

"HONESTY"

Definition: Earning future trust by accurately reporting past facts.

Community of Character

"When in doubt, tell the truth"

- Mark Twain

Admit it when I am wrong....

Truthfulness requires taking responsibility for every word that is spoken - whether at home, work school or play. When words are discovered to be inaccurate, they should be corrected immediately. When a student admits to a teacher that he or she was untruthful, the teacher will trust the child more readily in the future, because that student has the character to make things right. One sign of doing something wrong is a guilty conscience. Admitting and correcting something that is wrong restores a clear conscience.

Not cheat or steal....

When people cheat, they lose an opportunity to do their very best. Compromise may seem like an easy way out, but there are always consequences. For instance, one of the consequences of stealing or cheating is a bad reputation. Once a bad reputation is acquired, it is very difficult to restore a good name. Desiring a good reputation should be enough motivation to be totally honest. Furthermore, cheating and stealing violates the rules and standards of one's authorities. No matter what the situation may be, "honesty is always the best policy."

Encourage others to tell the truth....

As a child accurately reports information, both great and small things, others will be motivated to do the same. Honest people are trusted and respected. One example is "Honest Abe" Lincoln. Children can inspire and challenge others to show honesty and integrity by stopping rumors and not listening to gossip.

Tell the truth....

A person's character is revealed by his or her behavior. A person who always tells the truth, even when it is difficult, demonstrates courage and integrity. Truthfulness requires making a conscientious effort to be accurate. It is important that every message communicated be truthful. A child that learns to be truthful consistently will gain the respect and trust of others.

I WILL:

- ❖ tell the truth.
- ❖ encourage others to tell the truth.
- ❖ not cheat or steal.
- ❖ admit it when I am wrong.
- ❖ not exaggerate to make things seem different than what they are.

Not exaggerate to make things seem different than what they are....

A person who is truthful will avoid exaggerations, partial truths, and "white lies." When the truth is misrepresented or exaggerated, it becomes a lie. Words have more effect than one would imagine. Stretching the truth to make it more interesting or popular eventually leads to mistrust and delusion. Misrepresenting the truth is a wrong way to gain acceptance.



ORANGEBURG COUNTY

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The Times and Democrat

For more information on the Orangeburg County Community of Character initiative, please contact the Chamber at 803.534.6821 or go to the Character Web Site www.occoc.com