

Integrity



ÓMoral courage and character go hand in hand ... a man of real character is consistently courageous, being imbued with a basic integrity and a firm sense of principle.Ó ~ Martha Boaz

Dear Parents,

In July, we will be discussing the importance of demonstrating integrity in

everything we do, even when no one is looking. Without integrity, there is no trust, commitment, or honesty in anything we do. We will be talking about several aspects of integrity this month, including how integrity involves being honest, taking action, being reliable, and how showing integrity never means compromising your personal values. Students will learn why having a high level of integrity is crucial to living a successful and fulfilling life.

We understand how crucial teaching children the importance of character development and life skills is. As a result, we have provided a few suggestions below on how you can help your children learn the importance of integrity.

1. Teach your children there are no false promises. As a parent, you have a tremendous influence on your children's ideals and thoughts on integrity. Go out of your way to follow up on any and all promises made to your children and make sure you are always demonstrating the high level of personal integrity. Make sure to point out opportunities when you made them a commitment and delivered.

2. Help them understand integrity means reliability. Begin by giving them weekly responsibilities around the house. As they successfully complete those tasks in the time they were given, make sure to reward them. If they do not complete the tasks, create a consequence and use it to talk about reliability. Help them understand the link between reliability and integrity.

3. Remind them once integrity is lost, it is very difficult to get it back. Sometimes it can be difficult for children to understand integrity can be lost just as quickly as it is given. To help, get a jar and fill it with some coins. Explain integrity and trust are like an emotional bank account. Everytime they do something to gain trust and integrity, deposit another coin in the jar. Anytime they do something to make you question their integrity, take three coins from the jar. Help them understand it takes much longer to build integrity than it does to get it back.

July
2010

Theme of
the Month

This month our
weekly lessons
will cover:

Week One:

"Integrity is doing the right thing, even if nobody is watching."
— Anonymous

Week Two:

"It's not what we digest that makes us strong; not what we gain but what we save that makes us rich; not what we read but what we remember that makes us learned; and not what we profess but what we practice that gives us integrity."
— Francis Bacon, Sr.

Week Three:

"Integrity is what we do, what we say, and what we say we do."
— Don Galer

Week Four:

"Integrity is not a conditional word. It doesn't blow in the wind or change with the weather. It is your inner image of yourself, and if you look in there and see a man who won't cheat, then you know he never will."
— John D. MacDonald

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