Making Character Count



The Six Pillars Of Character

T rustworthiness

R espect

R esponsibility

F airness

C aring

C itizenship

**Additional Pillars:**

Integrity

Honesty

Diligence

Courage

**Trustworthiness**

Be honest • Don’t deceive, cheat, or steal • Be reliable — do what you say you’ll do • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal — stand by your family, friends, and country

**Respect**

Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant and accepting of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don’t threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements

**Responsibility**

Do what you are supposed to do • Plan ahead • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act — consider the consequences • Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes • Set a good example for others

**Fairness**

Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don’t take advantage of others • Don’t blame others carelessly • Treat all people fairly

**Caring**

Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need

**Citizenship**

Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment • Volunteer

**Integrity**

Do what is right, even when it is costly or difficult. • Be true to your very best self • Live up to the highest ethical standards • Don't compromise values by giving in to temptation.

**Diligence**

Do your best; strive for excellence •  Be willing to risk failure for a worthy goal • Be self-disciplined •  Make sure to learn from mistakes and failures • Try to see the big picture and think long term • Set goals and stay focused • Don't give up just because things seem difficult • Don't procrastinate.

**Courage**

Stand up for what is right even if you stand alone • Don't cave in to negative peer pressure • Fear of failure does not prevent you from trying things • Do not be afraid to express yourself just because some people might disapprove • Work to solve problems without violence • Never intentionally ridicule, embarrass, or hurt others.

**Honesty**

Be truthful, sincere, and straightforward • Don't lie, cheat, or steal • Don't intentionally mislead others.

**Living the Six Pillars of Character at Our School**

**Based on the "Do" s and "Don't"s**

**1. List the Best and Worst examples of the six Pillars of Character you have witnessed in action at your school during recent weeks in the chart below.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Best Examples** | **Worst Examples** |
|  |  |

**The 6 Aspects of Fairness**

* **Merit- A person is entitled to whatever he/ she can earn or acquire based on skill, talent, and or hard work.**
* **Need- A person is entitled to whatever he/ she needs.**
* **Might- A person is entitled to whatever he/ she can acquire through power.**
* **Equality- A person is entitled to an equal share.**
* **Seniority- A person is entitled to benefits such as jobs and compensation based on how long they have been working for an organization.**
* **Effort- A person is entitled to benefits in proportion to the effort he/ she expends irrespective of merit, need or power.**
* **How Do You Decide What Is Fair?**
* Every month "Noname High School" picks a "Student of the Month." The teachers can only pick one student for this honor. This month, the teachers who pick are torn among four students who qualify. Based on the information provided, which student would you choose to be honored?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Student** | **Description** | **Your****Selection** | **Reason** |
| **John** | He is a senior who always has good grades. He is very popular, and has never needed any honors or support to do well. |  |  |
| **Nicole** | She is a freshman, and fairly new to the school. Her grades are decent. she does not have many friends though. this dilemma honor could really help her out of her dilemma. |  |  |
| **Scott** | He used to be known as the brain of the sophomore class. Lately his grades have slipped and he has been hanging |  |  |
| **Regina** | She is a junior, and is really "into" sports. She gets A's and B's on everything, and is known by everyone. Also |  |  |

**Ethical Decision Making**

1. Read the following situation
2. Without consulting with your group, put an X by the choice that comes closest to stating what you WOULD most probably do under the circumstances. Please try to honestly predict what you would do, not what you think is expected of you.
3. Again, on your own without consulting with your group, put an X by the choice that best states what you think you SHOULD do (the most ethically proper answer).

**Scenario**

A close friend gets a job as assistant manager of an electronics store. You visit her and she gives you an MP3 player saying, "The owner is really stupid and the inventory system is so bad here they never know what they have. Even my manager takes stuff home. You can have this if you want."

You Would: You Should:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Take it - it must not be wrong or illegal since even the manager takes discs. |  |
|  | Take it since, whether it is legal or not, it is the owner's fault for having such a bad inventory system and you will have done nothing wrong because an employee gave it to you. |  |
|  | Take it even though you think it is wrong because you want the discs and don't want to pay for it. |  |
|  | Take it even though you think it is wrong because your friend was just being nice and you don't want to embarrass her. |  |
|  | Politely refuse, making an excuse like you don't really need it or you already have them.  |  |
|  | Refuse and counsel your friend that she is, in effect, stealing from the owners and the fact that others are doing it doesn't make it right.  |  |
|  | Report your friend to the owner.  |  |

To what extent are the answers to the "would's" different from the "should's" and WHY?

