Enhancing a Culture of Civility via Schools, Homes, & Communities

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The increased focus of public education on academics has minimized the teaching of civil behavior which was once prevalent in American schools. (Peck, 2002)
Our Fading Civility

“Civility carries with it the essence of courtesy, politeness, and consideration for others. All of the education and accomplishments in the world will not count for much unless they are accompanied by marks of gentility, of respect for others, of going the extra mile.”

Gordon B. Hinckley

*Standing For Something*
Stewardship - It takes an entire community

The concept of the school as the center of change must not be interpreted to mean that the school alone can do what is necessary.

Goodlad (1994)
Stewardship

1. Sustain – maintain effective practice
2. Renew – improve practice
3. Enhance – outcomes to the public
Goal

- Academic success
- Civil, responsible, skilled citizens
The 3 C's

Character

It is well for educators everywhere.

Conduct

In my opinion the highest, noblest purpose when teaching the young to have in mind the three “C’s” as well as the three “R’s” mentioned so proverbially...

Citizenship

David O. McKay

David O. McKay

McKay
We envision a positive school environment that nurtures the academic success of all students through the development of:

- social, emotional and behavioral skills
- characteristics necessary for meaningful relationships
- ability to deal with adversity, stress, and the challenges of life
Overview

- Building Positive Relationships
- Giving Encouragement and Praise
- Showing Kindness
- Expressing Gratitude
Building Positive Relationships

How would you describe a positive relationship?

- Mutual trust
- Kind
- Encouraging
- Loving
- Fun
- Open
- Respectful
- Considerate
- Safe
- Courteous
Benefits

*Relationships: the foundation of good teaching*

- Students naturally want to please teachers they like
- Adults become a trusted source of help
- Enhances the effectiveness of modeling
- Students are more willing to spend time with teachers they like
Discussion

Behaviors students like & dislike in adults

Positive Behaviors    Negative Behaviors
Adult behaviors judged by young people as:

**POSITIVE**
- Calm, pleasant voice tone
- Offers to help
- Compliments performance
- Fairness
- Explaining why, how, or what
- Concern
- Enthusiasm
- Politeness
- Getting right to the point
- Pleasant facial expression
- Stating expectations

**NEGATIVE**
- Overt displays of anger
- Accusing/blaming statements
- Giving no opportunities to speak
- Mean insulting remarks
- Unpleasant physical contact
- Lack of fairness
- Bossy, demanding
- Unpleasant
- Talking only about mistakes
- No eye contact

Adapted from Willner, et al. (1977)
Points to Remember

• Relationships constantly change
• Require consistency & continual effort
  – Doing what we say we will do
  – Students can count on us
  – We’ll stop what we are doing when there is a need
  – The relationship is the highest priority
Praise and Encouragement

“None of us needs someone who only points out our areas of weakness and the ways in which we have fallen short. We need someone who encourages us to go forward, to try again, to reach a little higher this time.”

Gordon B. Hinckley

*Standing For Something*
Benefits

- Prompts students to act and take risks
- Increases confidence
- Builds relationships of trust
- Creates a positive atmosphere
- Brings a sense of accomplishment and personal satisfaction
- Creates a desire to engage in the behavior again
Expressing Gratitude

“Where there is gratitude, there is humility instead of pride, generosity rather than selfishness. . . gratitude is the beginning of civility, of decency and goodness. . .”

Gordon B. Hinckley
“Kindness is a passport that opens doors and fashions friends. It softens hearts and molds relationships that can last lifetimes. Kind words not only lift our spirits in the moment they are given, but they can linger with us over the years.”

Joseph B. Wirthlin
Conclusion

Today schools, families and communities are confronted with challenging behaviors from our nation’s youth. More than ever it takes an entire community, to both prevent and correct these problems. Collectively we need to invest much more in prevention and early intervention.
http://education.byu.edu/youcan-do-this

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