

# Promising Practices

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## 2020 Promising Practices Highlights

### United States Practices

#### Berlin Community School (NJ) STEAM Maker of the Month Award

*Principle 2: Defines character to include thinking, feeling, and doing.*

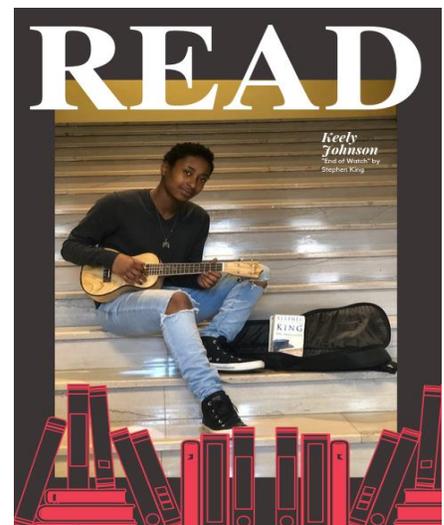
The STEAM Maker of the Month Award recognizes 3-4 students each month who demonstrate respect, kindness, and a love to explore new things. The teacher who created this program puts up a sign in front of each student's home. This Promising Practice has caused quite the positive buzz in the Berlin community.



#### Jefferson City Academic Center (MO) Reading Rockstars

*Principle 7: Fosters a students' self-motivation.*

Jefferson is an alternative high school. In one reading class, students select a favorite book, a place where they would like to be photographed, and props they want to include that reflect their personality and interests. Once the posters are completed and printed, students deliver them to elementary classrooms and display them as visual reminders for younger students to become life-long readers.



## Canyons District (UT)

### Growing a Blessed Life

*Principle 10: Engages families and community members as partners.*

Students, teachers, parents, and volunteers have an active role in planting, cultivating, harvesting, and learning about food sourcing through the school's garden. The school's chef uses all the harvested produce to prepare lunch meals or snacks for the school's extended daycare program. This Promising Practice enhances the school's social studies curriculum, and the compost bin supports STEM learning. Parents and faculty volunteers ensure that the garden is maintained and sustained throughout the year.



## Yorktown Central School District (NY)

### ESTEAM: An Empathy-Based Approach to STEAM Education

*Principle 6: Offers a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum.*

Many are likely familiar with STEM education: science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and in some school districts the arts are added to the equation (STEAM). The Yorktown Central School District is a pioneer in an empathy-based approach to STEAM education. One specific example is how kindergarten students demonstrate their learning after reading *Humpty Dumpty*. After reading the text, the students talk to high school mentors about how

Humpty Dumpty would feel falling off the wall and what good friends would do in that situation. The kindergarten students were next invited to use a finite amount of materials to create a protective casing for Humpty Dumpty so he may be protected when falling off of the wall. The student designs were then loaded into the district's bucket rick and dropped from 15 feet in the air to test the design.



## Eisenhower High School (OK)

### S.O.A.R Life Skills Course (Success, Opportunity, Attitude, Responsibility)

*Principle 2: Defines character to include thinking, feeling, and doing.*

Every first-year student at Eisenhower HS takes a social-emotional/service learning course with a teacher who has been trained to integrate the School Connect curriculum into their own class goals. Students meet with their SOAR teachers Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, upper class students lead the SOAR class and introduce activities they have designed to foster peer-to-peer mentoring, including volunteering at a food pantry or animal shelter.



## North Dover School (NJ)

### Follow the North STAR: Students Taking an Active Role

*Principle 5: Provides students with opportunities for moral action.*

Created by 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers at North Dover, this Promising Practice empowers 6<sup>th</sup> graders to use their school experience and bilingual skills to “take charge” and become “big brothers and sisters” for young students. The older students welcome and greet younger students at the door every morning, work as tour guides for new students, serve as translators, and organize year-round activities that benefit the staff and students at North Dover, where only 19% of students live in homes where English is the primary language.



## International Practices

### Haiti Partners Children's Academy and Learning Center

#### **SASA! – Preventing Violence Against Girls and Women**

*Principle 10: Engages families and community members as partners.*

The Haiti Partners Children's Academy and Learning Center developed the program SASA! in 2015 with the NGO, Beyond Borders. SASA! addresses sexism, domestic violence, sexual harassment and rape in Haitian society. The program helps both Haitian men and women rethink their relationship to power and personal agency. Over 700 parents, staff, and community members within the Children's Academy network have been trained in SASA!



### Secundaria Bilingüe Tec de Monterrey Campus Cd. Juárez (Mexico)

#### **Recycling to Help Others**

*Principle 4: Creates a caring community.*

The entire school community works together to collect plastic that is then sold to a nearby recycling company. The money is used to help Children's Home ("Manantial"), an organization that protects and supports children with a disability, including expenses related to surgeries and special treatments.

