

Trustworthiness

Caring

Citizenship

Common Language of Respect



Fairness

Responsibility

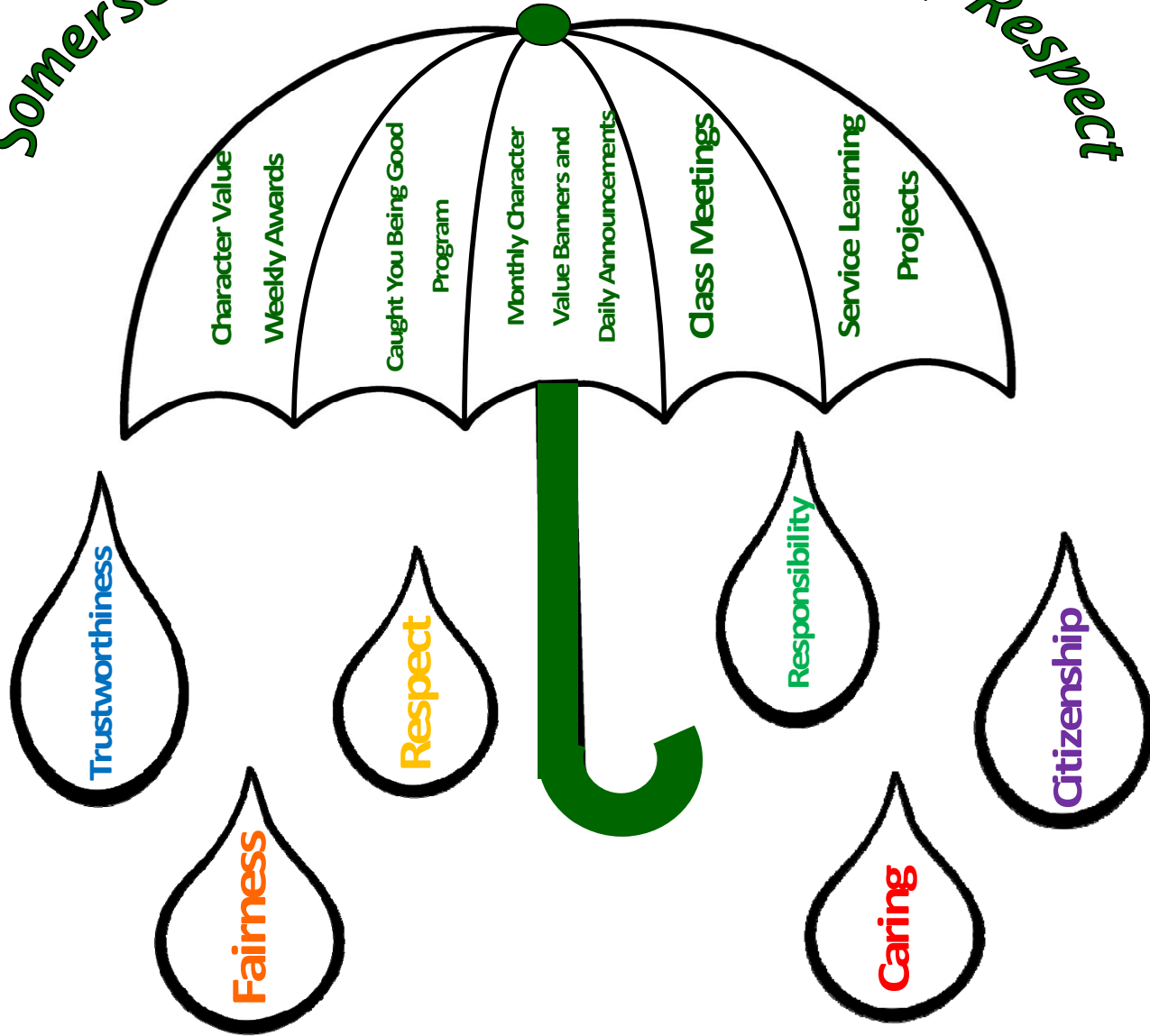
Respect

The Importance of Having Common Language of Respect

- All students have similar expectations of character development and behavior
- Teachers, parents, and students are sending and receiving the same consistent messages
- Teaching students a common language of respect reduces teasing/bullying incidents and helps to ensure a safe school environment



Somerset's Common Language of Respect



Character Counts!

Character Value Weekly Awards

- Each month is dedicated to a particular character value (ex: September is RESPECT)
- Teachers give out weekly awards to students that demonstrate that particular character value and then celebrate the actions/behavior of that student
- Teachers will review the criteria it takes to earn a weekly award.












