



Be Proactive

Habit 1: Be Proactive is about taking responsibility for your life. You can't keep blaming everything on your parents or grandparents. Proactive people recognize that they are "response-able." They don't blame genetics, circumstances, conditions, or conditioning for their behavior. They know they choose their behavior. Reactive people, on the other hand, are often affected by their physical environment. They find external sources to blame for their behavior. If the weather is good, they feel good. If it isn't, it affects their attitude and performance, and they blame the weather. All of these external forces act as stimuli that we respond to. Between the stimulus and the response is your greatest power--you have the freedom to choose your response. One of the most important things you choose is what you say. Your language is a good indicator of how you see yourself. A proactive person uses proactive language--I can, I will, I prefer, etc. A reactive person uses reactive language--I can't, I have to, if only. Reactive people believe they are not responsible for what they say and do--they have no choice.



Begin With the End in Mind

Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind. To begin with the end in mind means to start with a clear understanding of your destination. It means to know where you're going so that you better understand where you are now so that the steps you take are always in the right direction. Student goals ranged from tying their shoe laces to earning their black belts to learning to play the violin to reading all of the Mark Twain Award nominated books. Not only are students focusing on setting goals, they are working on the action steps to accomplish these goals and monitor their own progress along the way. We are excited to see our students grow to new heights this year!



Put First Things First

Habit 3: To Put First Things First means that I take care of important business before I take care of unimportant business. Here are some student examples of what it means to put first things first. "I need to do my chores; before I can go play." "I need to do my homework, before I can go play." "I get dressed before I go to school." "Learning before playing."



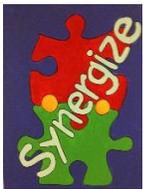
Think Win-Win

Habit 4: Think Win-Win isn't about being nice, nor is it a quick-fix technique. It is a character-based code for human interaction and collaboration. Many people think in terms of either/or: either you're nice or you're tough. Win-win requires that you be both. It is a balancing act between courage and consideration. To go for win-win, you not only have to be empathic, but you also have to be confident. You not only have to be considerate and sensitive, you also have to be brave. To do that--to achieve that balance between courage and consideration--is the essence of real maturity and is fundamental to win-win.



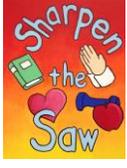
Seek First to Understand; Then to be Understood

Habit 5: Seek first to understand; then to be understood. So many times we only hear half of what someone is saying. We don't take time to listen to the full story before we make our conclusion. Students and staff have been working on becoming better leaders by fully listening to what someone else is saying before responding and also having enough courage to share their thoughts or ideas in a respectful way.



Synergize

Habit 6: Synergize. Many times we think of synergize as just working together as a team, but it does not only mean to work together it also means to value each other and the strengths that each person brings to the team.



Sharpen the Saw

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw. Habit 7 is all about finding ways to take care of yourself: body, heart, mind and spirit. Student examples of habit 7 are exercising, reading a favorite book, helping someone else, find a place to relax, and spending time in prayer or meditation.