



St. John's Episcopal School
Olney, Maryland

Spread The Word, March 2018 MAESA Matters Newsletter

Character is at the heart of the educational experience for our students today. We believe, as an Episcopal school, without a strong character program which grows a student's moral compass, we are doing a great disservice to our children and would not be fulfilling our Episcopal mission. This belief is why St. John's Episcopal School has always focused on a three-fold model of education; academics, character, and faith.

Research indicates that certain character traits play the most significant role in enabling students to achieve a lifetime of learning and success. St. John's Episcopal School has identified these nine Traits for Success as Organization, Attentiveness, Courage, Faith, Persistence, Positive Attitude, Flexibility, Generosity and Responsibility. It is these nine critical aspects of character that become the focus of interactions and become the language for our community

Each month during the school year, we focus on one of the Traits for Success. In the classroom, at assemblies, during Chapel, and in the lunchroom, and in many facets of school life during the school day, we highlight that trait. Monthly assemblies are themed to each trait, and morning announcements give tips and helpful information to students on how to personally improve on each trait. We highlight role models, famous and local, and how these traits have been important in their success. These traits seamlessly become a part of each student's daily life.

In our Lower School, in addition to the daily pats on the back, students are recognized at weekly assemblies when they exhibit a Success Trait. Perhaps a student showed generosity by helping another student with a difficult task. Or, they showed positive attitude and persistence by continuing to work on a difficult project. Or, the exhibited courage by standing up for something they believed in.

Our older students are challenged on a daily basis to embody and display these traits for success, as they prepare to go on to high school and enter a world which will challenge their character. In preparation for projects and field trips, in discussions of literature and culture, these nine traits are woven into the fabric of the day. We have heard from the high schools that our graduates attend that St. John's students can be counted on, are on time, know their responsibilities, give and seek support, and are prepared. We believe this is a direct result of the character traits we instill in our students.

We are confident of our academic strength; with the foundation of these traits, we know that our students have the tools as well as the knowledge to be successful; our mission to strengthen our students faith, let's us believe that they will use this success wisely and for the benefit of others.

St. John's Episcopal School is celebrating 57 years of commitment "to graduate students of character and faith," and focusing on preparing our students for whatever the future might bring.

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