

## Character Power Parent Volunteer - Guide

Thank you for your support of Character Power! It's a fun way to show the students how important these values are to our community. Lessons run an hour and take place in each classroom after an all school chapel.

Volunteers discuss ahead of time how they would like to teach the topic. Typically, the lesson is broken into three parts - introduce the virtue, read a book/discuss the virtue, and participate in an activity to reinforce the virtue. Books by grade on each topic are available in the library (please check books out!) and sample lesson plans are available online and in the library.

### A. Planning sessions

- a. Reminder emailed to volunteers 2 weeks in advance
- b. Meet with other volunteers to decide on book(s) and lesson plan
- c. Check out books in the library
- d. Potentially coordinate with other class and possibly with teachers (anything topical going on in the classroom)

### B. What a typical lesson looks like

- a. Classroom (8:30 AM - 9:30 AM)
  - i. Introduce volunteers
  - ii. Describe virtue/define virtue/discuss virtue
  - iii. Read story (may need to define vocabulary)
  - iv. Discuss story with students
  - v. Project reinforcing lesson (art, drama, movement, crafts)
- b. Components for success
  - i. Keep it simple
  - ii. Use books provided
  - iii. Think through the lesson plan
  - iv. Implement an activity or craft
  - v. Get everyone involved
  - vi. Keep it fun, light
- c. Mock Trial for 2nd - 4th grade (Justice)

## **Character Power**

### **Parent Volunteer - Considerations/Suggestions**

**Have fun.** Pick a topic that interests you and that you enjoy sharing. Decide how you would feel most comfortable participating and let other parents in your group know, i.e. you may prefer to read the story, guide discussions, or assist with activities.

**No one has all the answers.** It's okay to respond to a question, "I don't know how to answer that. What are your thoughts?"

**Be inclusive.** Encourage all parents to participate. Encourage all students to participate while respecting those who may prefer to "observe."

**Remain open and respectful.** Allow students to express themselves even if you don't agree.

**Be prepared.** Meet with your CP group well in advance of the lesson to plan.

**Be mindful of the teachers.** Be prompt in starting and don't run past 9:30. If your activity requires rearranging the room, going outside or will be messy, please ask the teacher if this is okay in advance. If you will need classroom materials, please clear this with the teacher first. Allow time for cleanup and restore the classroom to its original state.

**Go with the flow.** Even if you've planned every minute carefully, there will be surprises. Weave these into the plan and enjoy the dimensions the kids can add.