Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am pleased to announce that Mountain Villa School will be offering a Character Exploration, Social Skills and Awareness Group (Titled: Good Neighbors). This includes all students on a rotating basis in grades K-2. It will consist of the school counselors and up to six students per class/grade. “Good Neighbors” will meet once a week for approximately 15 to 20 minutes. The classroom teacher and counselor chooses the time that will best fit the class schedule. This group will be held virtually using Google Meets and an invitation with information will be sent through email.

This small group is designed to heighten awareness in social skill building, social emotional learning and character development. Research has shown that instruction in pro-social skills can help students learn self-control, self-discipline, and self esteem. It can also encourage problem solving, sensitivity, kindness, and tolerance. The lessons are shared through whole class discussion, small group interaction, and activities designed to be both fun and educational.

While I will use many resources inside the group setting, my main resources are social skills curricula titled Getting Along with Others: *Teaching Social Effectiveness to Children,* and *Developmental Classroom Guidance Activities.*

Skill areas include:

Responsible Behavior

* Emotions
* What is your responsibility?
* How to handle responsibility

Conflict Resolution

* Team building
* Work it out
* Conflict vs. Bullying (what is the difference)

Positive Character Traits

* Character and the effects on me
* Respect for self
* Responsibility reaction
* Tolerance of self and others

Thank you,

Megan Schmidt and Julie Profito

School Counselor