



August 2009

# Character Council Educator Quality of the Month Faith

## Faith:

**Confidence that actions rooted in good character will yield the best outcome, even when I cannot see how.**

## **I will:**

- Expect the best
- Make right choices based on principles of character rather than whims of circumstance
- Believe the truth and reject a lie
- Not take things for granted
- Trust those who have proven character

In order to set the stage for good character in your classroom this year, start out by creating some good faith between you and your students and facilitating their good faith in each other. Make sure that all students have early opportunities to get to know the other classmates and the new experiences available to them in this new grade. Below are some ideas to help create a team atmosphere in your classroom:

- ☺ **Snow Day** Have each student write down 3 facts about themselves on a sheet of paper. (For non-writers, this can be a parent-assisted homework assignment or have them draw a picture of something they like to do.) Crumple it into a paper “snowball”. Allow the students a “30 second” snowball fight. At the end, each student picks up a snowball and reads it to the class. The class needs to guess who the student is. If this class is a new mix of students have the snowball contain the name of the student. When the snowball is read, the student should stand. (This is also a wonderful first test of reading/writing skill levels and can give you a glimpse of any current social structure.)



- ☺ **Seymour Character** Get some large paper and have the students trace an outline of one of the students as they lay on the paper. On the inside of the outline have them write down how students behave who have faith that the school year is going to be a good one i.e. participate in class discussions, do homework, respect others. On the outside of the outline write unacceptable behaviors: excluding other students, teasing, property destruction, etc. This outline can be updated each month as new character qualities are explored. Name the outline “Seymour Character”, “The Character Dude”, “Character Ed” or a name derived from the school mascot. Be sure to use this as an opportunity to reinforce classroom and school rules and refer to it as situations arise. Feel free to add more items as the month/year progresses whenever those “character teaching moments” occur.



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