



Dear Parents,

We are thrilled to launch the Habitudes Leadership Curriculum with your 6-8th grade students.

The Habitudes curriculum was created by Tim Elmore who is a thought leader on understanding and connecting with the next generation. He is the author of over 30 books and is “committed to developing young leaders around the world to solve problems and serve people,” which sounds an awful lot like the mission statement for Veritas:

**To develop in our students an authentic faith in Christ,
an unconditional love for all people,
and the ability to reason through the complex problems of this world.**

As we work to integrate excellent academics, sincere character development and timeless Biblical truth, Habitudes provides a terrific framework for our efforts. We are not simply striving to launch students who are smart and well equipped, but more importantly, have passion and purpose, seeing their place in the world as leaders and difference makers.

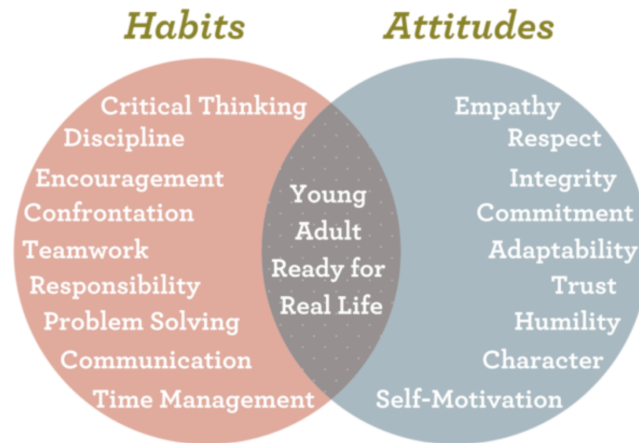
“To whom much is given, much is expected.” Luke 12:48

The full Habitudes curriculum will cover multiple years and can be taught in any order. We thoughtfully selected **Unit 2: The Art of Connecting with Others** as our starting point. Following one of the most disconnected times in modern history, the last two years have done little to teach our children the valuable and timeless lessons of connecting and caring for others. We are excited about having meaningful discussions, engaging activities and real-life serving opportunities with our students as they develop these life changing skills.

Over the next 6 months, we look forward to inviting you into these important conversations. We will send parent emails as we begin each new unit. You will be provided questions to prompt intentional discussions with your children as well as challenges where they can demonstrate these new skills at home. Be on the lookout for these communications and maybe even a tiny glimpse of impact in your middle schoolers habits and attitudes.

Thank you again for trusting us with your most valuable treasure. We recognize our time with them is both precious and fleeting. Our goal is to challenge them, nurture them, inspire them and never forget to simply enjoy them!

Blessings,
Cindy



The Habitudes curriculum combines images, relatable stories, and experiences into leadership development curriculum and lesson plans that resonate with today's young adults, equipping them to navigate through life's challenges and opportunities.

Snapchat, Instagram, Emojis... this is how today's young adults communicate-through images. What if there was a simple way to leverage their language to equip them with the leadership and life skills they need to succeed in school and life? Grounded in established research, Habitudes is an image-based leadership development curriculum that prepares any student to become a leader. Using the power of stories, images, experiences and conversations, Habitudes teaches young adults valuable perspectives and leadership habits. Students will learn to:

- Take initiative
- Overcome complex problems through creative persistence
- Capitalize on personal strengths
- Develop critical thinking skills

This year's curriculum, *The Art of Connecting with Others*, will help students:

- Handle criticism and use feedback for personal improvement
- Initiate healthy relationships with those around them
- Build up other people to help them achieve their full potential

Please enjoy reading the following sample from our first unit in *The Art of Connecting with Others* called Hosts and Guests.



HOSTS & GUESTS

Leaders take the initiative in relationships. They are intentional about them. They see themselves as hosts, not guests, and they go out of their way to connect with people and provide for them.

Unit 1

Hosts and Guests

Core Competencies: Social Initiative | Intentionality | Hospitality

Learning Objectives:

- To convince students that leaders initiate connection with people like a host does.
- To illustrate the function of a "host" in relationships: initiate, connect, provide, and direct.
- To prevent students from defaulting into a "guest" mode as they spend time with others.
- To enable students to be proactive and confident in relationships rather than reactive.

