

Team DPS Top 5: Students' Positive Character Strengths

September 21, 2016

Last week we asked you to tell us about a time you saw one of our students demonstrating a positive character strength. It probably won't come as a surprise that our kids showed a lot of it. Check out our Top 5 responses below:

5. "One day, the first week of school, I asked a student to stay after class who had said that since he was new, he was feeling so lonely and was therefore having a bad day. As I was checking in with him, another peer from his class came through the door, approached him, stuck out his hand for a shake, and said: 'I'm Carlos. Now you know someone.' I was almost moved to tears at this student's empathy and kindness, and his courage to act on it." - **Mrs. Mary Davenport, North High School**

4. "As part of Steck's Star Success Day, all of our kids went through team building. Staff and team members from the Office of Social Emotional Learning came out to help students work through the obstacles together. Watching the kids help and encourage each other, I noticed how strongly they bonded together as a class. Hopefully, that bond will continue in the classroom." - **Mirriah Elliott, Steck Elementary**

3. "At Barnum, we have transitioned back to breakfast before school -- this has given me the chance to see so many of our older students showing responsibility by helping their younger siblings. Day after day, I see "older" students (some only in first or second grade) helping their younger brothers and sisters to carry their breakfast trays, type in their numbers, or juggle their backpacks and jackets. It's truly a wonderful way to begin the day." - **Emily Rubin, South High School**

2. "While doing push-in work with a sixth grade student on the autism spectrum in a science class, I noticed him pause to regroup while he was working on a poster with his group mates. He is usually the student to rush through work at all costs, so I asked him what was up. He said, 'If I keep working on what I want to do next, it will get in the way of my group mate who hasn't gotten to start yet. So I'm trying to think of what I can do instead.' I was so proud of this student's flexibility and consideration of his teammate -- both traits that definitely do not come easily for him -- and that he was clearly working to improve. It was such a victory for him!" - **Hana Vujeva, Slavens Elementary**

1. "Engaging students in interactive activities that open them up to scientific inquiry and adventures they never experienced. I look forward to having fun through the joy of learning with my students." - **Sharon Vasquez, Bruce Randolph**

Top 5 Giveaway: Sept. 15-Oct.15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month. In the spirit of celebrating Hispanic culture, tell us how you'll celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month at your school.