

A PERSON OF CHARACTER . . .

- Is a good person, someone to look up to and admire. ▪ Knows the difference between right and wrong and always tries to do what is right. ▪ Sets a good example for everyone.
- Makes the world a better place. ▪ Lives according to the “Six Pillars of Character”:
TRUSTWORTHINESS, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, FAIRNESS, CARING and CITIZENSHIP

TRUSTWORTHINESS

- Integrity** — **DO:** Stand up for your beliefs • Follow your conscience • Be honorable and upright • Live by your principles no matter what others say • Have the courage to do what is right and to try new things even when it is hard, costly • Build and guard your reputation
DON'T: Do anything wrong • Lose heart if you fail or don't get what you want
- Honesty** — **DO:** Tell the truth and nothing but the truth • Be sincere • Be forthright and candid
DON'T: Lie • Cheat • Steal • Be sneaky, tricky, or deceptive
- Reliability** — **DO:** Keep your promises • Honor your word and commitments • Be dependable • Do what you are supposed to do • Return what you borrow • Pay your debts • Be on time
- Loyalty** — **DO:** Stand by and protect your family, friends, school and country • Be a good friend • Look out for those who care about you • Keep secrets of those who trust you
DON'T: Betray a trust • Let your friends hurt themselves • Do anything just so others will like you • Ask a friend to do anything wrong or spread gossip that could hurt others

RESPECT

- Golden Rule** — **DO:** Treat others the way you want to be treated • Respect the dignity, privacy and freedom of all individuals • Value and honor all people, no matter what they can do for you or to you • Respect others' property — take good care of property you are allowed to use and don't take or use property without permission • Respect the autonomy of others — tell them what they should know to make good choices about their own lives
DON'T: Use or manipulate others • Abuse, demean, or mistreat anyone
- Tolerance and Acceptance** — **DO:** Judge others on their character, abilities, and conduct without regard to race, religion, gender, where they live, how they dress, or the amount of money they have • Be tolerant, respectful, and accepting of those who are different from you • Listen to others and try to understand their points of view
- Nonviolence** — **DO:** Resolve disagreements, respond to insults, and deal with anger peacefully and without violence
DON'T: Use threats or physical force to get what you want or to express anger
- Courtesy** — **DO:** Use good manners • Be courteous, polite and civil to everyone
DON'T: Use put-downs, insults or ridicule to embarrass or hurt others

RESPONSIBILITY

- Duty** — **DO:** Know and do your duty • Acknowledge and meet your legal and moral obligations
- Accountability** — **DO:** Accept responsibility for the consequences of your choices, not only for what you do but what you don't do • Think about consequences on yourself and others before you act • Think long-term • Do what you can do to make things better • Set a good example
DON'T: Look the other way when you can make a difference • Make excuses or blame others
- Pursue Excellence** — **DO:** Your best • Persevere • Don't quit • Be prepared • Be diligent • Work hard • Make all you do worthy of pride
- Self-Control** — **DO:** Take charge of your own life • Set realistic goals • Keep a positive outlook • Be prudent and self-disciplined with your health, emotions, time and money • Be rational — act out of reason not anger, revenge or fear • Know the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do • Be self-reliant — manage your life so you are not dependent on others; pay your own way whenever you can

FAIRNESS

- Justice** — **DO:** Be fair and just • Treat people equally • Make decisions without favoritism or prejudice • In imposing punishment be sure the consequences for wrongdoing are consistent, certain, and proportional (not too harsh or lenient)
DON'T: Take more than your fair share • Take advantage of or blame others unfairly
- Openness** — **DO:** Be open-minded and impartial — consider what people have to say before you decide • Be careful — get the facts, including opposing viewpoints, before making decisions (especially blaming or accusing another)

CARING

- Concern for Others** — **DO:** Be compassionate and empathetic • Be kind, loving, and considerate • Be thankful and express gratitude for what people do for you • Forgive others for their shortcomings
DON'T: Be mean, cruel or insensitive
- Charity** — **DO:** Be charitable and altruistic — give money, time, support, comfort without strings for the sake of making someone else's life better, not for praise or gratitude • Help people in need

CITIZENSHIP

- Do Your Share** — **DO:** Be a good citizen and a good neighbor • Care about and pursue the common good • Be a volunteer — help your school and community be better, cleaner, and safer • Protect the environment by conserving resources, reducing pollution, and cleaning up after yourself • Participate in making things better by voicing your opinion, voting, serving on committees, reporting wrongdoing and paying taxes
- Respect Authority and the Law** — **DO:** Play by the rules • Obey parents, teachers, coaches, and others who have been given authority • Observe just laws • Honor and respect principles of democracy

UNDERLINED words are vocabulary words to be learned at the appropriate developmental level.