

THE  
ERNEST L. BOYER  
CENTER

APPLICATION FORM  
THE ERNEST L. BOYER  
2008 BEST PRACTICES AWARD  
CHARACTER EDUCATION IN  
THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Will what students learn touch their deeper selves and help them not only become knowledgeable, but socially and ethically responsible as well? . . . In the end, character education in school should mean that students are encouraged to think about life's most important questions and to discover that what they learn in school really does make a difference in their lives—that it will touch their deeper selves and help them become more knowledgeable, responsible human beings.*

-- Ernest L. Boyer, Sr.

THE ERNEST L. BOYER CENTER

The Center is a national education institute that facilitates ongoing renewal in schools and communities. It is named for Ernest L. Boyer, Sr. (1928-1995), distinguished American educator, scholar, and citizen, and is the site of the Boyer Archives. It is located on the campus of Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania.

THE GOAL OF THE PROGRAM

- to recognize elementary schools for their accomplishments in character education
- to invite evaluation and development of character education programs
- to encourage efforts to promote exemplary practices that will benefit other schools

SPONSORSHIP

The Ernest L. Boyer Center is pleased to sponsor this awards program in collaboration with the Basic School Network and The National Association of Elementary School Principals. The awards are made possible through a grant by Maynard and Carolyn Sauder.

CRITERIA

This awards program is inspired and informed by the work of Ernest L. Boyer, Sr. in *The Basic School: A Community for Learning* (Jossey-Bass, 1995). Adherence to the agenda of this book is not required for participation in this awards program. However, the book is highly recommended as a resource for applicants.

AWARDS

Up to three (3) monetary awards of **\$10,000** will be made to elementary schools (**preK-5/6**). Awards will be announced in March 2008. The meritorious programs will be featured in an Ernest L. Boyer Best Practices 2008 publication prepared for national dissemination. Representatives of the award-winning schools will be recognized and present their programs at the NAESP National Convention April 4-8, 2008 in Nashville, Tennessee. The exemplary programs will also be featured at the National Basic School Conference in March 2009 in San Antonio, Texas.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

- A. Materials must be postmarked no later than **January 15, 2008**. Please send two **(2) copies** to the Ernest L. Boyer Center.
- B. The application materials may not exceed **10 pages of double-spaced text** (not including the entry form cover page). **Please use type size no smaller than 12-point**. Please do not submit audio, video, photos, art, press clippings, scrapbooks, or other supplementary materials.
- C. Schools selected for the second phase of the award process should be prepared to entertain a site visit (February 2008) by one or two evaluators and be willing to provide additional materials to corroborate the application.
- D. Award decisions will be made by the National Advisory Committee and will be final. Awards will be announced in March 2008. Those schools meriting financial awards will receive them by June 1, 2008, and are expected to use those funds during the 2008-2009 school year. The Ernest L. Boyer Center is not liable for any costs (tangible or intangible, such as application processing, advertising, travel, etc.) incurred by the applicant(s) or the successful award recipient(s) prior or subsequent to the award. Permission for all news releases, publicity statements, etc., pertaining to the awards is granted to The Ernest L. Boyer Center.

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The Ernest L. Boyer Best Practices National Selection Committee

Dr. Lillian Brinkley, Retired Basic School principal  
Ms. Patricia Broderick, Partner, Broderick & Raymond, Norwalk, Connecticut  
Ms. Elizabeth H. Carlson - Assistant Executive Director, Special Programs and Projects, NAESP  
Ms. Kim Dockery, Principal, West Fairview Elementary School  
Dr. Joseph Jones, Provost, North Park University, Chicago, Illinois  
Dr. Gus Jacob, University of Missouri, Kansas City  
Dr. Donald Murk, Boyer Fellow

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Thank you for your interest in this Awards Program. We look forward to receiving your application.

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For inquiries and updates, contact Donald Murk at (717) 796-5077  
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Grantham, PA 17027  
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APPLICATION

For your application, you will need to complete two sections:

- (1) the entry form contact information below;
- (2) on separate pages, your answers to the essay questions. For confirmation that your application has been received, enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard.

Postmark deadline: January 15, 2008

*Please print or type on the lines below.*

School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person's name and title \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Principal or Head of School \_\_\_\_\_

Principal/Head of School (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check the ways you learned about the 2008 Awards:

- word-of-mouth
- Boyer Center Web Page
- Previous submission
- Internet site (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- NAESP publication
- Other information source \_\_\_\_\_

## ESSAY SECTION

*Directions:*

*Please retype the number, the requested information for each essay and your answers, double-spaced, in type no smaller than 12-point. Please adhere to page limits.*

1. Describe character education in your school and the rationale that supports it. (2 pages)
2. Discuss the role(s) that teachers, students, staff, families, and volunteers play in your commitment to character education. List three persons in the wider community who know your program well, and describe their roles in relationship to it. (3 page)
3. Give examples of ways that character education is included in teaching and learning experiences in your school. (2 pages)
4. Give examples of how leadership, educational resources, and patterns of school organization contribute to character education in your school. (2 pages)

What new challenges and opportunities has the commitment to character education provided for your school and the wider community? If you had the financial resources provided by this award, how would you use them to develop and deepen character education? (1 page)