**In** other words, what keeps us from doing what we know we should do?

**Ethics Challenge**

***DIRECTIONS: READ EACH SITUATION CAREFULLY. SELECT THE RESPONSE THAT MOST HONESTLY DESCRIBES WHAT YOU WOULD* DO *IN REPONSE TO THE SITUATION.***

**Situation 1:** You give the school lunch lady a $10 bill for your lunch. She is very busy and mistakenly gives you change for a twenty. Would you:

1. Tell the lunch lady that she gave you too much change and return the extra ten dollars?
2. Probably keep the extra ten dollars?

**Situation 2:** You accidentally lose a school library book. The library sends you a bill for $28. A friend tells you that he also lost a library book, but paid no fine. He admits he lied to the librarian when he insisted that he returned the book. Would you:

1. Tell the librarian that a mistake was made and you already returned the book?
2. Pay the fine?

**Situation 3**: In between classes at school, three of your friends make fun of another student. These students make insulting comments about the unpopular student's appearance and family. It is obvious that the unpopular student feels hurt and embarrassed. Would you:

1. Walk away and not participate?
2. Probably join with your friends and make insulting remarks?
3. Attempt to stop your friends from making fun of the other student?

**Situation 4:** You rush out of your math class. You are hoping to run into someone you have a mad crush on. As you run through the hall, you accidentally bump into another student, causing books and papers to scatter across the hall. You know that if you stop and help the student, you will not see your crush. Would you:

1. Stop, apologize, and help pick up the books and papers?
2. Apologize and then continue running to see your crush, without picking up the books and papers?
3. Act like the accident was the others student's fault and not do or say anything?

**Situation 5:** When your homeroom teacher steps out of class for a minute, you see another student take money from her desk. The money was collected as part of a school fundraiser. Would you:

1. Say nothing, because you don't want to be the tattletale?
2. Tell the teacher or another school official?
3. Talk to the student and ask him or her to return the money?
4. Leave an unsigned note or phone message that points to the student's guilt?

**Situation 6:** A student at your school offers to sell you brand new CDs for only $4 each. When you examine the CDs you notice part of a price tag from a local store. Would you:

1. Buy the CDs because they are a great value?
2. Walk away, because it would be wrong to by the CDs that are probably stolen?
3. Tell the principle or dean that a student is selling "Hot" merchandise?

**Situation 7:** You are doing poorly in class. If you do not earn a good grade on the final test, you may have to go to summer school. A day before the exam, another student tells you she has a stolen copy of the final test. Would you:

1. Take the stolen copy of the final test?
2. Not take the stolen copy of the final test?

**Situation 8:** When your wallet is missing, you accuse another student of taking it. As a result, the other student is suspended from school. Two days later, you find your wallet at home. Would you:

1. Say nothing because you would get in trouble for making a false accusation?
2. Tell the principal you make a mistake and accept the consequences?



"I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion then it will start a chain reaction of the same." **- Rachel Scott**

"We met the first day of class (fourth grade) and she shined back then too. Here's just one quick story:
I remember one Halloween. I wore a Zorro costume to school, and I hated it because my mom made it and I felt pretty dorky. And Rachel came to me and said, 'What's wrong with you, Serge? I love Zorro. I like him. I'd like to be him. You wanna switch costumes with me?' end ever since then, we just had this bond that just grew and grew ever since our first play in fourth grade until our last play that we performed at Columbine." - Sergio Gonzales, Rachel's friend

"Rachel was the only one at prom in a black dress. Everyone else was wearing bright colors and pastels, but there she was in black. No one could have pulled it off more gracefully, and no other color would have looked better on her. She looked like a movie star arriving for the Oscars. She was like that though, never doing what everyone else was doing just because everyone else was doing it, and never being different just for the sake of being different." –

 Nick Baumgart, Rachel's friend and prom date

Which of the 5 Challenges influence you the most? Why?

Write down 3 of your major life goals.

What will it take to accomplish these goals?

**Pillar Review**

[**Scenarios**](http://attachments.wetpaintserv.us/Supplements/scenarios.ppt)

**Jordan**

 **Pillar(s):**

 **Reason(s):**

**Josh**

 **Pillar(s):**

 **Reason(s):**

**Andrea**

 **Pillar(s):**

 **Reason(s):**

**Lindsay**

 **Pillar(s):**

 **Reason(s):**