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# Presidio School

Dear Presidio Parents and Guardians:

Presidio School is proud to announce that it will be a Character Counts School and that our new discipline and positive school climate program will be based upon Character Always. Thanks to the generosity of Fry's Food Stores, the entire faculty and staff of Presidio School was trained in the implementation of this exciting and effective character building program. Fry's provided a grant that paid for the full-day training without which we would not have been able to launch the Character Always and Character Counts Programs.

Your child will periodically be bringing home Character Always Cards. When they come home it is important for you to play your role in the program's implementation by going over the positive and negative character traits that your child has been exhibiting at school. Character Always Character Cards are part of the new discipline program that holds students accountable for their choices and actions. Each and every student, Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, will be given a Character Card for documenting his or her behavior. The students are responsible for filling out their behaviors. The philosophy behind this approach is that it is their behavior! Presidio School hopes to accomplish three main objectives through the use of the Character Always Character Cards:

1. The first is to *change* negative behaviors to positive ones. This will happen by 'catching' the students behaving appropriately and rewarding them for good choices. As human nature has it, we ALL love to be recognized for excellence. Students are no different. If in the beginning they are doing the right thing only for the accolades, then GREAT! They are *still* doing the right thing! Eventually what lies ahead, are the rewards becoming intrinsic, which leads to the students doing the 'right thing' simply because it is the right thing to do.
2. The second objective of the Character Cards is to establish ownership of the behaviors. With the student's documenting his or her own behaviors...both good and bad...it places the ownership of these behaviors on the students and takes it away from the teachers. The Character Cards will be used in parent/teacher conferences to promote honest and effective communication.
3. The third objective of the Character Always Character Cards is to establish a consistent discipline system schoolwide. When every member of the school community all work together, our students know what is expected and there is carryover into the community. If teachers share the same classroom rules it enables even our youngest students to grasp the discipline program. Consistent terminology is helpful to all. In addition, this benefit applies to administrators and parents. When everyone is on the same page, there are no 'surprises'. The following are the six guiding principles that Character Always promotes.

Be **TRUSTWORTHY!**

Be **RESPECTFUL!**

Be **RESPONSIBLE!**

Be **FAIR!**

Be **CARING!**

Be a good **CITIZEN!**



Thank you in advance for your support of this program, and be sure to thank Fry's for their support of character building in our schools,

Sincerely

*Terry Garza*

Terry Garza

*Tom Drexel*

Tom Drexel