



Hello Bellmawr Learning Community,

We are pleased to announce that today the Bell Oaks Upper Elementary School was named a *2018 State of New Jersey School of Character* by Character.org based in Washington, DC (www.character.org) in collaboration with the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD)! The Schools of Character program recognition is presented to schools that demonstrate character development to drive a positive impact on academics, student behavior and school climate.

The student body, our entire staff here at Bell Oaks, and the community should feel very proud about this designation, as it highlights the multitude of programs we have in place that help shape a positive school climate. Character education is an educational initiative that supports the social, emotional and ethical development of students. It is the proactive effort by schools, districts, communities and states to help students develop important core ethical and performance values such as caring, honesty, diligence, fairness, responsibility, grit, creativity, and respect for self and others. Our restorative discipline practices, the peer and adult mentoring programs, and our service learning projects are just a few initiatives we have implemented that blend with our mission to educate the whole child here at the Bell Oaks School.

Special congratulations go out to our entire learning community! As we move forward, recognition on the federal level is now within our reach! Thank you for all that you do!

Sincerely,

Anthony Farinelli – Principal

Melissa Gleason – Vice-Principal



