

What is Character Ed?

By Sophia Turtzo / Pen Argyl High School Student

Pen Argyl - Our school is based around the Code of the Green Knights, which is to Protect Integrity, Accept Challenges, Honor Diversity, and Salute Kindness (PAHS). The Code of the Green Knights is the foundation of the Character Education program at our school. It is aimed to spread the code around our school.

Selena Muyulema, freshman, said, "It has caused students to be more kind and nice to others in the building, and it is not only in school either, it's also outside of school. It gives students or anybody the thoughts and or ways of always being positive."

Brayden Krasnopera, freshman, said, "I don't know a lot personally about this program, but what I do know is that it brings both students and adults together in a community to understand Character Education more and the building of a person or their character."

Madacyn Rivera, freshman, said, "I know that our school has this program to help students be successful in whatever they want to do. Pen Argyl is a great school for the Character Ed program. The teachers understand the learning process of every student. No one in this school is singled out, everyone has respect towards each other. As Mr. Domchek likes to say, 98% of our school does the right thing. Don't let the 2% ruin that."

Character Education has many creative students who were inducted from all grades that help the school and our community. "In Character Ed, we organize things for the school and help each other with projects. For example, last year most members were able to help Paige Edelman with her Mental Health Awareness days," Wilson continued.

Wilson said, "This year, I am most looking forward to our Knights' Order club. I am happy to have designated time to discuss and plan events and activities. I am also looking forward to the annual Stuff the Bus. It's such a fun time and a great way to help the community."

Jack Scherer, sophomore, said, "This year I look forward to the Memorial Day Assembly because since I am a Boy Scout I feel that it is my duty to honor our fallen soldiers who have died in combat or who have died outside of combat, so we can honor their legacy," Scherer said.

Paige Edelman, junior, said, "I work with lots of absolutely amazing people in Character Ed. We work together to come up with ideas that help the school and the community, and really honor the Green Knights Code. Personally, last year I was in charge of organizing the Mental Health Day. Of course, I had a lot of help, but that kind of day is just one of the things Character Ed has helped me achieve."

"At the moment, I'm really looking forward to Stuff the Bus. The school always does a really fantastic job collecting goods for Stuff the Bus. Last year I helped with unstuffing the bus as well, and it was just wonderful to see how much food we really collected. It brings such a sense of unity, and makes me really proud to be here for it. I'm also looking forward to hopefully continuing advocating for the mental health of

our student body, and our teachers as well. Overall, Character Ed is such a lovely group of students, advised and led by the incredible Ms. Campbell, and I am just looking forward to working with everyone again," Edelman said.

Many of the teachers all around our school find ways to bring the Code of the Green Knights into their classrooms and find ways to help out with Character Education. Mrs. Goyette, lab biology and aquatic biology teacher, and middle school field hockey coach, said, "I just started last year with helping Ms. Campbell write the application for national recognition. That being said, I always included the Code of the Green Knight in my daily lessons from day one."

"I've worked at incorporating the Code of the Green Knight into my everyday language and lessons that we do in class. I based my classroom management plan on the code and I also encourage my athletes to follow it. We work a lot on accepting challenges and being kind on the hockey team. I always volunteer to help with Stuff the Bus. This is a great way for our teachers and students to work together and help our community," Mrs. Goyette said.

Mrs. Goyette continued, "It is awesome to see all the amazing things our students



do. We have to select pieces of evidence to support the 11 Principles of Character Education. What we are finding is that we

have so many examples, we can't even include them all. This is a great problem to have!" Mrs. Cesare said, "I did the art decorations for Stuff the Bus, helped out with the Memorial Day assembly, organized a Zombie Walk Blood Drive, and I'm currently working with some students on MLK Jr. activities."

Ms. Campbell said, "Last year we sent 'Thank You' cards to every teacher in the school district thanking them for getting through all the craziness of the COVID year. That was a student idea. I am just here to guide the students. It is meant to

be a schoolwide thing, not just a particular person or group. We do Stuff the Bus and a Memorial Day Assembly every year. We do a Special Olympics pep rally. We painted all the bathroom stalls to spread positivity.

Mindfulness Mondays is a Character Ed initiative. Last year we did a Mental Health Awareness Day, and that was entirely a student in Character Ed who organized all of that. We have won three Promising Practices, which is a national recognition that you are doing good things in Character Education. We have won one for Senior Citizens Day, the Memorial Day Assembly, and Stuff the Bus. We are currently throwing out an application to be a school of character, which only two other high schools in Pennsylvania have that recognition.

Character Ed has many projects across the area that anyone can help with in some way. It is here to help our community grow and gives our students a place to build their ideas. Good luck to everyone who is a part of Character Ed for any projects this year and moving forward.

BLUE FLAME EVENTS
Presents
Holly Jolly Holiday Vendor Festival & Tricky Tray
JOIN US FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH 50+ SMALL BUSINESS VENDORS & CRAFTERS!
A TRICKY TRAY WITH OVER 50 PRIZES WILL ALSO BE HAPPENING! (PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE SLATE BELT YMCA)
DECEMBER 11, 2021
10AM TO 3PM
SLATE BELT YMCA
315 W. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., PEN ARGYL, PA
SANTA WILL BE JOINING US FOR PHOTOS FROM 12PM TO 3PM.