



Meeting the Social and Emotional Needs of Intermediate School Students





Becker Public Schools Mission Statement:

**Developing Self-Directed Learners to
Thrive in a Changing Global Community**

Becker Intermediate Building Goal

Strategic Plan Objective 3.3:

- *During the 2022-23 school year, we will continue addressing mental health needs through Social Emotional Learning (SEL) at a variety of levels.*



Why do we focus on / teach SEL?

Social-emotional learning is vital for all of our students because it:

- Teaches them crucial life skills, including the ability to understand themselves.
- Helps students develop a positive self-image,
- Helps students take responsibility for their actions
and
- Helps students forge relationships with the people around them.

At Becker Intermediate School we utilize the Character Strong Curriculum.



The downfall(s) of not utilizing an SEL Curriculum:

- The academic success of students will be hindered if the Social and Emotional needs of the students is not met.
- Implementation of programs becomes fragmented and inconsistent if there is not one common curriculum.
- Educator retention may suffer due to burn-out.



Why Use the Character Strong Curriculum?

Character Strong is a curriculum that is based on developing thoughtful, healthy, and kind human beings. The character of our kids is formed by their personal values and choices.

The SEL components that are covered by Character Strong are:

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills
- Responsible Decision-Making



Skills for Life and Character Development

Character Strong provides:

- Explicit, direct skill instruction designed to lead to 3 powerful outcomes: Be Strong, Be Kind, and Be Well.
- Instruction centers around 1 character trait per month.
- Practices support students to apply skills and character traits beyond the lessons.
- Content is aligned with CASEL competencies and vertically-aligned from Pre-K through 5th Grade to build skills effectively.

What is CASEL - The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning.



Classroom Lessons:

Character Strong

BE KIND



Social skills and conflict-resolution



RESPECT

EMPATHY

COOPERATION

BE STRONG



Executive functioning: focusing, organizing, goal-setting



Responsibility

PERSEVERANCE

COURAGE

BE WELL



Wellness strategies: emotion regulation



GRATITUDE

HONESTY

Creativity

Character Strong Curriculum



Weekly focus is consistent across the grade level and gives a common theme across the building

3rd grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Character Strong lessons are taught using the Character Strong website along with integrating the lessons into weekly activities.
4th grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Character Strong lessons and activities are utilized weekly.
5th grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Character Strong lessons and activities are used weekly.● Each day of the week has a theme that is followed (Movie Monday, Topic Tuesday, Write-it Wed, Thankful Thursday).● Classrooms conversations are based on what is happening in the classroom on a daily basis.

Character Strong Curriculum, cont.



Weekly focus is consistent across the grade level and gives a common theme across the building

Specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● SEL lessons incorporated into Essential Skills● Brain breaks incorporated into lessons● Vocabulary focus and discussion● Peace corner - when students need a break
Special Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Focus on responsibility and respect for self and others● Daily conversations on what is going well and what we need to work on● Use Character Strong resources to support
Interventionist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Word of the Month each Wednesday - 5-10 minute lesson with all students during that WIN group time

Calming Boxes

The goal of this Amazon Wish List fundraiser is to create calming boxes for every classroom space. These requested items, in conjunction with social emotional lessons, will help students identify and manage their emotions, while minimizing the disruption to learning.



<https://amzn.to/3hDpHsa>

Thank you for listening!

Do you have any questions?

