

### **Cumberland Trace-**

My own children use the 7 habits outside of school. They refer to them at home doing homework, chores, and interacting with each other. They share them with their dad for him to use with his business! I like the consistency from school to home. I also appreciate the teaching of self-worth and good character. (Parent)

### **Jody Richards-**

I was at the doorstep of life on my own and I was lost. I didn't know what I wanted. I wasn't sure how to get there. I also had no clear vision of my future. My junior year in high school was a harsh wakeup call. It took me 10 years of school to truly learn many of the principles my 6-year-old daughter is learning today as a part of the JRES *Leader in Me* initiative.

My daughter was introduced to the program during her kindergarten year. Since then, it's impacted her directly both in school and, more importantly, in her everyday life. She is constantly citing the 7 habits in various contexts and circumstances. Already she is learning to be proactive - to put first things first. Those principles are putting her ahead of the curve in life. They're sending her down a path that many kids do not have the benefit of knowing — like myself.

She may not know it now. She may not realize it for years. But when her junior year rolls around, I trust the *Leader in Me* principles will take her down a different and much better road than the one her father took. (Kindergarten Parent)

### **Natcher-**

I wanted to take a moment to tell you how much I appreciate the wonderful staff at Natcher Elementary. After a week of parent teacher conferences and experiencing the "Family Reading Night," I am overwhelmed at the efforts of the entire staff to engage the children and provide them with the opportunities to expand their horizons. Having moved to Bowling Green over the summer (and having a special needs child) my husband and I were anxious about our children starting a new school and trying to adjust. However, over the past couple of months we realize we could not have made a better choice. Ms. Creasey and Mrs. Christopher are amazing teachers and have encouraged and engaged our children on so many levels. They are both incredibly professional and knowledgeable and both of my children adore them. At home, both children constantly talk about their teachers and what they are learning, and proudly recite their "habits" and remind me of them occasionally! The children love Natcher, and all the staff (she is now talking about becoming a Speech therapist or resource teacher when she grows up - which is due to the amazing work of Ms. King and Ms. Smith, and my son loves Ms. Fairweather.) I have never been to the school without receiving a smile.

Thank you for providing such a wonderful and enriching environment for my children. While it all appears to happen seamlessly, I know how much work it truly takes to achieve such greatness. Kudos to Principal Thomhill for making it all happen.(Parent)

On Wednesday I attended my daughter's student lead conference, all I can say is I left school feeling so proud of her and blessed to be a part of such a wonderful school. After my many years of school conferences with my other children, I've NEVER been so educated by one of my kids. Having Mrs. Butler, Lindsey and myself sitting together talking about her strengths, weaknesses and daily learning, not only made me proud to be a TEAM with my daughter and her Teacher, but it also allowed her to hear her Teacher and I discuss her goals for success and how she needed to work on things that are satisfactory.

This conference eliminated any "hard feelings" she might have developed had I told Lindsey that her Teacher said she needs to work on certain things. Having her to be a part of the accountability, responsibility and TEAM atmosphere, would speak volumes in avoiding playing any normal "games" with parents and Teachers, not that she does that but we as parents have a clearer picture of her on a daily basis at school. I was able to ask questions in front of her and find out what I need to do to help. Also, we have a better understanding of what is taking place daily that might contribute to her not meeting her goals, most importantly that Lindsey was able to hear and be held accountable. I just can't express enough how this as initiated a new perspective on communication for her, Mrs. Butler and us, as her parents.

I really hope that this will allow my daughter, to not only recognize that her parents and Teachers are working together, but that she knows without a doubt that she has a TEAM behind her, helping her become a successful young lady in life...this conference is a true picture of a WIN-WIN!!!

I hope all this made sense and you have a clear picture of what I'm trying to say! This past week has been rough to say the least, since my husband had his heart attack on Tuesday, so I'm a little "brain dead". Anyway, I just felt that you should know that your 5th grade Teachers are absolutely wonderful and how much I appreciate them all being so focused on not only my 5th grader but the other 5h graders as well. Please feel free to share this email!! And you deserve a "pat on the back" for being such a great leader!!  
(Parent)

#### **North Warren-**

The 7 habits have been a wonderful thing for our son. He has been very positive when using the 7 habits. We use these at home and playing sports. He puts first things first, in the afternoon he comes home Homework/study then play outside. He wants to read or practice math problems instead of watching TV! He's becoming a very responsible young boy and he's setting goals for himself at school and home. He wants to make sure he's doing the best he can and always thinking of others. We have the 7 habits posted on our fridge so we read very often! I think the 7 habits is such a positive way to look at things, it's helped me as an adult too. We love to sharpen the saw! (Parent)

#### **Oakland-**

As we were wrapping up school in May of 2011, my children's Principal handed me The Leader in Me book and ask if I would take the time to read it and invited me to attend the leadership Kickoff featuring Muriel Summers on June 6' of that year. I thought to myself, "Seriously, he's giving me a reading assignment and asking me to give up a summer day with my kids?" I ignored the silly thought rolling

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around in my head and politely agreed to do as he asked and I am ever so thankful! It has been a great experience for me as a parent and school volunteer.

I have a 12 year old son, *Jackson* and a 10 year old daughter who have benefited immensely since Oakland Elementary began implementing the Leader in Me principles in the fall of 2011. Like most families today, we have an extremely busy schedule. If we aren't at school or working on homework, we are at church, archery practice, gymnastics, track practice, basketball practice, soccer practice, academic team practice, etc. The 7 Habits have enabled us to figure out a way to not only make all of these things happen in a calm, collected manner, but also do it well.

