The Seven-Step Path to Better Decisions

1. Stop and Think
2. Clarify Goals
3. Determine Facts
4. Develop Options
5. Consider Consequences
6. Choose
7. Monitor and Modify

Goals
- Maintain a District-level Character Education Steering Committee
- Create awareness of the virtues we share through events, assemblies, discussions and example
- Commitment to making our community a better place to live for our kids and families
- Coordinating parent support, curriculum resources and staff development to support character education programming in the Ferndale Public Schools
- Include businesses and local organizations in our efforts to bring out the best in our school community.

“People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously. This is how character is built.”
~Eleanor Roosevelt

Ferndale Public Schools
2920 Burdette, Ferndale, MI 48220
248/586-8651 • www.ferndaleschools.org

Developing a Caring Community of Learners Together

Character Education Throughout Ferndale Public Schools

Trustworthiness
Respect
Responsibility
Fairness
Caring
Citizenship

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The Six Pillars of Character

The Ferndale Schools refer to the Character Counts youth ethics initiative's Six Pillars of Character to provide a common, unifying vocabulary. Students can use this acronym, TRRFCC, to help them remember that people who demonstrate good character are Terrific!

**Trustworthiness (True Blue)**
Be honest—Don't deceive, cheat or steal | Be reliable—Do what you say you'll do | Have the courage to do the right thing | Build a good reputation
Be loyal—Stand by your family, friends and country

**Respect (The Golden Rule)**
Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule | Be tolerant of differences | Use good manners, not bad language | Be considerate of the feelings of others
Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone—Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements

**Responsibility (Solid and Reliable as an Oak)**
Do what you are supposed to do | Persevere—Keep on trying! | Always do your best | Use self-control | Be self-disciplined | Think before you act—Consider the consequences | Be accountable for your choices

**Fairness**
(An orange divides into equal sections to share with friends)
Play by the rules | Take turns and share | Be open-minded—Listen to others | Don't take advantage of others | Don't blame others carelessly

**Caring (Heart)**
Be kind | Be compassionate, show you care | Express gratitude | Forgive others | Help people in need

**Citizenship (Regal purple = the State Community)**
Do your share to make your school and community better | Cooperate | Get involved in community affairs | Stay informed; vote | Be a good neighbor | Obey laws and rules | Respect authority | Protect the environment

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**Preschool — Grade 6 Schools**
- The Five Bees School Rules
- Peaceful Playgrounds
- Conscious Discipline
- Red Ribbon Week Drug Awareness
- Classy Not Sassy
- Character Counts
- Peer Mediation
- Anger Management
- Second Step

**Ferndale Middle School**
- Foundations for Life
- Bully proofing
- "Chat Room" – Homeroom discussions
- Camp Copneconic - The Hero in Me
- STAND – Students Taking A New Direction
- Grade/Gender Specific Assemblies
- Renovations of FMS Commons to reflect pillars of Character Education

**Ferndale High School**

**University High School**

**Ferndale Adult & Alternative Education**
- Foundations for Life
- Honor Above All
- Students Against Destructive Decisions
- Safe & Drug Free Schools
- Character Counts

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**Character Education is…**
- Integral to everything we do in school.
- Gradual change in a school's culture.
- The job of every adult in the school.
- Effective when school, home and community work together.
- The oldest, most critical mission of schools.
- Universally agreed upon virtues, good habits and dispositions.
- Constantly practiced and developed ways of being.
- Lasts a lifetime.

**Character Education is not…**
- An add on — one more thing for teachers to do.
- A quick fix.
- Only the work of the teacher.
- Solely the responsibility of parents or guardians, who are the primary moral educators of their children.
- The latest fad in education.
- About subjective matters such as personal values or political viewpoints.
- About inborn and unchanging ways of being.
- About producing “cookie cutter” kids.
- About superficial, easily forgotten slogans.

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Adapted from the Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character at Boston University