Overview

One of the greatest obstacles to life success for young people today is a lack of social and interpersonal skills. "Personal influence" is the ability to understand the needs, strengths, and intricacies of others and influence them in a positive way. In this course, students will develop important interpersonal skills such as:

- Social initiative
- Listening
- Encouragement
- Empathy
- Conflict Management

KEY BIBLE VERSES

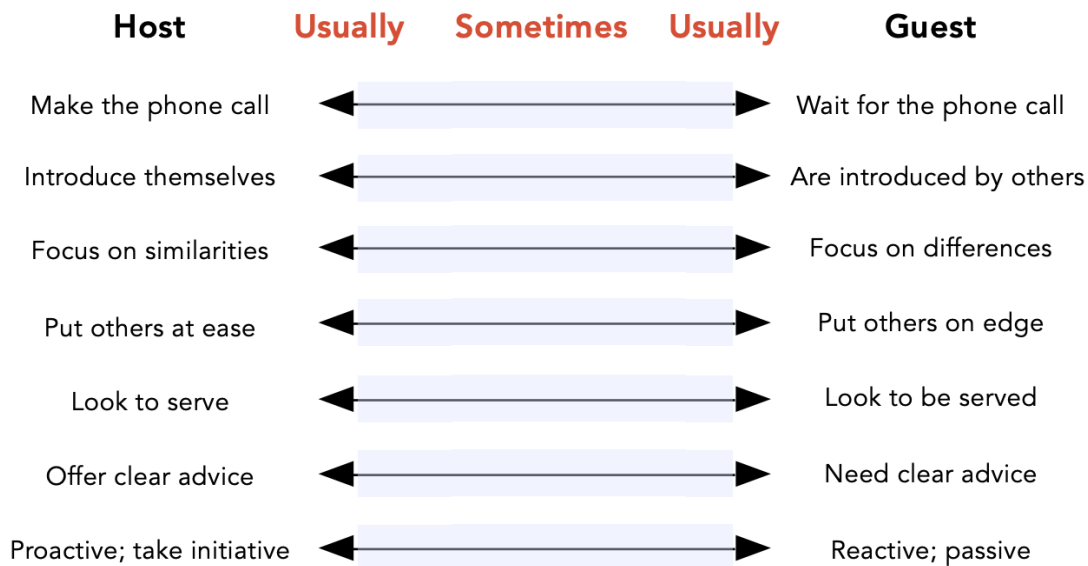
- Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." Luke 14:12-14
- Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 1 Peter 4:9
- Genesis 18:1-8 (The three visitors)

We believe that hospitality naturally flows out of character. We believe that the action of following a benevolent path is only part of the story—a mere 10%. On the other hand, your child’s character is what powers them to live compassionate lifestyles—the 90%. Through this lesson, we challenged your child to think through some difficult questions, to consider how God is calling them to use their gifts to impact the lives of others.

We also challenge you to continue asking questions to keep the conversation going at home. Here are a few to get you started: Have you had regretful experiences where you were far more focused on yourself and your own personal comfort than thinking of others? How can we learn from those experiences to become more thoughtful and compassionate adults? Are there other times that you have been unnecessarily generous to others and discovered unexpected joy as a result? Parents, ask yourself, does it come more naturally for me to be a host or a guest as I go through life and share any changes you might make in your own life. In your homes, what are practical ways that we can intentionally care for others and invest in our most important relationships? Share your answers to the questions to facilitate a conversation and help your children process what it means to develop more joyful relationships by caring for those around us. Ask students about the movie clips we watch, the activities we’ve completed and the self assessments we’ve taken (we’ve included the self assessment below, if you’d like to try it yourself). There is plenty of information for your children to share with you and for you to help them process.

Home challenge for STUDENTS: Over the next 2 weeks, find a time to host your family. It could be an afternoon tea, a picnic lunch or a sit down dinner. Consider what others like to eat, and how to create conversation by asking thoughtful questions of others. What special touches would let others know you care? Hosting takes real time and effort, but the experience is worth it!

Self Assessment: Are you currently going through life with a HOST or GUEST mentality?



80-90% of people tend to think like a guest and those same people are far less likely to be satisfied in life! Let’s all make the shift to becoming intentional with our HOST Habitude.



Service Opportunities for Hosts and Guests unit:

- 6th grade: Friday morning Reading Buddies
- 7/8th grade, Hosting a “ Donut Holes During Devotions” time of Thankfulness with their Chapel Buddy classes at the end of the unit. Middle School students will appropriately summarize the important lessons they’ve learned with the lower grades.
- Giving Tuesday Service Projects on 11/29/22 are under development and being finalized.