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CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Moral and/or character development occurs both affectively and cognitively. For purposes of providing a focus for a school that strives to enhance character development, the following attributes of a morally mature person as defined by the ASCD Panel on Moral Education are offered as targets for a school that wishes to facilitate a program of character development:

The morally mature person habitually:

- A. Respects human dignity, which includes:
 - 1. showing regard for the worth and rights of all persons,
 - 2. avoiding deception and dishonesty,
 - 3. promoting human equality,
 - 4. respecting freedom of conscience,
 - 5. working with people of different views, and
 - 6. refraining from prejudiced actions.

- B. Cares about the welfare of others, which includes:
 - 1. recognizing interdependence among people,
 - 2. caring for one's country,
 - 3. seeking social justice,
 - 4. taking pleasure in helping others, and
 - 5. working to help others reach moral maturity.

- C. Integrates individual interests and social responsibilities, which includes:
 - 1. becoming involved in community life,
 - 2. doing a fair share of community work,
 - 3. displaying self-regarding and other-regarding moral virtues--self- control, diligence, fairness, kindness, honesty, civility--in every day life,
 - 4. fulfilling commitments, and
 - 5. developing self-esteem through relationships with others.

- D. Demonstrates integrity, which includes:
 - 1. practicing diligence,
 - 2. taking stands for moral principles,
 - 3. displaying moral courage,
 - 4. knowing when to compromise and when to confront, and
 - 5. accepting responsibility for one's choices.

- E. Reflects on moral choices, which includes:
 - 1. recognizing the moral issues involved in a situation,
 - 2. applying moral principles when making moral judgments,
 - 3. thinking about the consequences of decisions, and

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4. seeking to be informed about important moral issues in society and the world.
- F. Seeks peaceful resolution of conflict, which includes:
1. striving for the fair resolution of personal and social conflicts,
 2. avoiding physical and verbal aggression,
 3. listening carefully to others, and
 4. encouraging others to communicate.