

Virtue Questionnaire for Parents

Below is a short series of questions that we hope will help us better understand your thoughts on virtue education. These questions are not intended to have right or wrong answers; rather, they seek merely to ascertain which of many viable options you would choose in a narrow set of circumstances and to provide avenues for further conversation.

1. You've learned that your child will be presented with an award at the end of the year. Which of the following would you be most proud to learn she/he/they received?
 - a. an award for never giving up, even when faced with repeated failures and struggles in a subject
 - b. an award for ingenious problem-solving – for having a kind of out-of-the-box dissection of situations that always brings a fresh perspective
 - c. an award for brave risk-taking – whenever a new opportunity or activity presents itself at school, she/he/they are the first student to volunteer, always with excited enthusiasm
 - d. an award for having an open mind in all conversations, being ready to embrace any new point of view or argument because it helps him/her/them see all sides of a topic when she/he/they learn
 - e. an award for having an imagination that seems to run like a team of wild horses – unpredictable, but always beautiful and engaging to see

2. Your child comes home from school and describes a troubling encounter with a friend. Which of these would MOST likely cause you to call the other child's parent to discuss?
 - a. Your son was excited about taking an after-school ballet class, and the friend said, "Why? That seems like a stupid waste of time."
 - b. The friend described how much he enjoyed a particular teacher's group activities, because he knew how to get the other students in the group to do more work than he did.
 - c. Your child suggested including another student in a game they were playing at recess, and the friend argued against it, because then the teams would be uneven.
 - d. Your child has a favorite teacher at school, and the friend let slip that she/he/they and a few other children have a nickname for that teacher because of the teacher's limp.
 - e. Your child had a panicky moment of homesickness while at sleepaway camp for the first time this summer, and the friend (who attended with your child) told a group of other children about it at lunch.

3. You've elected to place your child in an experimental new school, in which the elementary-grade homerooms each agree to focus on a specific character trait across the year. You are allowed to request that your child be placed in a specific homeroom. Which would you select?
 - a. the HONESTY homeroom
 - b. the COLLABORATION homeroom
 - c. the PATIENCE homeroom
 - d. the GENEROSITY homeroom
 - e. the DETERMINATION homeroom

4. You are asked to join a committee to add a new feature to your school's annual Autumn Virtues Fair, a weekend festival celebrating "the core values that bind our community," with activities explicitly linked to the school's mission and values. Which of the following proposals would you want to create, specifically as a way to target values your school most needs to IMPROVE?
 - a. an escape room, to celebrate COLLABORATION and PROBLEM-SOLVING
 - b. a Zen garden, where visitors are led through exercises in PATIENCE and SELF-REFLECTION
 - c. a small but challenging "pairs" climbing wall, with one person telling the other where to place hands & feet, elevating TRUST and RISK-TAKING
 - d. a series of competitive Lego events to determine the biggest student and adult Lego fanatics, to highlight CREATIVITY and ENTHUSIASM
 - e. a corn maze, to promote PERSEVERANCE and RESILIENCE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND THOUGHTS!