

Special Events & Programs

- **Friendship Panel**
Sponsor a "Friendship" lunch panel featuring students discussing the qualities of healthy friendships. Include students who formerly had unhealthy friendships.
- **Free Food Certificates**
Have teachers give special certificates for free or reduced-cost food in the cafeteria to students in their classes who regularly complete their homework.
- **Video Festival**
Sponsor a video festival featuring films that highlight individuals who demonstrate trustworthiness. Have students share before or after each video about how people demonstrated trustworthiness.
- **Newspaper Column**
Have a regular column in the school newspaper to which all students can submit stories about friends who show trustworthiness.
- **Schoolwide Questions**
Encourage all teachers in a specific subject area to ask their students at the beginning or end of class periods, "How have you been trustworthy in the past month?" or "Who has been trustworthy with you?"
- **Community Members**
Invite community members to share with students about how being trustworthy is an important life quality to cultivate.

School Displays

1. **Trustworthy Friends**
Create a bulletin board highlighting students' descriptions and pictures of their trustworthy friends.
2. **Teachers' Trustworthiness**
Have teachers write a brief story about how they showed trustworthiness when they were teens. Display teachers' stories on a school wall and have students guess which teacher wrote which story.
3. **Trustworthy Movie Characters**
Display ads of current movies that feature trustworthy characters. Include descriptions of how they are trustworthy.

PA Announcements

- **Daily Qualities**
Have adults or students highlight the qualities of healthy friendships by focusing on one quality each day (e.g., loyalty, honesty, support, encouragement, etc.)
- **Personal Story**
Tell students about someone in your own life who is trustworthy.
- **Trustworthy Students**
Invite teachers to speak over the PA about students in their classes who demonstrate trustworthiness.
- **Movie Review**
Write and read a brief movie review of a current popular movie whose main character is trustworthy. Encourage students to see the movie and write you with their thoughts about it.
- **Choosing Friends**
Discuss the importance of choosing friends wisely. Emphasize that we are influenced by the kinds of people we choose to be around. Encourage students to develop friendships with people who build them up rather than those who drag them down.
- **Responsibilities & Reliability?**
Encourage students to take stock of all of their responsibilities and evaluate whether they have been reliable.

Contests & Awards

1. **Trustworthy Profile**
Have a writing contest for the best profile of a trustworthy friend. Winners can read their profile over the PA.
2. **Poem, Rap or Song Contest**
Have a contest where students write a poem, rap, or song about the quality of trustworthiness. Winners can perform at a special assembly.
3. **"Trustworthy Grams"**
Have students buy special "Trustworthy Grams" to send to their friends on a designated school day.

School Component *Action Steps*

The chart below lists each of the action steps for the *Preparation, Implementation, and Evaluation* phases of the **School Component** and the specific *WiseSkills* resources that are needed for each step.

	Time Period	Action Step	<i>WiseSkills</i> Resource
1. Preparation	Beginning of the School Year	1. Create <i>WiseSkills</i> Leadership Team, including <i>WiseSkills</i> Coordinator	<i>Schoolwide License Packet</i>
	Beginning of the School Year	2. Staff Development: <i>WiseSkills</i> Training or in-house training	<i>WiseSkills</i> Trainer; <i>Schoolwide License Packet</i>
	Beginning of the School Year	3. Organize the school calendar around monthly <i>Character Themes</i>	<i>Schoolwide License Packet</i>
	Before Each Character Theme	4. Discuss staff modeling of each theme	<i>Schoolwide License Packet</i>
	Before Each Character Theme	5. Teachers work in teams to plan ways to integrate each theme into subject areas	<i>Wisdom for Life , Schoolwide License Packet</i>
2. Implementation	During Each Character Theme	6. Educators use <i>WiseSkills</i> activities with students	<i>Wisdom for Life, Character Signs, Character Posters</i>
	During Each Character Theme	7. Schoolwide activities are coordinated by the <i>Leadership Team</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special events • PA announcements • Contests & awards • Visual displays 	<i>Schoolwide License Packet</i>
	During Each Character Theme	8. Publicly recognize students for showing good character	<i>WiseStudent! Certificates, Character Cards</i>
3. Eval.	End of the School Year	9. Students, teachers, administrators, and parents complete evaluations and assessments	<i>Schoolwide License Packet; WiseSkills Practical Assessments</i>
	End of the School Year	10. Modifications are made to improve implementation.	All <i>WiseSkills</i> Materials

School Component Implementation

An effective character education involves all school staff in cultivating positive character. The **WiseSkills School Component** powerfully unites high schools around each of the monthly *Character Themes* throughout the year: *Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship, Courage, Honesty, Diligence, and Integrity*. Focusing on each *Character Theme* helps schools use a common language that communicates consistent messages to students about the importance of making good choices. The program can also be used in schools that have already identified their own themes.

