

**TEACHING STUDENTS HABITS OF THE MIND, HEART AND WORK -
The Cornerstone of Schooling**

"What are the habits we want students to exhibit even when we aren't watching them?" -Ted Sizer

"Character is simply habit long continued" - Plutarch

Habits of the Mind

Fostering the intellectual and imaginative powers and competencies students need to accomplish their work and to be knowledgeable and productive in the years to come. These habits go well beyond the skills often identified as basic to literacy - to read, write and calculate, and to have a supply of information about the world we live in.

Examples:

- to apply old knowledge and experience to new situations
- to imagine new possibilities
- to consider the implications of choices
- to integrate new knowledge into old
- to inquire into the source and accuracy of information
- to use well a variety of symbol systems
- to adopt multiple perspectives on a problem or opportunity
- to know one's rights, one's debts, and one's limitations, and those of others
- to communicate fully, accurately and respectfully
- to sense the wonder and proportion in worthy things and respond to such delights

Habits of the Heart (a term from Robert Bellah and HABITS OF THE HEART- 1985)

Impulses and values which help to define what it means to be a society: love, empathy, compassion, caring for others, generosity, civility, equity, the obligation to pursue our own interests with due regard for the rights and interests of others.

Habits of Work

The skills and attitudes each of us needs to contribute to our society and to our own independence:

- being involved in meaningful work that helps the society
- having a passion and a persistence about one's work
- having a pride in one's work and a desire to learn/improve
- recognizing the need to act when action is called for; stepping forward in response
- to teach and support others engaged in our work or profession

(Compiled from work by Robert Bellah, Rick Lear and Ted Sizer)