Data Driven School Wide Positive Behavior Meets Character Education and Service Learning

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Durham teachers created a data driven school wide positive behavior plan over the past three school years that include character development and service learning. The plan includes posted classroom and common area rules, positive reward cards, behavior trackers, Friday short term reward time and intermittent long term reward programs.

During the second year we added a character education component to the overall plan. Guest speakers from the community spoke during the Friday advisement program about how good character has influenced their lives. Bi-weekly Dinner Dilemmas were added to our homeroom period where each student determines their reaction to a specific character situation. Students shared their responses, over dinner, with parents being asked to reflect on their child’s response.

During the third year we added service leaning projects to the program where students were allowed to do character driven projects that “give back” to our community. Together these three phases of “The Wildcat Way” have developed our student’s heads (positive behavior), hearts (character development) and hands (service learning) leading to our school motto, “Not for ourselves, but for others”.

We have measured our success with multiple assessments over this three year period. Office referrals were cut by fifty five percent and ISS/OSS days have been cut by sixty percent over this three year period. We have measure school climate over this same period with student surveys and have found that student satisfaction is at an all-time high. We also have measured attendance over these last three years and have found an eleven percent decrease in students being absent from school.