you!" and leaving them in their desks or lockers.
- Being a Good Listener: Listening attentively when a classmate shares their concerns or fears, providing support and understanding without judgment.
- Celebrating Achievements: Acknowledging and celebrating the successes of others, whether big or small, by saying things like, "I'm so proud of you for finishing that book!"
- Encouraging Participation: Inviting shy classmates to join in activities or discussions, reassuring them that their contributions are valuable.
- Modeling Positivity: Demonstrating a positive attitude and resilience in the face of challenges, which can inspire others to adopt a similar mindset.
- Creating a Supportive Environment: Fostering a classroom atmosphere where everyone feels safe to express themselves and take risks, encouraging collaboration and teamwork.

- **Sharing Resources:** Offering helpful resources, such as study tips or materials, to classmates who may need extra support in their learning.

March

Patience: The ability to wait calmly for something without getting frustrated or upset. It involves staying composed and understanding that some things take time to happen.

A person may show Patience by the following examples:

- **Waiting Their Turn:** Practicing patience by waiting for their turn during games, discussions, or activities without interrupting others.
- **Listening Carefully:** Paying attention to teachers or classmates when they are speaking, even if they are eager to share their own thoughts.
- **Completing Long Assignments:** Taking the time to work through longer projects or homework assignments without rushing, ensuring they do their best work.
- **Practicing a Skill:** Understanding that mastering a new skill, such as playing an instrument or learning a sport, takes time and consistent practice.
- **Handling Frustration:** Remaining calm and composed when faced with challenges, such as difficult math problems or group work disagreements, instead of getting upset.
- **Waiting for Results:** Being patient while waiting for feedback on assignments or test scores, understanding that it takes time for teachers to evaluate their work.
- **Supporting Peers:** Helping classmates who may need extra time to understand a concept or complete a task, showing empathy and understanding.
- **Participating in Group Activities:** Allowing others to express their ideas and opinions during group discussions, even if they have their own thoughts they want to share.

- **Following Instructions:** Taking the time to carefully follow multi-step instructions in class or during activities, rather than rushing through them.
- **Practicing Mindfulness:** Engaging in activities that promote mindfulness, such as deep breathing or quiet reflection, to help cultivate a sense of patience.

April

Perseverance: The ability to keep trying and not give up, even when faced with challenges or difficulties. It involves staying committed to a goal and continuing to work towards it despite obstacles.

A person may show Perseverance by the following examples:

- **Completing Challenging Assignments:** Continuing to work on difficult homework or projects, even when they find them frustrating or time-consuming.
- **Practicing Skills:** Regularly practicing a musical instrument, sport, or other skills, even when progress seems slow or they face setbacks.
- **Setting Personal Goals:** Establishing achievable goals, such as improving reading levels or mastering a new math concept, and consistently working towards them.
- **Seeking Help:** Asking teachers or classmates for assistance when they encounter difficulties, rather than giving up.
- **Participating in Group Activities:** Staying engaged in group projects or team sports, even when faced with challenges or disagreements among peers.
- **Trying Again After Failure:** If they don't succeed in a test, competition, or performance, they can choose to study harder or practice more for the next opportunity.
- **Staying Positive:** Maintaining a positive attitude and encouraging themselves and others, even when tasks become challenging.

- **Following Through on Commitments:** Completing chores, responsibilities, or projects they have committed to, even when they would rather do something else.
- **Learning from Mistakes:** Reflecting on what went wrong in a situation and using that knowledge to improve in the future, rather than feeling discouraged.
- **Participating in Difficult Tasks:** Volunteering for challenging roles in class presentations or school events, showing a willingness to step out of their comfort zone.

May

Leadership: The ability to guide, inspire, and support others to achieve a common goal. It involves making decisions, motivating a group, and setting a positive example for others to follow.

A person may show Leadership by the following examples:

- **Being a Good Role Model:** Setting a positive example for classmates by following school rules, showing respect, and demonstrating good behavior.
- **Helping Others:** Offering assistance to classmates who may be struggling with their work or need help understanding a concept.
- **Taking Initiative:** Volunteering to lead group activities, such as organizing a class project or leading a game during recess.
- **Participating in Student Council:** Running for a position in student council or other leadership roles within the school to represent their peers and voice their ideas.
- **Encouraging Teamwork:** Promoting collaboration during group work by ensuring everyone has a chance to contribute and feel included.

- **Sharing Ideas:** Speaking up in class discussions and sharing thoughtful ideas or solutions to problems, encouraging others to do the same.
- **Organizing Events:** Taking the lead in planning school events, such as fundraisers, talent shows, or community service projects.
- **Being a Good Listener:** Showing empathy and understanding by listening to classmates' concerns and offering support or advice when needed.
- **Promoting Kindness:** Encouraging classmates to be kind and inclusive, helping to create a positive and supportive classroom environment.
- **Setting Goals:** Demonstrating personal responsibility by setting academic or personal goals and working diligently to achieve them, inspiring others to do the same.