

## Preparation and Hard Work

### Character Skills

- Responsibility

### SEL Skills

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Responsible Decision-Making

### Academic Skills

- Self-Direction and Engagement
- Diligence

### Quotation

“Be prepared, work hard, and hope for a little luck. Recognize that the harder you work and the better prepared you are, the more luck you might have.”

– Ed Bradley

### Discussion Questions

- Do you agree with this quote? Why or why not?
- How do you prepare for the big things in your life like: a hard test, big game, important concert, etc.?
- How does it feel when you haven't worked hard to prepare for something?

### Definitions

#### Responsibility

- Do what you are supposed to do; try your best
- Persevere; keep on trying
- Be self-disciplined
- Think before you act; consider the consequences
- Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes

#### Self-Awareness

Identify and understand emotions, values, attitudes, motivations, mindsets, and personal attributes

#### Self-Management

Regulate emotions, attitudes, and actions, and resist negative emotions and impulses

#### Responsible Decision-Making

Make decisions based on rationality, ethics, and effectiveness

#### Self-Direction and Engagement

Fully engaged in the educational process and connected to the school community

#### Diligence

Have a growth mindset and is willing to learn from mistakes

# exercising YOUR CHARACTER™

These materials are presented by:



The Robert D. and  
Billie Ray Center

2507 University Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50311  
Phone: 515-271-1910  
Email: raycenter@drake.edu  
TheRayCenter.org  
CharacterCounts.org

CHARACTER COUNTS! and Pursuing Victory With Honor are housed at The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. As a global initiative that transforms lives and strengthens communities, CHARACTER COUNTS! supports our mission to improve civility through character development and ethical leadership.

CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Six Pillars of Character are trademarks of the Josephson Institute of Ethics.



The Robert D. and  
Billie Ray Center