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Dear Troy Union Families,

In January Troy Union was honored to receive the designation of “State School of Character” by Character.org. This initial acknowledgement validated our community wide mission of supporting our ever-evolving Character Education journey. Character.org is known for its 11 Principles Framework and our school elected to undergo a rigorous evaluation process to achieve the designation. After being identified as a “State School of Character” we decided to advance our application for review at the national level. In addition to submitting our original application we were required to host an onsite visit facilitated by Character.org. Staff, students, and community members were extensively interviewed and provided with opportunities to share our Character Education story. Our staff spent several intense hours sharing and reflecting on how we have implemented the standards articulated in Character.org's 11 Principles Framework for Schools. This was Troy Union’s first time applying for the designation.

It is with great pride to share that Troy Union has received the designation of **“National School of Character.”**

As a school we believe that the Kindergarten – Fifth grade years are the foundation of learning and elementary school is a place where children can enjoy being kids while making friends and falling in love with learning. For this reason, we strive to empower students to learn about and act in the world through our CULTURE traits while fostering positivity amongst our community. Together we encourage our children to be the best version of themselves while working hard to reach academic success.

In conclusion, amazing things happen when people work selflessly and tirelessly together around a common purpose. This National School of Character designation celebrates many years of work that ultimately lead us to where we are today. From the 6 Pillars, to Leader in Me, to creating a positive CULTURE, our Character Education journey is affirmation that together we can and will accomplish great things. We still have so much work to do and none of our success can happen without a beyond amazing staff, supportive parents, and hardworking kids. I am looking forward to continuing this journey.

Respectfully,

Mike Cottone

