



WILDCAT WISDOM



October, 2003

Character Education Newsletter

Series 1 Issue 1

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 • "No child is more disadvantaged than a child without character."
 • Bob Muir, Co-publisher of *Rising Wisdom Magazine*
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Character Education: Learning to do What is Right

Life is full of choices. Everyone has the choice to do the right thing or not. Character has been described as "what we do when no one is looking" (H. Jackson Browne) Character, however, doesn't just happen. Everyone plays a part in helping to cultivate good character in children. Parents, though, play the most vital role. They serve as role models, mentors and teachers.

Our Character Ed. classes here at PCHS are designed to assist parents in cultivating good character qualities in your children. The main purpose of Character Ed. is to reinforce what parents are already doing to develop character in their children.

During the school year, students will be involved in various lessons and activities that emphasize the following character principles: respect, responsibility, caring, justice, honesty, trustworthiness, fairness and citizenship.



Responsibility

Something About Responsibility

"Nothing strengthens the judgment and quickens the conscience like individual responsibility."

—Elizabeth Cady Stanton

"In the final analysis, the one quality that all successful people have...is the ability to take on responsibility."

—Michael Korda

"Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon him, and to let him know that you trust him."

—Booker T. Washington

"You teach character most by what you do, not what you say."

—Anonymous

"If we want our children to possess the traits of character we most admire, we need to teach them what those traits are and why they deserve both admiration and allegiance. Children must learn to identify the forms and content of those traits."

—William J. Bennett, former U.S. Secretary of Education

Character Principles

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| • Responsibility | • Respect |
| • Trustworthiness | • Justice |
| • Citizenship | • Fairness |
| • Honesty | • Caring |

Encouraging Responsibility

Assign home responsibilities to all family members.

Even though it is often easier to clear the table, take out the trash, or load the dishwasher ourselves than wait for a child to do it, we have an obligation to help children learn to balance their own needs and wishes against those of other family members—and ultimately, other members of society.

Set clear expectations for your children and hold them accountable for their actions.

Defining reasonable limits and enforcing them appropriately establishes the parents as the moral leaders in the home and provides a sense of security to children. It also lets them know that you care enough about them to want them to be, or become, people of good character.

Refuse to cover for your children or make excuses for their inappropriate behavior.

Shielding children and youth from the logical consequences of their actions fails to teach them personal responsibility.

Read stories or newspaper articles with your child.

Discuss whether responsibility was shown among people, nationalities, countries, etc.

Whose Responsibility?

This is a story about four people: “Everybody,” “Somebody,” “Anybody,” and “Nobody.” There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody’s job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn’t do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when actually Nobody asked Anybody.

Discussion Questions About Responsibility

1. What responsibilities do you have at home? School?
2. What are some responsibilities we have to members of our community?
3. What are some characteristics of a person who is responsible?
4. Do you think it is important for your friends and family members to be responsible? Why?
5. What does the Golden Rule have to do with responsibility?
6. Discuss people who you know are responsible and how they demonstrate responsibility.

Got Character?

People of character are **responsible**. They are accountable, show self-restraint, and pursue excellence. They mean it when they say, “**You can count on me.**”

Being responsible is part of a person of character. **Being responsible means that we do the right thing even when no one is looking.** We do the right thing just because it is right and not because we will get credit or praise for doing it.

Students have been working for the past week on character education essays for the State Department of Education. They will be sent to Charleston shortly for gradings. Last years winners were Sarah Mallow (7th), Lance Kimble (8th), Kaci Evans (9th), Jonie Nelson (10th), Brandon Judy (11th) and Kelly Stickler (12th).

Six Practices for Good Character

- Do what you are supposed to do.
- Persevere - Keep on keeping on!
 - Always do your best.
- Use self-control; be self-disciplined.
- Think before you act - consider the consequences.
 - Be accountable for your choices.