Caught You Being Good Program

- **What:** The "Caught you" program is an initiative to promote and enhance student's behavior and sense of community throughout the school day.
- **Who:** All students will participate in this initiative. Any teacher, staff member, or visitor who observes a class demonstrating any of the 9 Somerset Squirrel Traits will be allowed to fill out a Caught You reward slip.
- **How:** When a teacher, staff member, or visitor observes a class, group, or an individual demonstrating the Somerset Traits, they will fill out a reward slip. The reward slips will be given to the respective homeroom teacher. When a class has achieved their individually selected goal they will report to Mrs. Flores. Mrs. Flores will then add an "acorn" to the Somerset Tree outside the APR for everyone to admire! Achievements will also be recognized on the morning announcements and in the TIN 😊
- **When:** Each class, or group of students within a class, can be "caught" at anytime throughout the academic school day.
- **Where:** Each class, or group of students within a class, can be "caught" during class, while in the hallways, at any specials, during lunch/recess, and during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal.

Caught You!

Date: _____

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
|  Being Kind |  Being Respectful |  Being Considerate |
|  Persevering |  Being Trustworthy |  Showing Citizenship |
|  Being Fair |  Being Responsible |  Showing Integrity |

Signature: _____



Monthly Character Value Banners and Daily Announcements

- Banners will be posted around the school indicating what character value will be celebrated each month.
- Daily Announcements will include tips on how to demonstrate the particular character value for each month.
- <T:\Tshared\Character Counts Awards\SeptemberRespect10.pub>

Class Meetings

- Class Meetings are held weekly.
- Discuss the characteristics of the particular character trait for that month. (What does it look like? What does it sounds like? Have students give examples.)
- Discuss DEBUG to help students become independent problem solvers.



DEBUG



If someone is “bugging” you, then:

1. Ignore

- Pretend you did not hear them.
- Do not make eye contact.
- Maintain positive body posture (calm, confident).
- Count to five in your head slowly.
- Take deep breaths.

2. Walk Away

- Stand tall, head up high.
- Do not use eye contact.
- Walk somewhere towards an area with other students or to a teacher.
- Do not look back. Walk confidently; do not run.

3. Talk Friendly

- Use a calm voice.
- Maintain eye contact.
- Use confident body language.
- Use "I" statements - I feel when you because....

4. Talk Firmly

- Use an assertive voice, slightly raised.
- Tell them to stop.
- Re-state your “I” statement.

5. Get Adult Help

- Walk away and tell a staff member.
- Bystanders - support and report.

Service Learning Projects

- K: Humane Society
- 1st Grade: The Children's Inn
- 2nd Grade: Manna Food Bank
- 3rd Grade: Early Literacy-Rosemary Hills
- 4th Grade: Recycling Collection/Environment Awareness –Somerset Sacks
- 5th Grade: Coat Drive/Caring Cart



SIX PILLAR SHUFFLE

We have Pillars one through six
We like to dance and do some tricks.

Follow along and you will see
How fun the Six-Pillar Shuffle can be!

Twist is for Trustworthiness

Roll is for Respect

We're gonna Reach up for Responsibility

Blow a kiss for Caring

Flap your arms for Fairness

Stomp your feet for Citizenship

The Six-Pillar Shuffle is a Kick!



Stay Tuned For:

- Assemblies addressing Teasing/Bullying
- Information on school website/TIN/Somerset.Net
- Character Counts Week!
- Red Ribbon Week!



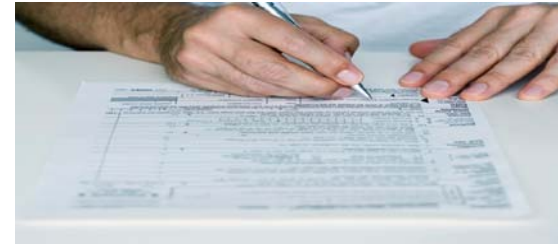
What Can You Do?

- **Report Bullying:** Any student parent, close relative, or staff member should report an act of bullying, harassment, or intimidation using **MCPS Form 230-35: Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Form.**

The school administration/designee will investigate the bullying incident upon receiving the MCPS Form 230-35

Based on the conclusions of the investigation, the school administration will take immediate and appropriate actions to discipline the offender.

- Reinforce Somerset's Common Language of Respect at Home!



- Talk to your children about teasing/bullying:

Pam Mintz

Parenting Education Coordinator

YMCA Youth & Family Services

Character Counts!

www.charactercounts.org

