

## CHARACTER EDUCATION IN PARKWAY AND AT PIERREMONT

A strong character education program is essential to achieving the Parkway Mission: to ensure all students are capable, curious, caring and confident learners who understand and respond to the challenges of an ever-changing world. The following information provides an overview of some of the core teachings of character education at Pierremont.

### SCHOOL VALUES/CHARACTER TRAITS

- **Kindness:** being nice to others without expecting anything in return
- **Respect:** valuing people and their property and treating them in a caring, considerate way
- **Honesty:** being truthful with your words and actions
- **Perseverance:** trying your best and never giving up
- **Responsibility:** taking charge of your learning, your actions, and your words

### SCHOOLWIDE EXPECTATIONS

To support and encourage a positive learning environment and in keeping with our character traits, several agreed upon expectations are taught, modeled, and reinforced every day. These common expectations for shared areas of our building are known as *The Panther Way*, i.e., the way we do things around here.

#### Panther Volume Levels:

- Level 5 - outside voice
- Level 4 - presentation voice
- Level 3 - table voice
- Level 2 - partner voice
- Level 1 - whisper voice
- Level 0 - no voice

#### The Panther Way in the Hallways:

- Level 0 voice when moving from place to place
- Level 0 or 1 when waiting
- Organized lines
- Hands and feet to yourself
- Honor the learning around you
- Be honest and responsible when you are walking independently

#### The Panther Way in the Cafeteria:

- Level 1, 2, or 3 at tables
- Level 0 when an adult is on the microphone
- Include others in conversation
- Respect different food choices
- Clean up after yourself
- USE GOOD MANNERS!

#### The Panther Way on the Bus:

- Level 1 or 2 voice
- Sit where you will make good choices
- Stay in your seat
- Respect the driver
- Respect others and their property
- Be a good role model

#### The Panther Way in the Bathrooms:

- Level 0 or 1 voice
- Respect the privacy of others
- Clean up after yourself
- Quickly take care of your needs



### The Panther Way at Recess:

- All voice levels are okay, but LEVEL 0 when entering the building
- BE KIND: include others, share, take turns, and be nice
- BE RESPECTFUL: take care of the equipment and listen to grown-ups
- BE HONEST: report problems without tattling and play fair
- PERSEVERE: try something challenging, learn a new skill, and solve problems peacefully
- BE RESPONSIBLE: take charge of yourself, keep track of your things, and line up when called

### The Panther Way on Field Trips or at Events:

- Level 0 when others are speaking
- Follow bus expectations
- Show respect by listening and following directions
- Be open to new learning
- Be polite and use good manners
- Remember you are representing Pierremont

### The Panther Way in our Classrooms:

Individual teachers establish classroom norms and expectations as they build community with their students. However, some ideas and talking points related to each trait are listed below:

#### **Kindness** might look like...

- using encouraging words
- being sensitive to others' feelings
- being kind to yourself

#### **Respect** might look like...

- following the teacher's directions the first time they are given
- using your manners
- valuing others' viewpoints
- giving everyone an opportunity to learn

## **Show Me Five, Pierremont!**

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**Kindness**

**Respect**

**Honesty**

**Perseverance**

**Responsibility**

#### **Honesty** might look like...

- telling the truth, no matter what
- being honest at the tough times or when no one is looking
- admitting when you were wrong

#### **Perseverance** might look like...

- being open to new ideas and willing to take risks with your learning
- building your brain muscle
- sticking with a task even when it's hard
- working to achieve a goal

#### **Responsibility** might look like...

- being prepared for class and for learning
- keeping track of your belongings
- being accountable
- thinking before you speak
- completing and turning in your homework