

boldness:

confidence that what i have to say or do is true, right, and just

make a statement!

Boldness n 1: the quality of daring 2: characterized by confidence; not timorous 3: not restrained to the norm or expected 4: abruptness; prominence 5: standing out to the eye

Confidence rises from a commitment to integrity. Stand firm; your example can help point others in the right direction.

When boldness calls for confrontation, whether it is with a student, a parent, or a colleague, remember that speaking the truth with a humble attitude will probably be more effective than a prideful encounter.

Since boldness flows from confidence that what we have to say is true or right, it is easy to project an attitude of superiority or arrogance.

Check your motives before talking with the other person. Ask yourself, "Am I mainly wanting to prove my point? Am I focused on showing them how wrong they were? Or do I truly want to help them be successful in the future?"

Those who develop boldness in maintaining high standards of conduct will be more likely to keep themselves from dangerous people or situations.

Boldness is making a commitment to believe what is true, to do what is right, and to defend what is just. It is also making a commitment to spur others to do the same. It is not a license for rudeness, but it is a willingness to confront compromise humbly and charitably where evident.

"Boldness is the power to speak or do what we intend, before others, without fear or disorder."

-John Locke

"Great empires are not maintained by timidity."

-Tacitus

"Courage is the greatest of all virtues. Because if you haven't courage, you may not have an opportunity to use any of the others."

-Samuel Johnson

from the executive director:

Funding Partners Needed:

We have been fortunate for the last four years to have most of our funding provided by four-year Partnerships in Education Grant from the US Department of Education. The grant funded both the community initiatives as well as a major character education program at USD 501. That grant cycle ends in September 2007. We will be more dependent upon community support at that time. Sponsorship will provide only about 15% of our income needs after the grant ends. Please consider making a tax deductible gift to our organization in order to support continuation of our **CHARACTER INITIATIVE.**

When you support Topeka City of Character, you support:

A SAFER COMMUNITY - Topeka City of Character is partnering with Safe Streets to make Topeka the safest Capital City in America (with a population of 100,000 or more). Our Character Recognition Initiative will highlight citizens who demonstrate good character that significantly improves the health, safety and quality of life of the community. This recognition will encourage all of us to work together to make Topeka a safer community.

(Continued on back)

boldness vs. fearfulness

Boldness is:

- Not being afraid to speak the truth.
- Keeping a clear conscience.
- Supporting others when they are right.
- Being willing to stand alone.
- Speaking with humility.

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funding partners needed (continued)

STRONGER FAMILIES - Achieving True Success book, "How to Build Character as a Family" is distributed to families at various family-oriented events including Topeka Character Fair at the Zoo. Character is important for people of any age all around the world. Qualities such as creativity, patience and generosity benefit the lives of both children and adults. Therefore, every family - regardless of size, social status, race, religion or situation - can benefit from focusing on building character together.

EFFECTIVE EDUCATION - A four-year study of our Character Education program at USD 501 yielded these results:

- * The number of students setting educational goals increased from 20% to 50%
- * Attendance rates increased from 92% to 95%
- * Graduation rates increased from 76% to 84%
- * The number of students setting

character goals increased from 500 a year to 4394 a year.

- * The number of total yearly suspensions decreased from 3641 to 3066.
- * Student surveys showed an increase in students' ratings of themselves with regard to truthfulness, responsibility, work ethic, self-confidence, quality of life, generosity and academic achievement.
- * Student surveys showed a decrease in character traits such as dishonesty, cheating and lying.

PRODUCTIVE BUSINESSES - our business training for employees emphasizes character building for better customer service and productivity.

SEND YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TODAY TO TOPEKA CITY OF CHARACTER, 700 SW Jackson, Suite 807, Topeka, KS 66603

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Good character is the key to success!