



State School of Character Award

The School Demonstrates Promising Practices
with regard to advancing Effective Character Education

Award sponsored by WSASCD, Whitworth University
and Leadership Innovations Team, representing the
State Schools of Character program

Hidden Creek Elementary School, South Kitsap School District
Laura Smith, Principal

The staff at Hidden Creek Elementary strategically works to make every student feel safe, challenged, cared for, connected, healthy and hopeful. The school's mission is to create responsible learners and contributing citizens. This goal is accomplished by providing a rigorous academic program geared to the individual needs of students as well as a systematic focus on building habits of self discipline, leadership, and good character. Character education is infused into the daily operations of the school and into classroom instruction. In alignment with their district-wide mission of nurturing growth, inspiring achievement, and building community, they are dedicated to the development of the whole child – a student that is well-rounded and ready to make a positive difference in the community.

The staff works with their students to meet grade level standards and to acquire the skills necessary to continue their journey through school and beyond. In addition, students are encouraged to develop a LOVE for learning, to act with sound character, to serve others, and to have goals, hopes, dreams and a vision for a great future. The staff works to develop minds that can problem solve and think deeply and creatively. Every adult is available to support students to develop resilience, perseverance and stamina, reminding students to be “Doers of Tough Stuff,” to never give up even when faced with a challenge.

Hidden Creek Elementary is a “Kids at Hope” school. All adults at school are Treasure Hunters who believe that ALL children are capable of success – no exceptions! They create a sense of hope and optimism for students, strategically helping them think about their future in four destinations: career/ education, family, community service, and hobbies/recreation. Students learn to “time travel,” as they visit their future, return to the present and set goals to prepare for the journey.

The staff at Hidden Creek Elementary strives for their school to be the happiest place on Earth; a place where kids and adults stretch their capacity for knowledge and joy. They believe school can and should be a fun, welcoming place. After all, this is where all students get to be with their friends, where they can safely learn about the world, explore new ideas and gain knowledge and skills that will open doors for future pursuits.