



Bringing out the best in our children and ourselves

Dear AACPS Caring Adults,

“How will you know when your school is successful?” This was the question posed to a group of principals by Dr. James Honan of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. After much consideration and comment on many different marks of success, Dr. Honan continued with this:

“...you should be asking yourselves whether your students are going to be productive and happy citizens at age 25, 45, and 65. What kinds of adults will they be? Will they be good spouses, good friends, and good parents? Will they be respectful and honest, and will they work to make the world a better place?”

I know that we must teach the basics and the curriculum. That is the expectation. However we can at the same time, without any extra work or effort also speak to our students in a manner that will awaken all that is good inside of them - their Gifts of Character.

Paul Tough in 2012 said, *“What matters most in a child’s development, they say, is not how much information we can stuff into her brain in the first few years. What matters, instead, is whether we are able to help her develop a very different set of qualities, a list that includes persistence, self-control, curiosity, conscientiousness, grit, and self-confidence”*

I would like to invite you to join us for a 2-day workshop on April 29, 30 created to bring out the best in our children, students and ourselves. The workshop *“An Introduction to the Virtues Project - Awakening the Gifts of Character”* will be held in Severna Park in the Fellowship Hall of Woods Memorial Church.

Professor Jaclyn Gambone said this: *“I am a college professor who teaches future teachers. Recently, I have started weaving the Virtues language into my instruction. ... As a teacher, it is not only our job to teach others. It is our job to focus on these born virtues and bring them to the surface not just for the time they're in our classroom but for the rest of their lives. Thank you for the gift of the Virtues Project for me, my family, and my students. What an incredible difference it makes.”*

For details see the attached page or visit our website at <http://balancedlifeskills.com/introduction-to-the-virtues-project/>

With enthusiasm and joy,

Joe Van Deuren

BalancedLifeSkills.com
410-263-0050
joevandeuren.virtuesproject.com