

New Capstones At LCHS

Character education at Liberty. Liberty's tradition of holding regular character-education assemblies continues on at the high-school level. Each House is responsible for promoting two capstone virtues among their peers throughout the year.

Domus Virtutis, the House of Virtue, produced the first character assembly on the capstone virtue of Self-Reliance and did a superb job of it. Students are still talking about it two weeks afterward.

We started out the school year with six capstones specified in early proposals for building the high school. They were: Accountability, Patriotism, Self-Reliance, Initiative, Courage and Compassion.

Measure twice, cut once. Just as we were poised to produce posters and classroom graphics highlighting the capstones, someone noticed the capstones were never actually formally adopted by the Board. Emails, discussion and research ensued.

The result, adopted at the Board's last meeting, is a new, finalized set of capstones and a pinnacle "keystone" that subsumes the earlier capstones and then some. They are: Prudence, Temperance, Justice, Fortitude, Patriotism and Gratitude. The keystone virtue is Wisdom.

Common virtue. Character education is a central emphasis in the complete development and formation of young scholars at LCHS. Liberty invests thirteen years of character education toward the lives of its students.

The positive character qualities accentuated at Liberty compliment the building blocks established at home thereby reinforcing in its students the moral tools needed to lead within a democratic republic – a system that best thrives upon common virtue.

Building upon the "Foundation Stones" of Liberty Common Elementary School ([CLICK HERE](#)), LCHS's capstones represent the highest order of virtue and character.

The overarching achievement of a virtuous life within the context of scholarly pursuits is the acquisition and development of wisdom. Wisdom is the "Keystone" virtue associated with an LCHS graduate.

Know your LCHS Capstones:

Prudence – Predicated upon practical reason, prudence entails discernment of the true good surrounding every situation and the moral means of achieving it.

Temperance – Restraint in passions of ambition and pleasure. Temperance places intellect, balance and reason above impulsiveness setting limits in order to attain that which is honorable.

Justice – Balance between self-interest and the rights of others. Justice entails a mature appreciation of what is due another whether among equals, superiors or subordinates.

Fortitude – Includes forbearance, endurance and ability to withstand fear, uncertainty or intimidation.

Gratitude – An inclination to express thankfulness and gratefulness to others for their gifts and gestures of kindness.

Patriotism – Devotion and dedication to the country – allegiance to the Flag of the United States of American, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and justice for all.

With regard to Prudence, Temperance, Justice and Fortitude, Plato identified these virtues with the classes of the city described in *The Republic* and with the faculties of man. They are also known as the “cardinal virtues,” indicating “the hinges upon which the door of the moral life swings.”

Not exhaustive. Liberty’s Foundation Stones and Capstones are reinforced through the rich literature, biographies and case studies deployed in our classrooms. So are many other virtues that guide children through maturity to adulthood.

The Keystone Of Wisdom. A culminating goal of Liberty’s character-education program is to graduate wise LCHS scholars.

If the dissemination of knowledge and values from one generation to the next is the underlying purpose of education, wisdom then is a complete expression of the core academic objective of any worthy academic institution.

At LCHS, wisdom is a virtue we embrace, value, study, admire and to which our students aspire.