

The Great Kindness Challenge - School Edition

<https://thegreatkindnesschallenge.com/schooledition/>

Grades and setting: pre-K through 12th grade, all school settings (In addition to the school edition, The Great Kindness Challenge provides a family edition:

<https://thegreatkindnesschallenge.com/familyedition/>)

Summary: The Great Kindness Challenge is a grassroots movement, started by Kids for Peace, a global 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, that is working to make our schools, communities, and world a kinder and more compassionate place for all. The Great Kindness Challenge is a proactive and positive bullying prevention initiative that improves school climate and increases student engagement. The Great Kindness Challenge takes place during one week (the last week in January, annually) which is devoted to performing as many acts of kindness as possible on campus. The Great Kindness Challenge provides a checklist and toolkit that actively engages students, teachers, administrators, families, and communities in creating a culture of compassion, acceptance, unity, and respect. The checklist includes 50 kind acts. (Free apps are available as an alternative to paper tools.) The toolkit contains numerous supplemental ideas and examples of how to make the week meaningful and fun. The Great Kindness Challenge Facebook page allows for sharing additional ideas and posting pictures and inspirational stories.

A school district can become “Kindness Certified” by:

1. signing up on the website
2. adding the Great Kindness Challenge to their district calendar
3. posting it on their website
4. promoting and encouraging districtwide participation.

Kindness Certified School Districts receive (at no cost):

1. a Kindness Certified School District seal
2. a Kindness Certified School District certificate
3. logo placement on the Great Kindness Challenge website
4. recognition in social and mainstream media
5. tools to promote The Great Kindness Challenge

Effectiveness/Outcomes: In 2017, over 15 thousand schools and over 10 million students in over 90 countries participated. Over 500 million acts of kindness were completed.

Cost: free

Contact information and useful links:

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/thegreatkindnesschallenge/>

There is a local Kindness Ambassador listed in the West Linn-Wilsonville school district: Laura Barbour, Counselor, Stafford Primary School. 503-673-7150. barbourl@wlwv.k12.or.us

A student from Edison Elementary in Eugene was mentioned in the following 2017 article, so apparently Edison has participated in the program:

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2017/02/prweb14047684.htm>. It is not clear whether other local schools have been involved with this program. There did not appear to be any local “Kindness Certified” school districts locally, based on the district logos on the Great Kindness Challenge website.