

Saratoga Shores Monthly Character Trait Assemblies

Saratoga Shores has been working hard to not just build great students academically, but also build good citizens. Each month they focus on a character trait that will help students be good neighbors and citizens. Before the assembly, they look for students and classes that exemplify the character trait focused on from the previous month. Then, at the beginning of the month they hold a school-wide assembly to spotlight those classes and students for the great work they were seen doing.

It is an opportunity to teach character and build unity within the school. The whole school comes together and leaves excited about a new month of practicing good behavior. "It's not just awards, though. We want to pump the students up with school spirit as well," says Mrs. Burgon, a third grade teacher and advisor to the student council. "We sing our school song, celebrate the month's birthdays, do games and chants, and have a skit prepared to introduce the new character trait." Tegan Seguin, a second grader, says, "I like them because sometimes my friends are in the skits." Sam Wilson, another second grade student, adds, "They're funny, but we also learn about the character trait."



The day is meant to be a reminder about good behavior and a way to excite and uplift students as they start their week and month. A fun part of the assembly is when the students get to dance to a song as they come in and out of the assembly. Dyson Henline from Mrs. Burgon's third grade class vocalized it this way, "we get to choose how we dance and get to move around after sitting!" They also do different attention getting chants that teachers use in the classroom. Children love to be together and participate in an exciting way.

For the last two years the Saratoga Shores Student Council has coordinated and organized the assembly. They act as moderators and facilitate most the assembly themselves. Sasha Graham, a member of the student council explains, "It's fun to get everyone involved. I like the golden broom (award for the cleanest classroom) and students of the month. It helps them learn what to do and try to be better." Kassidee Wilcox, also a member of student council loves how much fun they have. She says, "Minute-to-win-it is fun and gets everyone excited about the assembly." Anna Sticht, another council member, summarizes it this way, "It is fun for everyone to be together."

After the assembly, teachers read a picture book during the month that helps kids understand what the character trait would look and feel like. This leads to class discussions and helps teachers know how to reinforce the character trait in their classrooms. Overall, Saratoga Shores Character Trait Assemblies provide a platform to teach important character traits and build unity and school spirit throughout the year! Way to go Saratoga Shores Sharks! Everyday is a great day to be a Shark!!