

## 8 KEYS OF EXCELLENCE MONTHLY EMPHASIS

EACH MONTH WE HAVE BEEN FOCUSING ON ONE OF THE 8 KEYS OF EXCELLENCE. HERE IS A LIST OF THE KEYS WE WILL BE FOCUSING ON FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.

### APRIL:

FAILURE LEADS TO  
SUCCESS

~\*~

### MAY:

FLEXIBILITY

### IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Block 4/01 &  
Schedule 4/02

5th Math 4/07  
TAKS

Holiday 4/10 &  
4/13

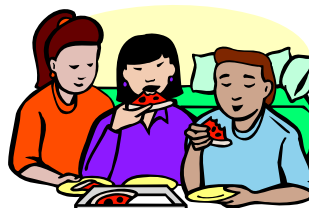
Block 4/22 &  
Schedule 4/23

TAKS 4/28-4/30  
Testing

## Social Relations

Gather a group of students together and ask them this question, "What is the number one reason people either quit a job or get fired?" You'll hear some interesting answers but seldom does anyone know the correct answer. The correct response is, "Because they can't get along with others." For our children to succeed in life they need to finish school and master a few work skills. But the most important skill they'll need is the ability to get along with their supervisors, co-

workers, neighbors, friends, relatives and family members. Parents and teachers need to help young people master proper social and relationship skills before they enter the world of work.



Children today, especially in middle school, focus so much of their time and energy on peer issues. They face teasing, bullying,

gossiping, and rudeness almost every day at school. By late elementary school and into middle school children often drift into small groups, or cliques. For many students it is extremely important to be in one of these groups for two reasons. First of all, the clique provides members with a small group of friends with similar values and interests. Secondly, a clique provides each member a form of security or protection against other "different" groups of students.

## Tips for Positive Social Relations

1. At a young age encourage your children to interact with children of different races, religions, culture, and socio-economic levels. Invite their friends into your house.
2. Adults must model proper social skills.
3. Teach children basic conflict resolution skills
4. Tell children if they have a problem with another child, sit and talk. Remind them of the Native American saying, "Standing is confrontation, sitting is conversation."
5. Empathize. Let your children know that you are aware of how difficult peer relations can be at times. Say, "I'm sorry. I know it hurts."



## Guidance & Counseling

*Embrace each child for their unique qualities.*

*Encourage learning through experience.*

*To Empower for excellence in every area of life.*

### Christy Smith & Holly McLean

Schultz Middle School

19010 Stokes Road

Waller, Texas 77484

Phone: (936) 931-9103

Fax: (936) 372-9302

E-mail: [cvsmith@wallerisd.net](mailto:cvsmith@wallerisd.net)

E-mail: [hmclean@wallerisd.net](mailto:hmclean@wallerisd.net)

*For a middle schooler, the need to be liked and accepted by a small group of "best friends" can seem like the most important thing in the world. That's why the power and popularity of cliques is the greatest during middle school.*

*~The Roller Coaster Years: Raising Children*

*Through the Maddening Yet Magical Middle School Years, 1997*



### Recommended Resources

-The You & Me Workbook

-Cliques, Phonies & Other Baloney



<http://www.wallerisd.net/schultz/sms/Guidance%20and%20Counseling.htm>

## Tips (continued)

6. Get children away from the television. Send them outdoors to play with other children. Outside is a good laboratory for learning "getting along" skills.
7. Be a good listener. Most of the time when children are venting, they don't want advice, they just want us to truly listen.
8. Teach children kindness. Just because someone is rude to them, they shouldn't return the rudeness. Revenge doesn't work!
9. When your child tells you about a peer problem, place much of the responsibility back on the child by saying, "What are you going to do about it?"
10. Teach children how to control their emotions. Children who are easily angered or who cry in front of their peers are more apt to get teased or ignored.
11. Tell your child the cold but true fact, "Not everyone is going to like you."
12. Remind your child to carefully monitor who he or she "hangs out" with. If others are being rude, it is ok to walk away.
13. Teach young people how to walk. Tell them if they walk too fast or walk with their heads down, they are likely to become a victim of teasing.
14. Tell your child not to believe everything they hear their classmates say. Adolescents love to gossip, and much of what they say is greatly exaggerated.
15. School counselors offer friendship groups for children to learn skills for getting along with other children.
16. Do your best to let your child handle their own problems. Do not contact the school until you feel they did the best they could to solve the problem on their own.
17. Be patient. Your adolescent will have numerous mood swings.
18. Parents, even through the adolescent years, need to develop a close bond/ connectness with their children.
19. In the classroom, teachers can encourage group work and cooperative learning which allow children to interact and socialize.
20. Parents should encourage their children to get involved in clubs, church, sports, and other activities.