

5H News

What Does it Mean/Take to be a “Good Student?”

This question was posed to 5H students on Monday February 9th. The thoughtfulness of answers would impress any adult listening to the conversation. Many education studies have shown that students with both good habits of mind and students who see “smarts” as a result of effort, not innate ability are able to persevere and succeed much later in life. Students that see learning as a result of effort are more able to see struggles in learning as temporary setbacks and opportunities to learn, rather than as failures or definitions of character. 5H students really have a good sense of the habits of mind needed. Our goal is to practice these habits to create life long learners.

The list generated by 5H included the following:

- Give best effort
- Have a positive attitude
- See learning as fun
- Try
- Don't give up
- Ask questions
- Do things that help the community
- Take on a challenge
- Pay attention
- Be respectful
- Give your best
- See everyone as equal
- Do not brag
- Want to learn
- Compromise or reset goals as needed
- Treat each day as a new day
- Think about what you are learning
- Do not think you are the best
- Be honest - do not lie about not having work or not understanding
- Good nutrition and enough sleep
- Reading for Pleasure
- Plan ahead
- Ask questions

Upcoming Dates

February 23	New Book Groups Realistic Fiction Writing
March 11	Math Games Open House 8:30-9:00 AM
March 12	Thompson Island Presentation
March 25	Chinese Artists Visit
April 1,2,3	MCAS Language Arts

Continued next page

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The 5H list correlates with much of the writing about good habits of the mind and takes students beyond the classroom. These skills are practiced through academics in the classroom, but are also developed outside the classroom as well.

- Persisting
- Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision
- Managing impulsivity
- Gathering data through all senses
- Listening with understanding and empathy
- Creating, imagining, innovating
- Thinking flexibly
- Responding with wonderment and awe
- Thinking about thinking (metacognition)
- Taking responsible risks
- Striving for accuracy
- Finding humor
- Questioning and posing
- Thinking flexibly
- Responding with wonderment and awe
- Thinking about thinking (metacognition)
- Taking responsible risks
- Striving for accuracy
- Finding humor
- Questioning and posing problems
- Thinking interdependently
- Applying past knowledge to new situations
- Remaining open to continuous learning

(Arthur L. Costa and Bena Kallick 2001)