

Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL QUESTIONS

What factors are most necessary for a successful implementation of the SHAKTI Warriors program?

We believe there are 3 factors needed to best ensure a successful SW implementation:

- 1) **Existing after-school program:** We can't create your program. But with our Shakti Warriors curriculum and ongoing support, we can make your current program more effective.
- 2) **Access to computers (laptops or computer lab):** Having access to computers will make our curriculum more effective. And we encourage a 1 to 1 ratio between participating students and computers. Not having computers would be the equivalent of having a great car without the engine.
- 3) **One caring adult-facilitator for each classroom:** This is probably the most critical component. Our program is powerful and fun but will be completely ineffective without a caring, connected, and EXCITED adult to model the tenets of Shakti and her Warriors!

What grade levels does SHAKTI Warriors support?

SHAKTI Warriors best supports upper elementary-age students (Grades 4-5). Individual programs extend programming to include grades as low as 3rd and as high as 6th. Programs extending the grade levels are encouraged to make age-appropriate modifications to keep students engaged and learning.

Does the curriculum vary from year to year for the students?

The SHAKTI Warriors curriculum is cumulative and vertically aligned. 2nd Year lessons will continue to draw upon the skills sets mastered in the 1st Year.

What's the difference between the 1st and 2nd year functionality?

1st Year Academy students – will have the ability to create their avatar and start earning points to move up the ranks. Students will earn points through their daily point tracking, reading, and clearing the ECHO board.

2nd Year Academy students – in addition to the functions above, 2nd Year Academy students are introduced to the concept of “**ORBS**”. **ORBS** are sort of like digital badges (14 in all) that the students can select which ones they one to earn. Earning this orbs will require the students to step away from the computer and take on real-world tasks such as conducting a fire drill at home, interviewing their parents on a particular topic, participating in energy conversation at home and at school, etc.

How many times a week should I plan to implement the SHAKTI Warriors curriculum?

SHAKTI Warriors should be executed 2-3 times per week, for 45-60 minutes each session. SHAKTI Warrior sessions should alternate between the [Hands on Learning Tools](#) and the [Online Digital Curriculum](#). There are instances over the course of the curriculum where you execute consecutive lessons with either the Learning Tools or the Digital Curriculum.

What do I do if my students want to be ‘Chaos’ and not a super hero?

Many students find Chaos ‘cool’ and want to be like Chaos. Chaos was specifically designed to ‘draw kids in’ – because he mirrors the challenges they often face in their real world environments. When your students state that they want to be like Chaos, this provides the greatest teachable moments within the SHAKTI Warriors curriculum. Characters within the SW curriculum represent particular actions performed by students. Consequently, students embodying the destructive actions (anger, low self-esteem, inferior health patterns, by-standing, disobedience, apathy and negativity) are said to be the students wanting to be like Chaos. Teachers are encouraged to challenge their students on this point and have them explain why they want to be like Chaos. What value does that have to them and why? In the end, we tell students that the SHAKTI Warriors program is specific for those students that want to make a positive difference in the world and not create more Chaos.

What do I do if my students don’t seem engaged?

Trust the curriculum! Sometimes, when students disengage, this is not a reflection of the lack of engaging activities. Many times, students

experience difficulty identifying attributes within themselves that embody necessary power and potential. Students should be encouraged to begin brainstorming with a partner who is familiar with what they do well and begin showing them how their interests, memories, talents, and beliefs all work as one to produce a strong sense of self. Students can begin to understand how their make-up lends itself to the power within.

For individual assignments, students sometimes withdraw because they might not understand the purpose of the activity or they feel they are not prepared to complete the activity. Teachers are encouraged to review the purpose and instructions with the student to discover the 'disconnect' and then begin discussing strategies the student can use to complete the day's activity.

GETTING STARTED

How do I begin the SHAKTI Warriors program?

There are three administrative levels to the SHAKTI Warriors program:

- 1) [District Manager](#) – overseer all SW initiatives across multiple schools
- 2) [School Manager](#) – overseer of SW program at the school level
- 3) [Classroom Manager](#) – typically engages with the children in the classroom and the hands-on level.

All administrative levels should receive a 'WELCOME to SHAKTI Warriors' email inviting you to complete your SW Administrative setup. If you did not receive this, please check with your immediate SW supervisor. There is a link within this email that connects you to the appropriate SW Admin screens for your administrative level.