My children plan ahead, recognize what needs to be done to reach their desired outcome, and take the necessary steps to achieve their goals. I can see them using the 7 habits in all aspects of life; packing for a weekend trip, writing a paper on the Solar System or making healthy eating choices. It is refreshing to see my children do the "right" thing without my intervention.

As a school volunteer, I see that the 7 Habits can impact every student in our school. It's amazing to see children who don't normally like to be in the spotlight *get up* and speak in front of the student body or greet visitors with confidence as they enter our building. I also love the fact that all of our faculty/staff members wish to be involved with the program. On a Friday afternoon, during our Sharpen the Saw time, it's common to find our custodian shooting hoops with students and our cafeteria *staff teaching* the students how to make yogurt parfaits. This is just another great way to teach our children that we all have the capability to lead.

I want to extend my thanks for your continued support of Warren County Public Schools and the Leader in Me program. I truly believe that it enables us everything we do just a little bit better! (School Volunteer)

**Parker, Bennet Curry-**

I really like the changes that I've seen in the building this year. My son loves the Leader in Me street signs in the hallways and I love positive phrases throughout the building. I appreciate that you are teaching him to be successful in his subjects and in life. (Parent)

**Plano-**

Our family has had the privilege of being exposed to the Leader in Me program for four years at Plano Elementary. The faculty /staff have implemented a mentality in the day to day activities of our children that have truly made it a way of life.

It had been a number of years since being exposed to my son's first venture into this subject and obviously, it was a different season of life. Being reintroduced to these Habits, while in the trenches of parenting, has been a blessed reminder of the necessity of forming life skills that often aren't taught in the classroom. Because these are taught in the classroom in our school district, children have the exceptional opportunity to be exposed to it from all sides. Sadly enough, I've also been reminded that many of these

children don't have the opportunity to learn these life lessons at home so school is often their only exposure.

In our home, the Seven Habits get utilized parent to child and also child to child. It is not uncommon for my school age children to remind each other to "Put First Things First" when homework isn't at the top of their sibling's To-Do list. Additionally, I have also heard them teaching our four year old how to Think Win Win when she is insistent that she get her way and everyone play the game she picked.

The opportunity to utilize these Habits parent to child is endless! They are just good life disciplines that are much easier to create at age 7 than at age 27. We are trying to teach our children to "Be Proactive" which in turn creates personal responsibility. The early morning routine becomes less chaotic when children create their own list of items to be completed before school. Playing referee in one's home is not a favorite job but becomes much easier when children are taught to "Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood". Additionally, what a great lesson for any parent to remember the habit of "Begin with the End in Mind". These precious little lives won't always be under our roof and they will need to learn to make good decisions when we're not present.

There are a number of mandated items taught in our schools today but few of them will have the lifelong impact that the Seven Habits will on our children. We are thankful that these Habits are being instilled in our children the five days a week that they're not with us. (Parent)

### **Richardsville-**

When I asked my fourth grader what she liked best about The Leader in Me at her school, she answered that her favorite thing was getting "to be like grownups" and that it "prepares us for our future." This has already been true in her life as just yesterday I watched her present a speech she had prepared earlier in the day during a Writing Protect class at our local university for students in 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades. When I asked her if she was nervous about speaking in front of her peers and their parents, she told me she was not worried about it because she had talked in front of a big crowd before due to her involvement with The Student Lighthouse Team. The Student Lighthouse Team is an example of The Leader in Me being modeled in our school. Students on this team are involved in decision-making, school projects, and public appearances; such as the one my daughter was referring, when she presented to the parents and students who attended a recent Family Fun Night. These opportunities for my daughter to speak in public, and become comfortable doing so, are a tremendous asset, as we know this is something she will need to be able to do as a high school student, college student and later as President, or whatever it is she becomes!

I love that students at Richardsville are given ample opportunities to routinely utilize the 7 Habits. My daughter was among a group of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students who were to create a skit and act it out for their peers and parents during Family Fun Night. The skit was to demonstrate the Habit "Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood." What was interesting to me is that to write this play, they did have to use this habit! My daughter told me they were having trouble agreeing on a plan their first day working on this, but at some

point they were able to listen to others' ideas and finally agree on a plan for their skit, which did *effectively* demonstrate this Habit.

Another opportunity the students have been given is to apply for a Student Leader job. My first grader was so eager; he filled out his application the day he brought it home. The list of job choices is Afternoon Announcement Leader, Grounds Crew Leader, and Best Slip Leader. The great thing about this opportunity is that there are jobs available for students in all the grades, including kindergarten. Just like when applying for a real job, the students have to answer some questions about why they want this job and why they would be an excellent leader for this job. Activities like these build character, develop responsibility, and teach self-discipline, which any parent wants for his or her children.

With my children involved in these Leader in *Me* activities, I can see they are gaining self-confidence, courage, and the communication skills they are going to need to succeed in life and in their future careers. (Parent)

### **Moss-**

The leader in me program has been a blessing to both my children. For my daughter, who is in eighth grade, it has taught her to take responsibility for her own actions. I use to have to remind her to do her homework or stretches for cheer. Now I do not have to do that at all. It's nice as a parent to not have to stay on your children all of the times.

As far as my son, who is a sixth grader, he has never been an outspoken person but now he will stand tall hold his head up and speak in front of a crowd whether it's at church, school or home. He has also started to take on more responsibilities and realizes if he doesn't that it will hurt his future. My children have been very lucky to be part of the program so long. They are getting real life skills. Both of my children now know they can do anything they wish as long as they are willing to work for it. Thank you for bettering my children. (Parent)