



**Skyview Upper
Elementary School**

2015 NATIONAL
SCHOOL *of*
CHARACTER

character.org

Character Counts at Skyview

- Prior to opening of Skyview
 - Strategic Planning Process identified Character Counts as resource
 - Melissa Gorla, Beth Lang, Beth VanBuren trained as facilitators for CC through Josephson Institute
 - Staff from across the six schools coming together trained in the pillars of CC
 - Student forum held to create a group of student leaders for CC
 - Core Beliefs established that focus on Pillars

Character Counts at Skyview

- The Skyview Community in year five
 - Inclusive vision developed in addition to core beliefs
 - Common Vocabulary
 - Expectations set forth in terms of pillars
 - Daily quotes, Monday School Pledge
 - Periodic small group lessons in pillars (homerooms, mixed groups, counselors)
 - Positive "Pillarific" recognition on a weekly basis - last year 684 students were recognized!
 - Annual Pillar awards for students
 - Student involvement through B.L.A.S.T.
 - School-Wide Events connected to pillars including annual Community Service Day

Be T.R.R.F.C.C. at Skyview



What we believe

Skyview Upper Elementary School is a community that is diverse physically, socially and academically. Our school promotes a safe, collaborative and supportive learning environment for all. Our community celebrates the individuality of its members' strengths in the pursuit of excellence, working together and striving to be greater than the sum of its parts.



We the staff of Skyview Upper Elementary School believe...

that everyone is entitled to a supportive environment that promotes confidence, interdependence and fosters the development of life-long learning.

that to promote fairness education should be meaningful for all individuals, open to differences and change, flexible in ideas with consistent and clear expectations for all.

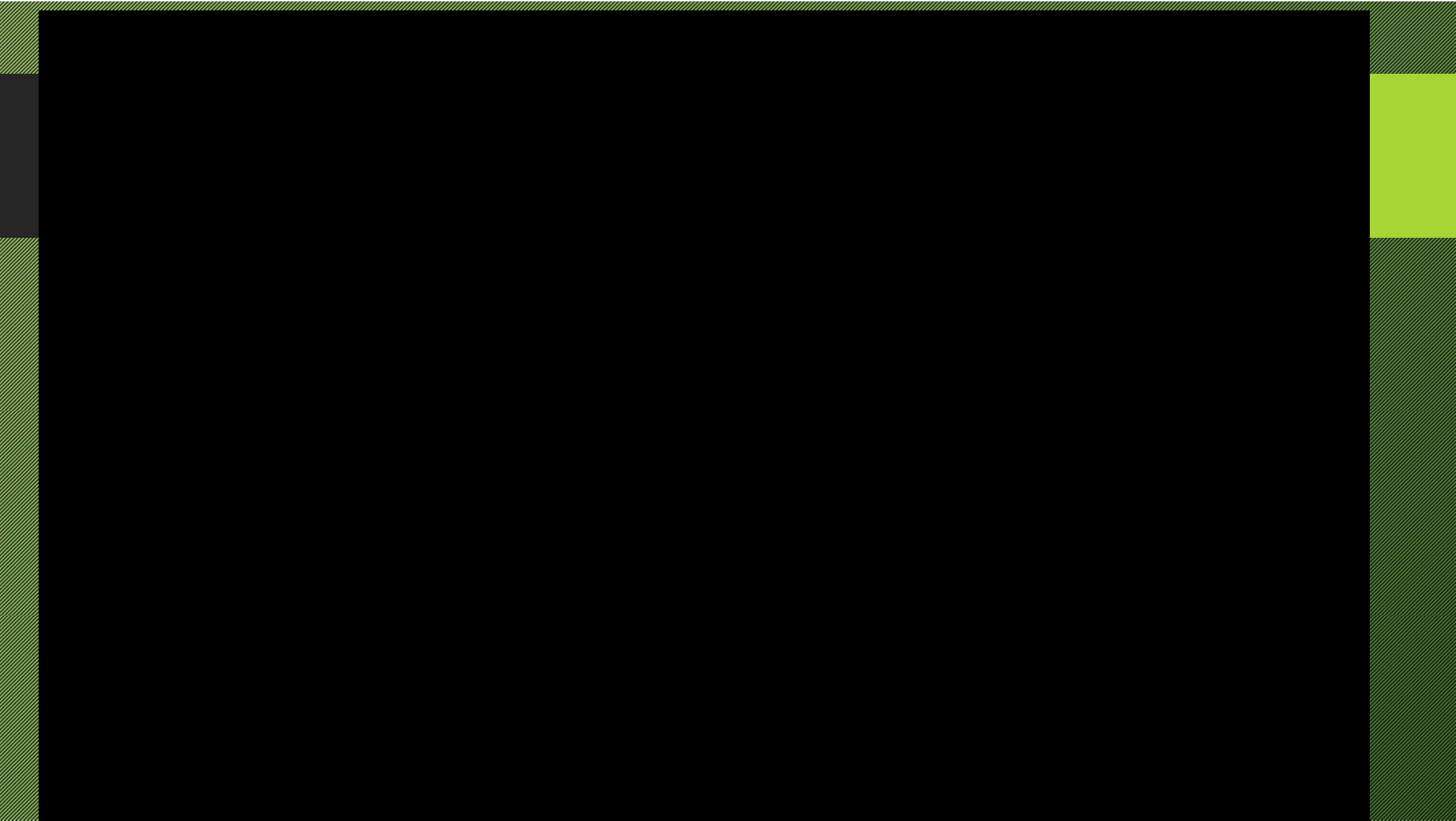
that the teachers, students and parents are to be responsible for pursuing excellence and being accountable, thus making all we do worthy of pride.

