

# Family Newsletter

## Dear Parent:

Respect is a critical element in all healthy relationships. When children respect others, they treat people with consideration and courtesy and do not violate them physically or verbally. Respect for others should be woven into the fabric of each student's life and characterize all of their relationships. It is a fundamental character quality that prepares children to live productive lives as they relate to and work with others.

Respect for others is based on self-respect and self-respect in children comes from being treated with respect by their parents and other adult role models. Teaching children self-respect does not mean complimenting everything they do. They also need honest criticism. When we do criticize, we should focus on things they have done, not on them personally.

### What You Can Do:

- Encourage your child to build a positive identity that focuses on his/her integrity and talents.
- Emphasize that character is built upon the decisions and actions a person takes.
- Help your child reach his/her full potential by encouraging him/her to develop their talents, set reachable goals and honor themselves as a unique person.
- Teach your child how to choose good values.



Character Education: Middle

January



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### Six Ways to Teach Respect:

Do as I do - Children learn from the example show them.  
Do as I say - Do as I say will be better received after "do as I do" has been taken care of.  
Show them respect - Respect is not only about showing people who are older than you regard. It's about establishing in everyone's mind the dignity of the human person.  
Teach them at an early age - It's never too late to teach and model respectful behavior but always start as soon as possible.  
Negative and Positive Responses - Learn to show disapproval when they talk or act disrespectfully to others. When they act respectfully ALWAYS show your appreciation or approval of their actions.  
Monitor their environment - When people come to your house, let them know that bad manners are strongly discouraged. The goal of your home is to make everyone feel respected.