

**Scholarship** is much more than just getting straight A's. It is a life-long love of learning. In the end it is a sum of small choices. Each time you decide you WANT to learn something, the experience will be so rewarding that the next time becomes easier.

Soon learning becomes a habit. At that point, your desire to learn makes getting A's easier while taking the focus off of grades. The knowledge can still be hard to gain, but knowing you've mastered a difficult subject is an awesome reward. Suddenly the world around you becomes richer, full of learning opportunities.

**Leadership** is not about being elected or appointed to an office. The office does not teach someone how to be a leader. Leadership is an attitude cultivated over time.

Are you one to stand up for what you believe in and 'face the music' even when that music happens to be unpleasant? Do you have a purpose and follow that purpose to get the ends you desire? Do you have a vision? These are all questions that true leaders answer in the affirmative.

But how do you become a leader? Each small decision you make takes you one step closer. Remember the goal is not to get power, but to get your vision and your purpose across. Leaders without visions can be likened to driving in a strange town without a road map: you are going to wind up somewhere, it just might not be in the best part of town.

### **Service**

Many see community service as a means to an end. Some might see it as a way to get service points while socializing, while others may view it as an unfortunate (and often inconvenient) necessity of high school life. But is that true community service?

Once again true community service is an attitude. Are you doing it for the right reasons? I'm not saying there won't be Saturday mornings when you would rather catch up on sleep than paint an elderly lady's house. What I'm talking about is that in the end, when it is all done, you can look back and realize that you did something worthwhile, that made a difference in someone else's life-- that you helped your fellow man in some way. Remember as John Donne said, "No man is an island entire of himself." Service is putting someone else first.

### **Character**

If there is any one thing that is evidenced by your daily choices it is your character. Thomas Macaulay said, "The measure of a man's real character is what he would do if he knew he would never be found out."

What do we do when no one's is looking? The teacher steps out of the room for a moment while you are taking a test after school. You walk or drive past someone who is having difficulty and don't stop to ask if you can help. Our response to situations like these are key to our true character. For while being honest and honorable when others are watching is important, being true to yourself is tantamount. And in the end, these private day-to-day decisions will eventually reveal our true character to the world.