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Howard Elementary

An Apple Distinguished School

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"We seek to maintain a spirit of joy in learning, cooperation in doing, and optimism for success and the future. Our goal is to have every student exceed state standards in all academic areas."

Principally Speaking.....by Suzanne Price

Encouraging Responsibility in Your Child...from *Parents Make the Difference*

As reported in a 2004 issue of *Parents* publication, a recent study by Public Agenda identified the following traits as being the most important for students to possess: self-control, self-discipline, honesty, independence, and striving to do well in school. Parents agree with this assertion and they further believe these traits will help keep their children safe and out of trouble. Assigning chores to your children is one way to teach responsibility. Here are a few ways to engage your child in household chores:

Select age-appropriate tasks that may include watering the plants, doing the dishes, feeding a pet, setting the table, helping to prepare their lunches, making their bed and cleaning their room.

Link responsibilities to rewards/praise by letting your child know that if s/he meets their responsibilities they can _____.

Make sure your child knows what is expected. Communicate what you'd like your child to do, model your expectations, and ask your child to repeat back to you what it is s/he is to do.

Keep track of chores by posting a chart and checking off each task once it is completed.

Stand by your word by rewarding/praising your child for a job well done and following through on consequences for incomplete chores.

Remember, when your child refuses to cooperate and do what is asked, don't be tempted to rescue him/her from the consequences of their decisions or behavior. We all want to make our children happy, but rescuing them keeps your child from facing the consequences and it makes your child more dependent on you; "rescuing" can translate to children that they are not capable of doing for themselves. Let your child experience the consequences of his choices. S/he will grow up to be more independent and happy.

Responsible students are successful students!!