Implementation Phases

The *School Component* is implemented in three phases which occur at different time periods during the school year:

1. **Phase 1: Preparation** (Beginning of the School Year and Before Each Character Theme)
2. **Phase 2: Implementation** (During Each Character Theme)
3. **Phase 3: Evaluation** (End of the School Year)

The chart on page 1 lists the specific **School Component Action Steps** for each of these phases. This *Implementation Guide* includes guidelines for implementing each of the *Action Steps* listed. To help schools implement the program, the *Training Flash Drive* in the *High School Implementation Kit* features video presentations and handouts for training staff on the program.

Phase 1: Preparation

Action Step

1

Create **WiseSkills** Leadership Team, including **WiseSkills** Coordinator (Beginning of the School Year)

To begin implementing **WiseSkills**, a leadership team should be created, including a faculty member designated as the **WiseSkills Coordinator**. While some schools can use an already-existing Character or Safe Schools Committee, others may need to create a new team. The **WiseSkills Coordinator** organizes regular meetings of the *Leadership Team* to facilitate ongoing schoolwide activities that teach and reinforce each *Character Theme*. The team should be composed of educators and volunteers committed to keeping the school focused on developing good character. The team can include:

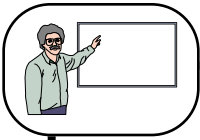
1. **WiseSkills Coordinator**
2. **School Administrator**
3. **School Counselor**
4. **Subject Area Lead Teachers**
5. **Volunteer Community Coordinators**
(For schools implementing the *Community Component*)

The **WiseSkills Leadership Team** should meet regularly and plan ways to highlight each theme through schoolwide activities, newsletters, special events, contests, visual displays, award ceremonies, guest speakers, schoolwide service projects, and other activities.

Responsibilities of the *Leadership Team* include:

1. Encouraging and supporting all staff to *model, teach, and reinforce* good character
2. Ensuring that teachers are displaying teaching the **WiseSkills** activities and/or integrating the themes into subject areas
3. Making sure regular time is provided for teachers to plan ways to integrate themes into subject areas
4. Coordinate schoolwide activities that reinforce each *Character Theme*. The *Coordinator* delegates activities so all classes are involved, such as:
 - a) Student presentations that reinforce each theme
 - b) Bulletin board displays created by classes or grade levels
 - c) Special events and award ceremonies

The *High School Implementation Kit* includes suggested schoolwide activities for each *Character Theme* that the **WiseSkills Leadership Team** can coordinate. The *Training Flash Drive* includes resources to help schools create a *Leadership Team* and begin implementing each of the *Action Steps*.



Explaining

I. Monthly Character Themes

Wisdom for Life is organized around ten monthly *Character Themes*. Each *Character Theme* contains a variety of practical resources:

WiseSkills
Leadership
Team

1. **Vision:** _____
Special events, programs, PA announcements, visual displays, and contests

2. **Quotations:** _____
For displaying in class and brief classroom discussions (see *Using Character Quotes*)

3. **Reflection:** _____
Short classroom discussions at beginning or end of class periods. Includes media discussions

4. **Integration:** _____
Ideas for connecting each *Character Theme* to subject areas
References resources in: • *Discovering Wisdom* • *Wisdom-in-Action*

5. **Cultivation:** _____
Activities, projects, and lesson ideas for whole class periods (*Advisory, Leadership, Health, and Life Skills* classes)
References resources in: • *Discerning Wisdom*

6. **Investigation:** _____ (Community Component)
School, family, and community service project ideas

7. **Exploration:** _____
Questions & activities for *In Search of Character* video series.

Knowledge	Integrating Knowledge & Wisdom
<i>English/Literature</i>	Evaluating the choices of characters in literature and the consequences; writing about the personal character of story characters and similar choices students have made.
<i>Social Studies</i>	Discussing the character of leaders in history; highlighting relevant social issues such as <i>tolerance</i> and <i>equality</i> ; understanding the meaning of democratic citizenship.
<i>Science</i>	Recognizing the positive and negative applications of scientific research and technology; finding ways to apply scientific knowledge in ways that help others.
<i>Math</i>	Discovering real-life applications of mathematics concepts, principles, and skills in ways that help others.
<i>Arts</i>	Using artistic expression to reflect on, or encourage, positive character qualities.
<i>Physical Education</i>	Highlighting good sportsmanship, working together as teams, and the importance of playing sports fairly.
<i>Foreign Language</i>	Learning relevant vocabulary and practicing simple writing exercises in the foreign language to explore character issues.
<i>Business & Careers</i>	Highlighting the moral and ethical issues that are raised in the workplace.
<i>Health</i>	Focusing on the different choices people make and the results of those choices on their social, emotional, and physical health.



WiseSkills® Teacher Planning Guide

School Component Handout

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Character Theme:

Modeling:



Working with Each Other:

Working with Students:

Working with Parents:



Character Quotes

Brief Discussions

Other Class Activities
