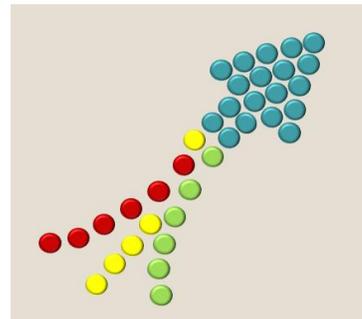


## *Students and Staff Come Together to Create a Solution*

Millbrook, Alabama is part of the greater Montgomery metropolitan area and the home to Millbrook Middle School. Acting on the results of their School Community survey, the school team focused their attention on Character Development as a top priority for their school's Action Plan.



The team was in agreement that more needed to be done to inspire mutual respect between students and between students and teachers. Based on their experience, the team realized that rules and rhetoric would be ineffective in the pursuit of quality character development. They turned to more creative thinking and enlisted the students to become part of the solution to address the school's need. In collaboration, the school team and faculty drafted the plan, and the combined efforts of students, faculty, and staff delivered the solution.

Under the guidance of the school's drama teacher, students worked to identify and describe behavioral issues they were aware of in their school. Next they went to work expressing those issues in writing and articulating potential solutions to be shared with the school community through a series of 10-15 minute skits each targeting one behavioral message.

The skits drew from personal experiences and provided both students and staff an opportunity to display their thespian talents. The skits were presented at the beginning of every school event and were heard by audiences at athletic events, band concerts, PTA meetings, and virtually any other activity where an audience assembled. The skit topics centered on improving levels of respect, responsibility, and courtesy in order to help eliminate bullying in their school.

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## School Community Network Resource Spotlight

### ***Building Block: Goals & Roles*** ***Resource: Creating a Welcoming Place***

The school must be a safe and orderly environment where learning can take place. Creating such an environment should be a shared responsibility and everyone's goal. Policies and procedures should be established and other elements in place to ensure your school is a safe place where students can learn and families and visitors feel welcome.

The School Community Network's Resource library includes rubrics, checklists, forms, tips and even a couple of videos that will give you plenty to consider in creating a Welcoming Place at your school

The **School Community Network's Family Engagement Tool (FET)** is an online family engagement program developed by the Academic Development Institute and is part of the suite of services offered through the School Community Network. The Building Blocks referenced are the framework components common to School Community Network programs and the resources described are available to subscribers of any of the School Community Network programs. For more information visit our website, [www.schoolcommunitynetwork.org](http://www.schoolcommunitynetwork.org).