

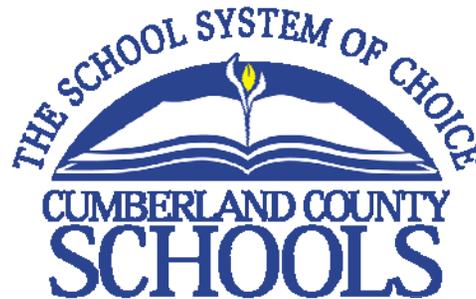
Tips for Completing your Community Service Hours

Participants of The Character Academy must complete 10 hours of community service. All community service hours must be completed at a non-profit agency. Hours must be completed outside of class time.

1. Start early, you only have 6 weeks to complete all of your hours. Many agencies require advance notice, you may have to complete an orientation process before you begin, and other students are also contacting agencies to complete volunteer hours.
2. Look through your local paper, the Internet or talk with friends to identify local agencies in need of volunteers.
3. Contact the agency and ask to speak to the Volunteer Coordinator.
4. Some questions you might ask when you call: What types of volunteer opportunities are available, What days and times do you need volunteers, What will I do as a volunteer, What skills will I need to volunteer with your agency, What is required to get started (parent permission form, orientation, dress code, background check, etc.)?



5. Document your hours on the CCS provided form. Make sure that someone from the agency signs your form.
6. Submit your verification form to the Character Coach to ensure that you receive credit for your hours.
7. Have FUN! Consider this a long-term commitment. It's a great way to earn service hours towards the Live United Student Volunteer Program and seeking employment later.
8. If you have trouble finding a place to volunteer contact the Character



The Character Academy

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The Character Academy

*"Refocusing
your purpose"*

Cumberland County Schools
Student Support Services

What is the Character Academy?

The Character Academy is a social and emotional learning program of Cumberland County Schools. The goal of the framework is to support students in the development of positive behaviors that contribute to academic achievement and school success through restorative justice practices.

The goal of the program is to increase instructional time and positive behavior supports for students with multiple Class I and II infractions.

Students may participate in The Character Academy by principal recommendation as an alternative to disciplinary re-assignment to Ramsey Street High School. Participation will only be granted one time per academic year. Students selected to participate in The Character Academy must successfully complete all components of the program to avoid reassignment to the alternative school.

In addition, students will demonstrate what they learned through their participation in the Character Academy by creating a portfolio of their work. The Character Coach will assist students in setting up a transition conference with the Student Services Team at their home school upon successful completion of the program.

The program is comprised of three primary components.

Self-Control
Excellence
Honesty
Respect
Responsibility
Courteous

ASSESSMENT

The Global Assessment of Individual Needs Short Screener (GAIN S-S) will be administered to all participants of The Character Academy. The data collected from the screener will be used by the Character Coach to make referrals to community agencies and to set individual goals for students.

BEHAVIORAL EDUCATION

All Character Academy participants are required to complete 20 hours of behavioral education. All sessions will be facilitated by the Character Coach during the program hours. Students will complete a combination of online modules using the ABE System and face to face sessions. Face to face sessions will include conflict resolution, information sharing, guest speakers, A.R.T. (Aggression Replacement Training), and circles. The ABE System is interactive software that delivers personalized modules to students based on over 50 targeted behaviors such as fighting, bullying, aggressive behavior, substance abuse, or disrespect.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

All Character Academy participants will complete 10 hours of community service on their own time. While the Character Coach is available to offer information about community agencies, it is the responsibility of the parent and the student to contact agencies directly to arrange and to complete the service hours. Students must document their hours on the CCS provided form.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Will transportation be provided for students?
No.

Are EC students eligible for the Character Academy?

Yes, however, principals should use their knowledge of the specific student and their needs prior to making a recommendation.

How will parents be involved in The Character Academy?

It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the student completes all program requirements outlined in the Program Agreement. For example, parents will arrange transportation for their child to and from The Character Academy each day after school and assist their child in completing 10 hours of community service at a local community agency.

Will there be a middle school component?

Not at this time.

What happens if my child does not complete all of the components of The Character Academy?

Students who do not complete all components of the program will complete a disciplinary re-assignment at Ramsey Street High School. They will not receive credit for the time completed at The Character Academy. Students will be expected to complete the full assignment. In addition, the Character Coach will offer parent education sessions throughout the year.

What are the hours of The Character Academy?

Monday and Wednesday,
4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Who is in charge of The Character Academy?

A district employee with certification in the area of social work, counseling, or psychology will manage the daily operation of The Character Academy and work directly with parents, students, and school staff. The program is under the direction of the Associate Superintendent of Student Support Services. For more information call (910) 678-2423.