

School-wide Activities & Events

The following activities and events are designed to foster community and promote our social development message:

- **Town Meetings**—Our students introduce a social development theme to focus on, as well as share their work
- **Spirit Days**—Encourage community among the entire school population
- **Buddy Classes**—Lower grade classes are paired with upper grade classes to strengthen bonds between younger and older students
- **Social Development Day**—During the first week of school, we get together as a whole community to kick off the year in a spirit of togetherness, teamwork and kindness
- **Kindergarten and New Family Welcome Gathering at Camp Hazen**—Families who are new to Chester Elementary School gather together at the beginning of the school year to meet and build relationships
- **Social Development Family Night**—Families come together for a night of entertainment with a professional performance on the theme of respect and responsibility

Service Learning Projects

These projects occur throughout the year and are designed to provide an opportunity for students to learn the value of helping others.

Special Opportunities

Other opportunities exist to help students develop life and relationship skills. These include:

- Schoolwide Enrichment Academies
- Mentor Program
- Peer Advisor Program
- D.A.R.E.
- Project Adventure
- Odyssey of the Mind
- Lego Robotics
- Math Olympiad
- Spanish Dance
- Chorus & Band
- Jazz Band
- Cultural Arts
- Homework Club
- Run Club

Social Development Committee

Teachers and parents work together on the Social Development Committee to extend social development efforts throughout the school and community. The committee meets monthly after school, and all are welcome to participate.

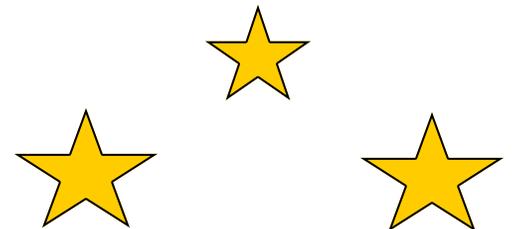


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Chester Elementary School



Social Development Program

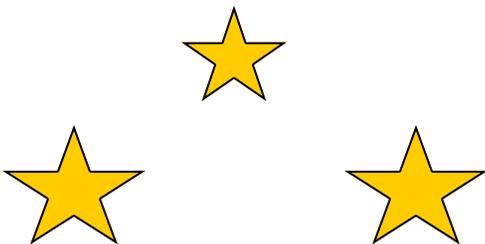




SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Social Development is an integrated program that promotes a positive school climate by providing students with the skills to navigate social and emotional issues. Numerous studies have shown that when a child knows how to solve a problem, or where to go for help with a problem then the child feels empowered and safe and is better equipped to focus on learning.

The program at Chester Elementary School began in 1996 and gained momentum through a grant from the Connecticut Center for School Change in 1997. Several integrated initiatives were created and have evolved to help Chester Elementary School be a caring school.



Our School Code

“I promise to be respectful, responsible, safe and prepared.” This school code sets expectations for behavior and the tone for a positive school environment.

Our discipline process is linked both to our school code and our goal for students to learn social problem-solving skills.



“STOP, THINK, and GO”

This is our school problem-solving model that is taught at all grade levels. When confronted with a conflict, each student is encouraged to **STOP** and assess the situation, **THINK** about how to handle the situation in the best positive way and to consider the consequences, and **GO** to resolve the conflict themselves, or **GO** for help if the problem or situation is too big.



Initiatives

SELF Lessons

SELF stands for **Social and Emotional Learning Focus**. The SELF lessons are taught in the classroom. They focus on:

- Awareness and Expression of Feelings
- Emotional Control
- Understanding Interpersonal Relationships
- Social Problem Solving and Decision Making

Book-of-the-Month

This program supports our children in the essential work of their social development. Through exploring quality literature, all students enjoy a shared experience which offers a common path toward personal growth and universal values, while fostering a sense of community.

