



Happy New Year

Character Education Resource Center News You Can Use

January 2021

Anti-racist training is imperative, as it isn't enough for each of us to simply not be racist, we also need to be actively anti-racist. This requires a willingness to do the work that is necessary, on ourselves and in our systems and structures, to completely eradicate this ill from our society.

Christina Wright,

Character Educator, Youth Development Facilitator, & CERC Advisory Committee Member

It's All About Skills

(1) [Social Emotional Toolkit: Family Engagement: A step by step guide for engaging families in social emotional initiatives](#)

(2) [Nonacademic-skills-are-the-necessary-foundation-for success](#)

By K. Brooke Stafford-Brizard, *Education Week*, July 22, 2016

(3) [Student Skills List - 10 Skills Students Need to Be Successful](#)

By Oliver Schinkten, January 12, 2017

(4) [12 Skills Students Can Work on Now to Help Them in Careers Later](#)

By Elizabeth Mulvahill, *WE ARE TEACHERS*, November 2017

(5) [Linking Social-Emotional Learning to Long-Term Success](#)

By C. Kirabo Jackson, Shanette C. Porter, John Q. Easton, Alyssa Blanchard, Sebastian Kiguel, *Education Next*, Vol. 20, No.4, Fall 2020

[How Long Do the Benefits of SEL Programs Last?](#)

By Mariah Flynn *Greater Good*, August 30, 2017

Comparing students who participated in SEL programs to those who didn't, the results showed significant benefits that persisted from one to nearly four years afterward. These benefits included:

- + Social and emotional skills, such as identifying emotions, resolving conflicts, and decision-making
- + Improved attitudes toward one's self, others, and school
- + An increase in positive social behaviors
- + Higher grades and achievement test scores
- + Fewer conduct problems, including violence, bullying, and classroom disruption
- + Lower levels of emotional distress
- + Less substance use.

[Building Better Relationships With Parents at the Classroom, School, and District Level](#)

By Heather Wolpert-Gawron, [edutopia](#), November 20, 2020, (edited)

The need to partner with caregivers is even more important now with so many students learning at home.

Research shows that activating parent engagement has a direct impact on student engagement. Generally, we see benefits such as higher grades and test scores along with greater social skills and better reported behavior.

Engaging Parents Is a Two-Pronged Approach

One is to focus on the micro by building up communication between the individual teachers and family. The second is to focus on the macro by building up communication and support by the district or organization and the family.

How to Create a Parents as Partners Learning Series:

Survey stakeholders for topics: Survey families to see what they need to help support their students. Survey teachers to see what they need most from the families at home.

Use a calendar with hyperlinks to registrations: Set up an interactive calendar of events using Google Calendar.

Make it inclusive: Provide translators for your major events to ensure that all parents can learn with the community.

Get the school communities involved

The distinct advantage of learning social skills are: more and better relationships, better communication, greater efficiency, advancing career opportunities, and increasing overall happiness.

Preparing students in four key areas of civic readiness:

- (1) knowledge (of government, civic rights);
- (2) skills (public advocacy, gathering and processing different viewpoints);
- (3) actions (volunteering, voting); and
- (4) dispositions (concern for others' constitutional rights and freedoms, respect for processes and laws governing the republic).

Nebraska State Board of Education

Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Teacher Resources

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus **character** - that is the goal of true education.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Learn about Martin Luther King Jr, an outstanding American leader and hero, who was born on January 15, 1929. Share the stories of his vision and commitment by using our activities, lessons, and worksheets that detail Dr. King's life. There are quizzes, biographies, and art activities on this civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize recipient. You'll also find references on his assassination, resources for Black History Month (February), and activities for Martin Luther King Jr Day.

[Resources](#) to teach students about King's philosophy

A [kid friendly site](#) to learn all about Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Additional Resources

Martin Luther King Jr. [activities](#) for younger students
[Worksheets and coloring pages](#) for use in the classroom
[Lesson plans](#) to use for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Elementary [activities](#) that can be used for in-person and virtual learning
Ways to encourage [reflection](#) on MLK's life and legacy

In his 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech, Dr. Martin Luther King offered one of the most eloquent personal visions of American patriotism. Using the logic of economics to make a moral point, King called for an incredible debt to be paid.

Dan Rather, *What Unites Us: Reflections on Patriotism*, pp. 13-14

"In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. We refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice."

CHARACTER EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER



We would like to hear your thoughts, questions, and feedback about this special issue of NUCU. What is helpful to you and your students?

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character@sandiego.edu.

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