

BUILDING CHARACTER, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

A Community where good character is encouraged, recognized, and rewarded; where character awareness is a high priority; and where modeling of character is valued.

June 2017

Humility vs. Pride

“Acknowledging that achievement results from the investment of others in my life.”

Humildad vs. Orgullo

“Reconocer que mis logros se deben a lo que otros han invertido en mi vida.”

“Life is a long lesson in humility.”

— James M. Barrie



"Promoting Character & Community"

See Beyond Yourself

Since the self-esteem emphasis took off in the 1880's, programs have taught students to think highly of themselves. Educators, coaches, and parents made extra efforts to give unqualified praise and avoid making students feel badly about themselves or their performances.

In her 2007 book, *Generation Me*, Jean Twenge, Associate Professor of Psychology at San Diego State University, notes how increased self-esteem does not necessarily correlate with academic performance, and she tracks an increase in narcissism among those who grew up under the self-esteem emphasis.

Narcissism involves a lack of feeling for others, attitudes of entitlement, and belief in one's superiority. These characteristics make it difficult for a person to work with others and maintain relationships.

Only when you look outside yourself and consider the principals of good character and the perspectives of others can you escape the prison of your own reflection.

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KEY CONCEPTS OF HUMILITY

Get Perspective

As an individual grows from childhood to adulthood, his or her relationships change, but the individuals will still rely on the surrounding community for information, support, and identification. Get in the habit of remembering those who invest in your life. Gain a sober understanding of your abilities, and consider how you can benefit from those who rely on you.

Share the Credit

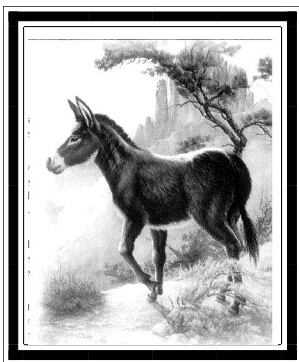
As you understand the benefits you have received, you can develop an attitude of gratitude for others' contributions.

Build Teamwork

The greatest achievements often result when team members give their best effort, without worrying about who gets the credit.

Serve Others

Life requires a number of unpleasant and lowly tasks, and every line of work has tasks no one wants to do. But to a humble person, there is only a need and the means to meet it.



Humility in Nature

A donkey can carry more than a horse of equal size whether its master is a rich merchant or a lowly peasant, and in the process, the donkey has come to symbolize humility, peace, and durability.

Make the World a Better Place

On March 10, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell spilled acid on his sleeve during a laboratory test. "Mr. Watson, come here, I want you!" Alexander Graham Bell said into the receiver. In moments, Thomas Watson entered the room and said, "I heard you on the receiver!"

Driven partly by his love for his deaf mother, Bell incorporated his father's ideas as he taught deaf students. By observing the shape of each sound, Bell believed the deaf could learn to read lips and speak for themselves, making it easier to interact in a hearing world.

Bell's teaching ability impressed Gardiner Hubbard whose daughter, Mabel, had become deaf after running a high fever at age five, and Hubbard hired Bell to teach sixteen-year-old Mabel enunciation and visible Speech notation in 1873.

Bell began courting Mabel in 1875 as he began his work on the "speaking telegraph." They eventually married on July 11, 1877, and she and her father encouraged Bell's scientific efforts and helped the reluctant inventor gain recognition.

He said, "An inventor is a man who looks around the world and is not content with things the way they are; he wants to improve what he sees; he wants to benefit the world." Bell strove to fulfill these ideals.

*"Achieving True Success —
How to Build Character
as a Family"*

is available for purchase at
cost for \$6 at
Owasso City Hall.