



PACE World Character Day (WCD) – Participation Ideas

Collected from schoolteachers, principals and administrators in 2017

- We need a snappy song or a video! Then we can show it/play it at our PACE assemblies all yearlong!
- Suggested theme: “We are the World”
- Tie in all area “characters” (mascots/costumed characters)
- Promote collaborating respectfully with cultures/races unlike our own through kindness and sensitivity
- Collaborate and join forces between schools, school districts and communities for joint WCD activities
- Involve students as much as possible in planning and celebrating WCD – over the summer?
- Invite Aretha Franklin to sing R-E-S-P-E-C-T since it is the character trait for the month of September

Contests

- Poster contest(s) – prizes from businesses; not too many contests as we want lots of entries; not too spread out; winners on billboard; have winner from each trait. Get billboard that changes each month with the winning poster.
- Have an essay contest for high school students with a scholarship award for the winner.
- Create a Character Challenge
- Video contest in June (current 10th & 11th graders) to use to introduce PACE to incoming 9th graders in September. Prizes arranged by PACE would be great!
- Contests for kids – essays, videos, posters – something at different levels; pay it forward info
- Character “Jeopardy” with character traits as answers
- Random acts of Kindness Challenge
- School-wide Character Survivor Challenges would be scenarios that test student’s character
- **NOTE:** PACE is planning to hold WCD Poster and Video contests (with sponsorship support)

Videos

- Video of young learners showing, telling and acting out Respect!
- Video dialogue
- At elementary level, use our student leadership to create a WCD video linking the traits to our school-wide system. Video presented @ lunch, class or assembly
- 5th graders make video for each trait. Show at Back to School Nights or Curriculum Nights
- You Tube video – What does character mean to you? Music video.
- ASB officers make a character profile video. Officers share in a video an influential person (related to character) in a video presentation at an assembly or in a shared folder for classes to watch.
- Students make one minute multi-media PSAs for each trait; save and share during that month’s trait
- Have kids create a video and show it to the school

Diversity/Global

- Learning the word RESPECT in other languages
- For WCD, have students learn how other countries show respect to each other; handshake, bow (China), kiss on cheek (France), etc.
- Pen pals with same age students across globe or across US to start; sharing how they demonstrate character; have conversations with people
- Tie in with English as a Second Language (ESL) programs
- Play games from around the world in PE classes emphasizing character traits as you play
- Pair with a school district in another country and have video-conferencing around character
- The opportunity to stream other events around the world to give students a deeper connection of what it looks like.
- Some way for schools or classrooms to make global video pen pals for a day with classrooms located outside of WA or US – maybe ESL classrooms
- Opportunity for students to be part of WCD world Q&A

Media/Social Media

- Challenge to post positive things on social media with that month's hashtag (eg: #Respect)
- Instagram posts with hashtags
- Make the connection to digital citizenship
- Find and feature stories of people who have made a decision to CHANGE their character. Maybe, for example, someone who was involved in crime and has reformed. At the school level, stories of kids who have decided to learn new character habits.
- Increase school/district involvement in positive recognition of PACE students on website, social media, TV, etc.
- Use PACE-produced materials from students for website pics, publications
- Send in your pictures to post on a digital site that continues through the day (Sept. 13)
- Follow up news about PACE Awards alumni students
- **NOTE:** Official WCD hashtag is #PACECharacterDay

Parent/Family

- Get parent organizations involved
- Parent training about incorporating character into homes/connect with school activities
- Student parade in conjunction with Back to School night – kids make posters, signs about positive character and “march” through the school
- Involve parents in PACE and on WCD
- 5K Family/Community walk with donors
- Tie in parent engagement activity

Community

- Kick off WCD with a community breakfast and (possibly) music concert hosted and served by students
- Service project to support organizations such as SCRAPS, Second Harvest
- Weather is still nice in Sept...could there be activities (Second Harvest, Community Garden, etc) that encompass character traits? (generosity, caring, etc)
- Community service activities
- Make plans to assist on World Homeless Day – Oct. 10. On WCD, share information about Spokane County's homeless and develop plan to help.
- Evening, community-wide event in a common location. Fun for kids. Resources for adults. Video of success stories
- Tie to Valleyfest as part of the celebration – booths, activities – promote on WCD
- School/Community/Neighborhood service project
- Character rally in the evening – get churches and businesses to buy in. Wednesday is often a night that churches hold events for families and teens. Bands & food. Focus on RESPECT for year as well as all other traits.
- Community clean up – students pick up trash in their community or school
- Meet your neighbors – students introduce themselves to immediate neighbors and share PACE character traits – keep track of who meets the most
- Bring community members together to do something? Event at school, Barbeque, Paint the playground, other school project
- Community give-back – kids do something for retirement home residents
- Students waving signs with the character traits for motorists passing by...
- Bring/invite community to school for playground improvement project w/food, BBQ

Classroom Activities/Curriculum

- Student art work of PACE Character traits
- Make an art piece to keep up all year or forever!
- Literacy connection: Characters with Character – favorite book/quotes; dress up as...
- Each grade level chooses a character trait and focuses instruction on that trait. Invite someone who exemplifies that trait; read about the trait
- Character Read-In
- Make Your Mark Activity
- Have students define how the character traits look in each school
- Internet Safety – recognizing shady characters; social media awareness & correct usage; permanence of posting pics on the Internet
- Look at people in history or from current events that serve as PACE role models; create a video or power point; look for examples from our lives through family input
- Participate in WCD worldwide video conference
- Guest speakers in classrooms
- Tie in to World history and World Literature classes
- Students create posters to capture random acts of kindness – could be shared at lunch; lesson could be taught during class first

