

diligence

investing my time and energy to complete each task assigned to me

stay on track

discretion n 1: steady application of effort to accomplish a task; **2:** exerting oneself to fulfill what is undertaken without unnecessary delay; **3:** acting with great care and effort.

Remember the “Little Engine that Could”? This story, since first published in 1906, has appeared in numerous variations and has become a cultural icon.

Like the small engine in the story, a diligent person takes responsibility for today’s tasks and sees them through to completion. Your diligence is not a matter of how much you must do, but how you consistently do your best.

When projects do not proceed as planned or you find yourself juggling major projects, you can develop the discipline to avoid daydreaming, distraction, and derailment. When working, write down unrelated thoughts so that you can revisit them later. When progress slows on part of a project, refresh yourself by working on something else for a while.

As you focus your effort, set wise priorities, and address the details, you can develop habits that will help you overcome the mountains in your path and benefit others as you work through the challenges along the way.

“Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration.”

–Thomas Edison

“No man e’er was glorious, who was not laborious.”

–Benjamin Franklin

maintain quality



Anything worth doing is worth doing to the best of your ability.

Address the details no matter how routine or monotonous they might become. Do it right the first time. When you find a need for improvement, develop two or three specific ideas to work on.

Avoid shortcuts, even if no one would ever know the difference. Invest what is necessary to take the next step forward. Do not settle for the easy way or compromise integrity.

diligence vs slothfulness

diligence is:

- finishing my projects
- doing a job right
- following instructions
- concentrating on my work
- not being lazy

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From the executive director

Topeka City of Character is continuing to work with the Kansas Department of Education to pilot some curriculum that is being used to give teachers and students the tools to learn and be successful in life.

Some of the lessons focus on such things as negotiating a win/win, managing time and resources, creating compacts for excellence, maintaining integrity and other 21st Century skills that businesses have indicated current students are lacking when they enter the work force.

The pilot program includes video clips and other materials available online to the participating schools that also gives them assessment tools to see how the program is changing student and faculty thinking.

To view the first lessons in Unit 1, anyone can access the materials at www.excellenceandethics.com.

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