

# WESLEY MATTHEWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## CORE VALUES and CHARACTER EDUCATION

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools District is committed to helping all students in developing the values necessary to participate as caring, responsible citizens in our nation's democracy. Each month a different Core Value is highlighted and the students take part in activities and lessons that teach them about the importance of developing that particular character trait. At home, parents can also reinforce learning and practicing behaviors that demonstrate the Core Value of each month.

*In the month of AUGUST, we celebrate:*

### ***Pursuit of Excellence***

Doing your best with the talents you have, striving toward a goal and not giving up, e.g., ***putting forth one's best effort when taking an exam or doing homework.***

### **SEPTEMBER**

***Responsibility*** Thinking before you act and being accountable for your actions, paying attention to others, and responding to their needs. Responsibility emphasizes our positive obligations to care for each other, e.g., ***performing a community service project.***

### **OCTOBER**

***Citizenship*** Helping to create a society based upon democratic values including rules of law, equality of opportunity, due process, reasoned argument, representative government, checks and balances, rights and responsibilities and democratic decision-making, e.g., ***obeying classroom and school rules.***

### **NOVEMBER**

***Kindness*** Being sympathetic, helpful, compassionate, benevolent, agreeable and gentle toward people and other living things, e.g., ***helping a fellow student who has been injured.***

### **DECEMBER**

***Honesty*** Dealing truthfully with people, being sincere, not deceiving them or stealing from them, not cheating or lying, e.g., ***doing one's own work when taking a test or working on an individual assignment.***

### **JANUARY**

***Integrity*** Standing up for your beliefs about what is right and what is wrong and resisting social pressure to do wrong, e.g., ***expressing one's conviction in a group of peers although it may not be popular with the majority.***

## ***FEBRUARY***

***Respect*** Showing regard for the worth and dignity of someone or something, being courteous and polite, and judging all people on their merits. Respect takes three major forms: respect for oneself, respect for other people, and respect for all forms of life and the environment, e.g., ***practicing acceptable manners in the school cafeteria.***

## ***MARCH***

***Cooperation*** Working together toward goals as basic as human survival in an increasingly interdependent world, e.g., ***being a member of the team on the athletic field.***

## ***APRIL***

***Fairness*** Treating people impartially, not playing favorites, being open-minded, and maintaining an objective attitude toward those whose actions and ideas are different from our own, e.g., ***treating people the same, regardless of their ethnicity, race, religion, gender, or physical condition.***

## ***MAY***

***Celebration of all Character Traits***