- Buddy Readers (5th & 4th/ 1st, 2nd, 3rd) – older student strategically picks a book to share with younger students that specifically highlights a character trait
- History teachers teach a fun, interactive lesson to think about the importance of character worldwide
- Provide the list of each character trait and its definition and have each student select one trait they really embody and one trait they need to improve upon and why for each.
- Have “canned” lesson plan for each trait at the elementary, middle and high school that would emphasize community service. Maybe coordinate the efforts across the Valley.
- Involve leadership classes
- Read-a-loud a character education text in each classroom
- Read character books to students
- Mentors in all day working alongside kids
- Character march
- Character poem
- Respect as an action – review character traits for the year focusing on the actions related to those traits. Translated across all aspects of school.
- Provide a curriculum for ASB and Leadership classes to promote PACE characteristics as a kick-off in September and then focus on each monthly trait afterward
- Schools identify a World Leader who exemplifies Good Character and “adopts” them – schools learn all they can about this leader and use her/his achievement as a driver for the year. Nelson Mandella?
- Students make posters of each trait
- Have high school students come to elementary schools and work with students on implementing character
- Each classroom chooses one PACE character trait – come up with class or individual actions to put into place, then actually do the actions.
- Classroom focus/kick off for year of PACE character traits
- Classes assigned or choose a character trait to learn about. The lesson includes new knowledge in their activities for the day. Classes could produce a product that could be displayed for others to see.

School-Wide Activities

- Each student writes a character letter to the grade below them to be written in the Spring and opened in the fall on WCD
- PACE Partners come into schools to read a “character” book with a class
- Engage in character education all day; revisit each month through remainder of school year
- Present to Leadership class and determine how to participate; partner with other schools?
- PACE Kickoff assembly highlighting all the PACE traits. Sets the tone for the year. Fun and Fast-paced. Kids could each choose a trait and write a PACE goal for the year. Could include a keynote speaker from community or PACE Award alumni. Students perform character-related skits, music; character games
- District-wide same day – community and alumni involvement within schools – focus on RESPECT. Build up prior with announcements (signs, banners throughout community) and the importance of our connections to and with each other.
- School-wide event in evening to Celebrate PACE Character program. Several guest presenters with HS, college and professionals sharing about a particular character trait.

- Compliment and/or say something uplifting to everyone that you talk to throughout the day
- Some school activity to promote character
- Drama classes perform skits
- School posters
- Involve students and community partners in planning the day!
- Evening event (not at the school) publicized for students
- Kick off (Respect) with announcement to school
- Overview to students of all character traits for the year
- Multiple character education aspects throughout the day and assembly at the end
- Character Fair – focus on different traits stations, let students visit each fair station to learn about and see examples of each trait
- Day-long school event. Guest speaker. Classroom activities. Grade-level activities. School-wide activities.
- Partnership with neighboring schools – work together to share resources.
- Program/assembly with community “role models” – police, fire, Zags basketball, college leaders, high school students, etc.
- Students nominate classmates for displaying good character (trait)
- Let’s have each school make a huge poster with all students’ signatures
- Hold an assembly to showcase student ideas about why character is important – read essay they wrote. Show and explain a picture. Do a little drama (one representative from each class to share)
- Mannequin challenge of character trait being represented by students (i.e.: cleaning the lunch tables, holding door open) – post videos on social media with hashtag
- School-wide (or district-wide) assembly – all at the same time in each school (say 9:45 for example) to launch PACE program for the year and honor a community member who exemplifies one of the character traits.
- Develop a wall display that highlights all the traits with a Sept. 13 unveiling
- Pick a color to wear – or school spirit-wear
- School assembly with guest speaker (after classroom kick off of character traits)
- A full day Agenda to engage the whole school. Nothing but gaining knowledge about character, all day long. Maybe run it like an Ed Camp for kids. Kids could present and take charge.
- Kick off assembly – have kids write essay about why having good character is important
- Bring in other students to share real-life stories about the traits and their importance for life. This would illustrate the benefits of character.

Positive Behavior Interventions

- Make videos to show examples of kids showing good character – neighboring schools work together
- Build an advisory lesson that drives home the PACE character traits
- PBIS training refresher on Sept. 13
- Tie PACE to school culture on PBIS
- Connection to PBIS at building level
- Big kick-off for school with continued focus on PBIS

Other

- School boards pass a resolution at first meeting in September recognizing WCD in the district. Encourage all PACE school districts, municipalities and governing boards to do the same.
- Each kitchen staff promotes the character trait of the month.
- Host a Valley-wide event with elementary school ASB/Leadership students focused on PACE character program. Could be a summer camp.
- Hand out rubber “Be Kind” or “Character” bracelets
- Multiple “student voice” opportunities for former PACE/or Character Ed award winners
- Start launching post-Labor Day
- Develop a Character Library – buy books from list for school
- Local school athletes doing something during fall season - carrying through the year
- Have previous student PACE Award winners talk about their PACE experience and recognition – might motivate others – also gives another opportunity to recognize award winners. You could do this in classrooms or assemblies.
- PACE Awards alumni visit with schools – especially high school students visit elementary schools.
- Determine/research “real examples of character”.