

Gracie Swartzendruber

Journalism

Mrs. Schoof

January 15, 2021

Topic: The influence of Leadership

Subtopic: How leadership has affected the school and the world around us

Going into 2021 we all have hope, hope that will lead and guide us to be the best versions of ourselves, and help one another to reach the goals that we have set. We look at this world and the things happening within it and think about all the ways that one could do better, but what if the change started with you and your mindset? What if we focused on who impacts us and the leaders that we follow, and what makes a good leader? A leader can impact the way you live, what you see, and all the good things that are yet to come. Focus on the little fundamentals of leadership to make the biggest impact. “Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path to follow.” Says Ralph Waldo Emerson

There’s a difference between a leader and a follower. The question is how do you distinguish between the two? Mr. Wiseman said that a leader wasn’t afraid to speak the truth and ultimately stand up for what they believe in. In the article “ Do You Pass a Leadership Test?” Bill Taylor states that “ The true mark of a leader is the willingness to stick with a bold course of action - an unconventional business strategy, a unique product-development roadmap, a controversial marketing campaign - even as the rest of the world wonders why your not marching in step with the status quo. In other words,

real leaders are happy to zig while others zag. They understand that in an era of hyper-competition and non-stop disruption, the only way to stand out from the crowd is to stand for something special.” The key concept of the quote is “the willingness to stick with a bold course of action”, step outside of the status quo if you’re a follower, and stand up for what you believe in and go after it, giving it your all. Essentially going the extra mile to achieve all that you’ve been dreaming of, and taking your team with you.

Pushing yourself to be the best you can be is hard to do alone. Surround yourself with coaches, friends, and goal-minded people to help you achieve your goals. “ Leaders hold me accountable and push me to be my best.” Said Brynn Claycamp. Holding each other accountable is a hard task to follow, but in the end, you will be stronger and more grateful that you had someone who helped you reach your full potential.

Trust is a very ethical, vital, and demanding part of leadership. It goes both ways, between teacher and student, coach and athlete, and an athlete and his or her teammates. To do the work that you have been called to do, you need to learn how to trust and act upon that trust once you gain it. In life, there is nothing that you can control. Each and every school has gone through something that they have no control over. Your seniors may be sick or teammates make bad choices, and your teammates may even be in quarantine, or you’ve had your games canceled. These were just some of the hardest things that teams have had to go through. You can’t peer over their shoulders and control the details of everyone’s life, so instead work together to see what a new solution could be. Communication is the best way to build trust. Don’t stray away from helping the strongest and weakest players on your team. If you can’t see the change, be the change you wish to see.

New ideas keep people interested; innovation keeps you outside of your comfort zone. You should never settle for less. Following the same routine day after day, keeps you comfortable. Coach Allen always said that going through the motions and never challenging ourselves makes us less likely to adapt to new skills and achieve great things. Leaders want to know everything about the game that they are playing and gain more and more knowledge to be the best that they can be. This will take hard work and dedication, do you or the leaders around you see that or do they want to be that? If you truly do not then you can watch film, communicate and build relationships with your teammates, and never be afraid to ask questions and apply the skills that you have learned in every aspect of life.

The fundamentals of leadership give us a new outlook on how to take on life and the opportunity to achieve and believe anything that you set your mind to. There is still hope left in this world and it starts with you and me, and the work that we put into it. Hall of Fame basketball player, Michael Jordan quotes, “ Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen.” Whatever you do matters, you may think it doesn't, but it does, so go after all the goals and dreams that you have and take those around you with you. Create a community and don't be afraid to be a leader.

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