

Grammar Virtue Education



What is the goal of the Virtue Education Program?

To give students definitions and understandings of virtues as those habits of mind and body that we are called to by God and that make us more fully human, made in the image of God. In addition, we aim to motivate students to be virtuous through this understanding and through the examples before us in our curriculum. This program also gives a common language across the school and in homes to exhort children towards Christlike living.

How to do Virtue Education?

The goal is for each core, or for G5-6, each Language Arts or Bible teacher to teach a minimum of 3 mini-lessons a week, each about 5-10 minutes. Each classroom has a resource binder of definitions, suggested lessons, and readings to use. Teachers are welcome to add to their binders as they find age appropriate material on a given virtue, or to use lessons not in the binders such as content that they naturally cover in class through Bible, literature, unit study, history etc.

How we reinforce Virtue Education at Live Oak:

- Daily classroom application
- Lessons in Assembly and connections in Chapel
- Receiving acorn awards in Assembly on the current virtue
- List the virtue on the weekly communication for reinforcement at home.
- Refer to virtues in narratives on report cards
- Help students recognize virtues in others around them

Character Awards

Virtues are encouraged both by what is celebrated and by what is not celebrated above them.

For example, in G5 and G6, only one student per grade per virtue is celebrated in the end of year Honors Assembly, and a number of sentences are read publicly to honor that particular student.. We do NOT recognize top 10 percent, homecoming court/queen etc. Even subject area awards (i.e. English award) are usually given to students who show the most virtue (diligence for example) as opposed to simply the highest GPA.

What are the components of a mini-lesson?

- A virtue definition that students memorize
- A lesson or story that inspires and illustrates the virtue
- Individual reflection time.
- Commitment to showing kindness to students during the week.
- Partner discussion on virtue goal-setting for the week

What are Virtues?

Virtues are those things that make a human being excellent, just as sturdiness or comfort are excellences of a chair. We do not practice the virtues to gain our own righteousness or earn our salvation. However, we live more fully and joyfully when we grow in these habits, and we practice them out of gratitude to God. Virtue is attained when they are done joyfully and easily. At Live Oak, we see it as a blessing to learn, practice and share virtues in community.

PRUDENCE

Prudence is an intellectual virtue, primarily defined by right thinking but inextricably linked with right action. It is the process of thoughtful reflection, a careful and prayerful weighing of options, that brings forth the best possible decision. At Live Oak, prudence is practiced through readiness and attentiveness, neatness, organization, follow through, and giving one's best effort. Prudence helps us to see clearly in order that we may walk uprightly for the honor and glory of God.

FORTITUDE

Fortitude can be understood as choosing to do the good in relationship to God. It requires an accurate perception of reality; one is not courageous if they are rashly optimistic, if they throw themselves in harm's way, or if they are solely confident in their own strength. One is courageous when they remain obedient to God in all circumstances. Christ perfectly modeled fortitude when He faced suffering and death in obedience to God. Christ's obedience accomplished the greatest good known to man: our salvation and eternal life.

TEMPERANCE

Temperance is a moral virtue, defined by moderation in action, thought, or feeling; restraint. It can be understood as practicing habits of self-discipline and self-control and resisting temptations of the flesh. Such habits cultivate rightly ordered desires that enable one to love God and neighbor more purely. At Live Oak we teach children to develop temperance through the language of cooperation, courteousness and obedience.

JUSTICE

Justice instructs us in our interactions with other people, while the other virtues instruct us in how to govern ourselves: our own mind, body, and emotions. It promotes balance, fairness, and order in all things. It demands the acknowledgement of the dignity and worth of every human being, in spite of all temptations to disregard this truth. For Christianity, justice paves the way for the theological virtue of Christian love. This selfless giving, born out of the overflow of love we receive from Christ, is the goal of the Christian life.

SCHOOL VERSE

"They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."
Isaiah 61:3b

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