You will only need to set up your SHAKTI Warriors administrative information once. Once it has been set up, going forward, you can access the SW Administrative Screens by going to the www.shaktiwarriors.com homepage and scrolling to the bottom and clicking on: **SHAKTI Admin.**)

Below is what you will need to complete at each level:

District Managers:

1. Create YOUR username and password on the SW administrative "setup page".

2. For each school participating in your district, you will need to provide a name and email contact for each school. Doing so will trigger an email to be sent to that school manager inviting them to provide the school information.

NOTE: THIS is the FIRST STEP in the process.

School Managers:

1. Create YOUR username and password using the SW administrative pages from the WELCOME email you would have received from your district manager.
2. Enter each classroom name and the classroom manager for that room into the SW administrative "setup".

Classroom Manager:

1. Create YOUR username and password on the SW administrative screen.
2. Set up a session for your classroom.
3. Enter in your school and classroom information.
4. Complete you classroom roster (make sure you have your complete class listing with each student's username and password).

What steps do I need to take first in order to ensure the program begins successfully?

There are two main things you need to do to begin the program properly.

First, make sure you have followed the steps above and completed your SW Admin Setup.

Second, you need to confirm that your computer environment has been set up properly. This will require the following:

1. Make sure your school has given you access to the SHAKTI Warriors website address. www.shaktiwarriors.com
2. Make sure you have updated your computer web browsers to the most current version of the browsers.
3. Make sure your have updated your computers with the most current version of Adobe Flash.

Note: Check out our "Getting Started Checklist" - For a comprehensive list of things to do to start properly. See below for this checklist.

What do I do if I have not received my SHAKTI Warriors Kit? Whom should I call?

SHAKTI Warriors Kits are mailed after full receipt of payment. If you have any questions about your kit – please email us at info@shaktiwarriors.com and put in the subject header: **I HAVE NOT RECEIVED MY KIT!**

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

What if a student is having trouble logging in?

99% of the time, students having troubles logging-in are due to incorrect username or password spelling or case sensitivity of usernames and passwords.

I can't remember my super hero name. The best way to resolve this is to log on to the SW site and click on the "[meet other warriors](#)" page. There you will be able to search the usernames. Have the students get as close as they can in remembering their name and search on this. The system will return a list of super hero names matching that search request. Sort through the list with the student and hopefully you will be able to select the proper spelling of their super hero name.

I can't remember my password. If they are having a password issues you can reset their password on you SW Admin – student roster screen. First, make sure the student has been added to your roster. Once added there is a option for you to reset their password. We encourage you to make their password something simple for them to remember.

What if a super hero name is already taken?

The SW superhero team is forever growing and sometimes, another student has selected a superhero name. Fear not!! Simply personalizing your name makes it fit for your student's use and no other. Encourage your students to add a personal slant to their chosen name and chances are no other student will have their newly created name.

Taken super hero name: Ultragirl

New personalized name: Ultragirl2, UltragirlRED, Ultra-girlVA

Going forward you can still call them Ultragirl - not ultragirlred or ultragirlva.

LESSON PLAN QUESTIONS

How do I differentiate instruction if I have 1st and 2nd Year SW Academy Students in together in one classroom?

From the teachers' perspective, the instruction is the same. Conducting the hands on learning exercises (i.e. Lesson Plans, Board Games, reading aloud, etc.) can be done as a group consisting of both 1st and 2nd year academy students. When the students are working on the SW website – the 1st year academy students will be directed to the portion of the site for 1st year students and the 2nd year academy students will be directed to the portion of the site for 2nd year academy students. The only differentiation will be for the teacher to be familiar with the differences between 1st year functionality and 2nd year functionality to be able to answer any questions that the students may have.

What if I don't know the answers to some of the board game questions the students choose?

First, it's important that you review the questions in the board game and remove any questions that you feel may not be appropriate for your students. You know the maturity level of your students so reviewing the questions in advance is a good thing to do. Most importantly, do not ask any question that you feel is not appropriate for the participants involved. If you feel you don't know the answer to the question - feel free to select another question.

Also, feel free to research the answer on your own with fellow teachers and school administrator so you are able to discuss with your students later.

Do I have to play the board game with the students or is this something they should do as a group as I simply facilitate?

