



**Taylor Gators' 2009-2010 Character Building Focus – emphasized in weekly message,**  
**in classrooms, and throughout school**

July 6<sup>th</sup> – Be respectful by making eye contact with whomever you are speaking to

July 13<sup>th</sup> – Be supportive of and encourage your classmates; give “put-ups” not put-downs

July 20<sup>th</sup> – Be classy, show good sportsmanship by being a gracious winner and loser

July 27<sup>th</sup> – Be polite and show interest in others by asking questions

August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Be respectful of other students’ comments, opinions, or ideas

August 10<sup>th</sup> – Be mindful and show positive body language and use positive gestures

August 17<sup>th</sup> – Be spontaneous by surprising others with random acts of kindness

August 24<sup>th</sup> - Be self-motivated, work hard, and don’t expect or ask for a reward

August 31<sup>st</sup> – Be responsible and complete your homework every day

September 8<sup>th</sup> – Be efficient, swift, and quiet with classroom transitions

September 14<sup>th</sup> – Be organized by setting up systems that help you

September 21<sup>st</sup> – Be positive when homework is assigned and look at it as an opportunity to get better

September 28<sup>th</sup> – Be consistent and be your best in all classrooms and for all teachers

October 5<sup>th</sup> – Be thoughtful and greet others by their name and with a smile

October 12<sup>th</sup> – Be proud of your school and take care of the property inside and outside

October 19<sup>th</sup> – Be polite and cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough and say excuse me

October 26<sup>th</sup> – Be welcoming and invite others to participate in activities

November 2<sup>nd</sup> – Be polite at all times by saying please and thank you

November 9<sup>th</sup> – Be aware, don’t stare, and respect others privacy

November 16<sup>th</sup> – Be polite and use good manners, don’t save seats in the lunchroom, and always pick up after yourself

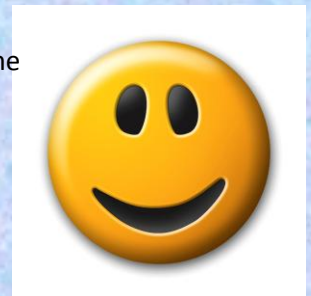
November 23<sup>rd</sup> – Be respectful when meeting new people, shake hands and repeat their names

November 30<sup>th</sup> – Take initiative, if someone drops something and you are close by pick it up for them

December 7<sup>th</sup> - Be gracious and always say thank you when you are given something (even if you don’t like it)

December 14<sup>th</sup> – Be polite when you receive something, do not insult the gift or the giver

January 4<sup>th</sup> – Be aware and follow along when others are reading or responding in class



January 11<sup>th</sup> – Be thorough and answer all written questions with a complete sentence

January 18<sup>th</sup> – Be reflective and thankful for those that have sacrificed for you

January 25<sup>th</sup> – Be responsible, write down your homework every day, and make sure you understand what you have to do before you leave school

February 1<sup>st</sup> – Be safe, stay seated, and always face forward on the bus

February 8<sup>th</sup> – Be considerate and only take your fair share

February 15<sup>th</sup> – Be courteous and hold the door for people rather than let it close on them

February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Be proactive, if someone bumps in to you say excuse me even if it wasn't your fault

March 1<sup>st</sup> – Be a role model for others, during assemblies do not speak or call out to friends

March 8<sup>th</sup> – Be courteous and always answer the phone in a polite and appropriate manner

March 15<sup>th</sup> – Be thankful, shake hands with others to express your gratitude

March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Be mindful and allow younger students the right of way

March 29<sup>th</sup> – Be responsible when walking in line, keep your arms at your sides and move quietly

April 5<sup>th</sup> – Be thoughtful and never cut in line or save spots for others

April 19<sup>th</sup> – Be courageous let an adult know if you or others are being bullied

April 26<sup>th</sup> – Be principled and stand up for what you believe in

May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Be positive and enjoy life, focus on the good even if it is small

