



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Japhet School Embraces Sponsorship of Michigan's State Schools of Character Program; Announces Winning Michigan Schools**

February 12, 2013 – Japhet School, an independent school in metropolitan Detroit, has accepted sponsorship of the State Schools of Character program for Michigan. Japhet School was the first National School of Character in the state of Michigan, and the first independent school in the country to be named a National School of Character. The school shares sponsorship with the Michigan Department of Education. The NSOC/SSOC award program is the flagship of the Character Education Partnership in Washington, DC, and it recognizes exemplary schools that teach character education to children. CEP's mission is to provide the vision, leadership and resources for schools, families and communities to develop ethical citizens committed to building a just and caring world.

Betsy Stecker, Michigan SSOC Coordinator and Japhet School Communications Director, is pleased to announce that **Birmingham Public Schools' Quarton Elementary and Berkshire Middle School have been named State Schools of Character in January 2013. Birmingham's West Maple Elementary, a past winner, renewed its application and was named a winner again for 2013.** All three schools' applications have been forwarded on to the Character Education Partnership in Washington, DC, for national award contention. The Birmingham Public Schools district is dedicated to the inclusion of character education in all its schools, many of which have received awards for their character education programs.

Each year, CEP's state affiliates select schools and districts that demonstrate, through a rigorous evaluation process, that their focus on character development has had a true positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior, and school climate. Selected schools are then named State Schools of Character and forwarded to CEP for consideration for national recognition as National Schools of Character. CEP will announce finalists for the national award by March 1 and national winners in early May.

“These schools have created extremely positive school cultures where students and teachers feel safe and connected to each other in order to ensure the greatest learning environment possible,” said Lara Maupin, CEP's National Schools of Character Director. “By focusing on relationships and what matters most in education, these schools have created the ideal conditions for learning and the students are thriving and growing into future leaders.”

For more information about State and National Schools of Character and how schools can improve through high-quality character education, visit [www.character.org](http://www.character.org).

For more information about Japhet School and its award-winning character education curriculum that is integrated with strong academics, visit [www.japhetschool.org](http://www.japhetschool.org).

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