

## Mechanicville City School District

## 2014 "Character First"

One may think responsibility is just a character trait or something discussed when talking about a high school student. That statement is incorrect to many people. Responsibility is important for many reasons and can help a person fulfill a life that matters in many ways. Responsibility does not just involve a single person, but it involves their peers, their community, and the society they live in.

Mainly, responsibility is important because it provides structure and provides dependability. Structure leads to educated lives and success, while dependability helps with stability. When in high school, or later in life one may ask themselves, why should I be responsible? That question may be answered in many ways. In high school, one should be answerable for themselves and their peers. Teenagers often feel the pressure of high school at regents time or when they have a lot of homework. Being liable for homework is important because it will enrich the knowledge and help one succeed later in life. One should also be responsible for their peers and be a role model. This will influence others to do the same and start a positive reaction. Other examples in high school are being on time, respecting teachers, and keeping grades up. This is responsible because it helps the individual and the people also in the school by working in succession. Outside of school teens can be responsible in their community. Being involved in positive groups will help better the community. An individual should care about their community because where they live reflects them and they should be proud of where they come from. People should also work with and not against people in their community. Being culpable for that is important because it shows compassion and lessens the stress of another person. Responsibility is an important part of society.

Responsibility is a characteristic that helps individuals fulfill a life that can matter in society. During many times in one's life they can be faced with situations that they should handle with liability. In high school if individuals are responsible by doing their work, putting in effort, and exceeding the "average", it will present many opportunities that can lead to a meaningful life. For example, if one is exceptionally diligent towards their school work, it can result in honors classes, college scholarships, and in the far future, a job. This matters because it is something to be extremely proud of and it will make that individual be shown in a positive light. Also, if one is involved in activities such as "Positive Edge (SADD)" it could save someone else's life by preventing destructive decisions. This is responsible because caring for others is something everyone should do. After one's school years, responsibility can still fulfill a life that matters. Whether it's carried over from high school, or it's a coaching job, one can be liable by being a good athlete. Being a good athlete means showing up to practice, encouraging team mates, and cheering for other individuals if they win in competition or break a new record. That is fulfilling because it shows compassion and dedication. Another example of being accountable to fulfill one's life is by being involved in volunteer work. Growing up around the fire department truly helps in influencing my liability. Helping people in the community can help make someone's life matter because it shows how that individual isn't self-centered and that they genuinely care about their community and how others view it.

Responsibility is important and can help a person live a life that matters.