May 10<sup>th</sup> – Be mindful, learn from your mistakes and move on

May 17<sup>th</sup> – Be present, live so that you will have no regrets

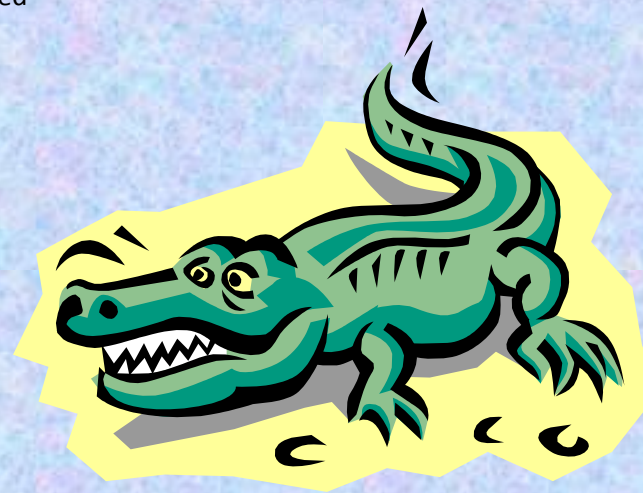
May 24<sup>th</sup> – Be honest, no matter the circumstances

June 1<sup>st</sup> – Be involved and seize the day

June 7<sup>th</sup> – Be the best person you can be day in and day out

June 14<sup>th</sup> – Be reflective and think about all the hard work you have put in and how much you have grown this year

Adapted from Ron Clark's [The Essential 55](#) (2003)



## Taylor Gator 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> D Hall Leadership Academy Emphasis:



### Stephen Covey's 7 Leadership Habits:

**Habit #1: Be Proactive.** I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

**Habit #2: Begin with the End in Mind.** I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and vision, and look for ways to be a good citizen.

**Habit #3: Put First Things First.** I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.

**Habit #4: Think Win-Win.** I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. I make deposits in other's Emotional Bank Accounts. When conflicts arise, I look for third alternatives.

**Habit #5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood.** I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.

**Habit #6: Synergize.** I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others we can create better solutions than any one of us alone. I am humble.

**Habit #7: Sharpen the Saw.** I take care of my body by eating right, exercising, and getting sleep. I spend time with family and friends. I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. I take time to find meaningful ways to help others.

Adapted from Stephen Covey's *The Leader in Me* (2008)



## Taylor Gator 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Emphasis



The Partnership for 21st Century Skills has developed a vision for 21st century student success in the new global economy.

177 N. Church Avenue, Suite 305 Tucson, AZ 85701 520-623-2466 [www.21stcenturyskills.org](http://www.21stcenturyskills.org)

21st century skills represent the necessary student outcomes for the 21st century, i.e. students need to obtain Learning and Innovation Skills (creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, etc.), Information, Media and Technology Skills, Core Subjects and 21st Century Themes (global awareness, financial literacy, etc.) and Life and Career Skills (initiative and self-direction, among others)

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### Core Subjects and 21st Century Themes

Mastery of **core subjects and 21st century themes** is essential for students in the 21st century. Core subjects include English, reading or language arts, world languages, arts, mathematics, economics, science, geography, history, government and civics.

### 21st century interdisciplinary themes weaved in to core subjects:

- Global Awareness
- Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy
- Civic Literacy
- Health Literacy



### Learning and Innovation Skills

Learning and innovation skills are what separate students who are prepared for increasingly complex life and work environments in the 21st century and those who are not. They include:

- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Communication and Collaboration

### Information, Media and Technology Skills

People in the 21st century live in a technology and media-driven environment, marked by access to an abundance of information, rapid changes in technology tools and the ability to collaborate and make individual contributions on an unprecedented scale. To be effective in the 21st century, citizens and workers must be able to exhibit a range of functional and critical thinking skills, such as:

- Information Literacy
- Media Literacy
- ICT (Information, Communications and Technology) Literacy

### Life and Career Skills

Today's life and work environments require far more than thinking skills and content knowledge. The ability to navigate the complex life and work environments in the globally competitive information age requires students to pay rigorous attention to developing adequate life and career skills, such as:

- Flexibility and Adaptability
- Initiative and Self-Direction
- Social and Cross-Cultural Skills
- Productivity and Accountability
- Leadership and Responsibility



Adapted from the following website retrieved July 1, 2009: [www.21stcenturyskills.org](http://www.21stcenturyskills.org)