

Long Elementary School
St. Louis, Missouri
Grades K–5

The Pride Journal

Good deeds deserve to be recorded, and at Long Elementary, Pride Journals are just the place for it. In an effort to motivate students intrinsically and transition from rewards to reflection and recognition, teachers created this unique practice that causes students to reflect in-depth upon their character education experiences. Each day following class meetings, students are given the opportunity to record their thoughts, feelings, and experiences regarding a character education topic as they write about their own good character, as well as the good character demonstrated by other community members. Students are given the opportunity to share their journal entries on Long's televised morning announcements program, beginning the day with a positive and authentic message. With 100 percent participation, the journals create a common bond between students. Writing buddies spend time reading and writing together about character education topics such as respect, cooperation, and teamwork. The act of putting thoughts to paper gives the students voice and a sense of autonomy and belonging. Teachers and administrators are impressed by the results, noting that referrals for behavior have dropped during the implementation of this program.

CONTACT

Brian McKenney

Principal

(314) 729-2450

bmckenney@lindberghschools.ws

www.lindberghschools.k12.mo.us