

# GREAT MEADOWS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal Forum

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# CHARACTER EDUCATION

Not a new concept

Schools always charged with educating both mind heart & soul.

Changes

- Changing mindset
- Cultures
- Secularization



# CHARACTER EDUCATION

Major Shifts from the 60s to present day

- Individual Rights
- Limitations of Teacher Role
- Politics
- Increasing Need of Schools and Students
- Social Emotional Learning



# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

Process through which children learn to recognize and manage their emotions.



# GOALS OF SEL

Help students

- Understand how to interact appropriately with others
- Make good decisions
- Behave ethically
- Behave responsibly



# MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

## Choose Love Program

- Courage
- Gratitude
- Forgiveness
- Compassion





# CHOOSE LOVE

Program started by Scarlett Lewis and a group of educators. Scarlett was inspired by the death of her son, six year old Jesse Lewis. He was murdered on December 14, 2012 alongside 19 of his classmates and six educators in the Sandy Hook Elementary Shooting.



# CHOOSING LOVE AT GMMS

Students and teachers completed a personal characteristics profile

- Students were grouped with teachers they would feel most comfortable with.
- Small groups of 9-10 students
- Meet every three weeks for 37 minutes as a small group
- Complete one Power Surge in between each Brain Blast





# CHOOSE LOVE

## Program Overview

- Four units
  - Courage, Gratitude, Forgiveness & Compassion
- Seven Brain Blast and 28 Power surges per unit



# PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Important aspect of SEL is parental involvement

Each Brain Blast is communicated to parents about the topic and things to follow up at home.

Invite to participate in Choose Love at Home Program:

<https://www.jesselewischooselove.org/choose-love-home/>



# REFERENCES

Tatman, Edmonson & Slate, (2017). Character Education: A Historical overview retrieved January 27, 2017, from <https://charactercounts.org/character-education-an-historical-overview/>



# QUESTIONS

