



IMPACT 360°

Social/Emotional Learning in Kansas City, Kansas

Creating a Caring Community

During the month of November we often turn our focus to family. Finding moments to be grateful for the people closest to our personal lives. This November, however, we invite you to take some time to think about the larger community. What ways can you help create a caring community in KCK? Perhaps you have some time to volunteer, or support a local charity, but it could also be as simple as stopping to pick-up trash, holding a door for a stranger, or even simply giving a high five to a student not in your class. No matter what step you take, let's work together to make a caring community in our district.



KCKPS Social-Emotional Character Resource Guide

One of the first steps in creating a caring community, is to provide our students the tools they need to care for themselves. The new KCKPS Social-Emotional Character (SECD) Resource Guide organizes the Kansas SECD Standards, the Code of Conduct Expectations, and multiple lesson examples as a tool for helping our students achieve the skills needed to develop character as well as personal and social skills. By utilizing this document as a support to our student's education, we can begin to address the social-emotional needs of our students, and actively work towards building a more caring community. Follow the links below to view a short video explaining the new resource, and to access your specific guide.

[Social-Emotional Learning Instructional Video](#)

[SECD Teacher Resource Guide](#)

A Moment for Empathy

Empathy is trying to understand what another person is feeling. It is seeing the world through another's eyes. It helps people to get along better and to feel better. Empathy is also a foundation of a caring community, and a core principal of character development. The HEAR strategy works to help students build active listening skills to improve their ability to understand the feelings of others.

Halt: stop whatever you are doing and thinking to “free your mind” and focus on speaker.

Engage: Focus on whoever is speaking and even add a physical component (e.g. head tilt towards them) to show them how you are “engaged solely in listening.”

Anticipate: Look ahead to what speaker will say and “acknowledge that you will likely learn something new and interesting” which will make you more interested in what they have to say.

Replay: analyze and rephrase what has been said in your mind or aloud to help understand the speaker's message

Monthly Educator Video

[Appreciation, Apology, Aha!](#)

Monthly Student Video*

[Sesame Street: Empathy](#)

*Remember to always check for ads before playing for students

Monthly Whiteboard Message

Community is more than knowing your neighbor.
Community is showing your neighbor you care.

Character Connection

November is a time to educate our students to take care of our community with the KCKPS character traits of respect and empathy.

It is typically a time for all to pause and reflect on what we are grateful for and to share thankfulness with others.

To reinforce a caring classroom and school community, take intentional time to connect with students and practice empathy and gratitude. Establish the practice of classroom meetings with reflective questions, emotional awareness and mindfulness. Model vulnerability with your students and encourage them to share.



Monthly Lesson Plan Ideas

Early Childhood – 12th Grade

I Wish My Teacher Knew: This activity provides students an opportunity to tell their teachers one thing they wish they knew.

What to do: Provide a sticky note to each student. Each student will write a statement on the sticky note that they wish their teacher knew about them (younger grades can utilize drawings as well). Students then post their sticky note somewhere in the room where the teacher can see their answer. Remind students to leave their response anonymous. For an example of this activity see the video below.

[I Wish My Teacher Knew](#)