that education nurtures the whole child.

that every individual has the right to be respected and the responsibility to respect others within the community of learners.

that everyone plays a part to make our classrooms, our community and our world a better place.

Together we make the difference.



What is Character.org?

Character.org is a nonprofit organization that strives to ensure young people everywhere are educated, inspired, and empowered to be ethical and engaged citizens.

Character.org focuses on defining and encouraging effective practices and approaches to quality character education and provides a forum for the exchange of ideas.

The 11 Principles of Effective Character Education

- The school community promotes core ethical and performance values as the foundation of good character.
- The school defines “character” comprehensively to include thinking, feeling, and doing.
- The school uses a comprehensive, intentional, and proactive approach to character development.
- The school creates a caring community.
- The school provides students with opportunities for moral action.
- The school offers a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum that respects all learners, develops their character, and helps them to succeed.

The 11 Principles of Effective Character Education

- The school fosters students' self-motivation.
- The school staff is an ethical learning community that shares responsibility for character education and adheres to the same core values that guide the students.
- The school fosters shared leadership and long-range support of the character education initiative.
- The school engages families and community members as partners in the character-building effort.
- The school regularly assesses its culture and climate, the functioning of its staff as character educators, and the extent to which its students manifest good character.

Becoming a National School of Character

- Process began June 2014 with data collection - surveying our school community about the 11 principles of character
- Melissa Gorla, Beth VanBuren and Beth Lang presented at character.org's National Forum in October 2014, "Creating and Maintaining a Pillarific Community."
- Narrative application (with artifacts) completed - December 2014
- State level review and visit - January 2015
- Named a Pennsylvania State School of Character - February 2015
- National Evaluation Visit - March 2015
 - Day-long on-site
 - Student led tours
 - Panel discussions with students, community, support staff and teachers
 - Interviews with administration and counselors

Next steps

- Skyview holds this distinction for 5 years
- Skyview will be recognized at the National Forum on Character in October 2015 and receive a banner for our school.
- **NSOC Outreach Options**
 - Contribute to your school's profile on the CEP website and in the [NSOC book](#)
 - Create a short [video](#) of your program to be posted on the CEP website
 - Post [lesson plans](#) and other best practices on CEP website
 - Present at [CEP's National Forum](#)
 - Conduct outreach session, workshop, conference, or in-service in home state or district
 - Develop a mentoring relationship with another school or district
 - Contribute to CEP online community: [CEP blog](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [electronic newsletter](#), and/or webinars



“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress;
working together is success.”

(Henry Ford)