We encourage the curriculum facilitator (teacher or coach) to moderate the board game and not participate. Be patient and consistently remind students that this game is designed to provide fun, yet realistic ways to respond to situations. Remember, students will model your demeanor and attention to detail during the initial sessions.

Should I read the comic books to the students?

YES! The comic books provide the back stories for Shakti and her team of heroes. Reading these aloud to students is a great way for your group to interact and collectively understand the scope of the SHAKTI Warriors. The comic books provide strong group reading possibilities and are one of the most useful hands-on tools to draw students into the curriculum during the early stages.

Should the students read the comic books in groups? Individually? At home?

There are times in which each of these options will be appropriate; we encourage you to judge each method in context. It can be difficult to keep track of the comics if students are allowed to read at home so be careful to record when students check out the comic books to read at home.

What resources can I use if I need more support about the bullying terminology / lesson plans?

There are several links on our corporate website (www.swheroes.com) that can be used to provide additional information. Please visit the section on “info for schools, CBO’s and Partners” and click on “About our Content Providers”. This will provide links to our industry experts and links to their websites for additional information.

What if I need to order more badges? Comic books? Posters?

Communicate all program needs and replacement parts to curriculumsupport@shaktiwarriors.com.

Whom do I contact if I need help with the lesson plans or other curriculum components?

Please communicate all curriculum support needs to curriculumsupport@shaktiwarriors.com.

How often should I use the comic books?

The comic books should be used in the beginning to introduce the students to the super heroes back-stories.

How often should the students play the board game?

We encourage you to introduce the board game between weeks 3 and 4 of the program depending on how fast your school is progressing through the program. After the board game has been introduced, we encourage you to play the board game with your students every week or every other week.

How often should 1st Year Academy Students be online?

The first few sessions do not require online programming. However, after online programming commences, students should be online roughly every other SW session.

How often should 2nd Year Academy students be online?

Same as above.

What if students confides in me about a bullying 'hot-spot'? Whom should I contact at my school?

First, congratulate your student for being an up-stander and not a by-stander in a bullying scenario. Be sure to confidentially secure all of the information regarding location, participants, and the incident recalled by your student. From there, please deliver all information to your principal, school safety authorities, your school-wide RTI or PBIS team / team leader, and school counselors.

Does the SWs team allow students to hang up work created from the lesson plans, etc.? Whom should I contact about this?

Many programs display boards to exhibit the work and progress of their students so feel free to do so!! We do allow for this and actively encourage programs to submit their successes to us for celebration. Simply check with your school administrators to be certain that where and how you display students' work is acceptable.

What if students want to join the SWs program in the middle of implementation, will this be okay?

Of course. New students are always encouraged to join the program.

Where can I get more information about the SWs lesson plan standards?

Our links to CCSS (or CCCS) & SEL can be found at:

CCSS (or CCCS):

<http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards>

SEL (Free-standing SEL standards supported by CASEL and first implemented in Illinois):

http://www.isbe.net/ils/social_emotional/standards.htm

STUDENT QUESTIONS

Are Shakti and the Warriors real?

Yes. The Shakti Warriors are real... in spirit. Just like you, these Warriors were at one time a "regular" person. But at some point in their life, they made the decision to commit themselves to doing good work in the world and being of service to other people.

Can I really become a super hero?

Like the Warriors, you too can become a super hero. Remember, being a super hero is less about having extraordinary powers like flying or extraordinary strength but instead about applying your powers to do good work in the world.

We ALL have extraordinary powers within us. Many of us, however, do not take time to understand what our gifts and powers truly are, which is why it is so important to take 'Time-Ins'. It is during 'Time-In's' that we can quiet our thoughts and hear the super hero within.

Where's the Shakti Academy located?

The SHAKTI Warriors academy is currently under concept development. We have not yet chosen an actual location. However, the goal is to one day accept super-heroes-in-training from all over the world, for a 2-4 week stay at the Super Hero Academy for Knowledge Training and Integrity (SHAKTI).

Are Chaos and his minions real?

Yes, the spirit of Chaos and his minions are real. They reflect real people who have chosen to use their powers for less positive work in the world. The negative effects of Chaos and his minions can be seen in your classrooms, schools, communities, and all over the world.

What is an alter ego?

For the purposes of the SHAKTI Warriors curriculum, your alter ego is the best possible version of yourself.