

Alvaton

6th Grade Student

Before Leader in Me, students didn't keep track of how they were learning. We did not use the 7 Habits or do student led conferences. Leader in Me is great in our school. Data notebooks have helped me keep track of my grades and how I am doing in my subjects. If I am struggling I know what I need to work on by looking in my notebook. Before, I didn't know how I was doing in class. The sixth grade teachers put a scoreboard up in the hallway so we could see our STAR Reading and Math Scores and approximately what we will get on the K-Prep at the end of the year. By looking at the board we can see if we are improving. The 7 Habits are great guidelines to follow.

6th Grade Student

Leader in Me has inspired me to always make a goal for myself. For example, we have parent conferences twice a year to tell our parents how good we are doing and what's new at Alvaton Elementary by keeping grades such as K-Prep last year and any other subjects in our data notebooks. It has helped me by making goals by knowing all my grades, to try to do better next test, and know how much to study. It has always made me think twice about being selfish, not letting others join. Now I think about Habit 6, Synergize, (working together). Another example, it has helped me with Habit 5, Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood (Listen before you talk.) This has helped me by not talking while the teacher is talking. Habit 3, Put First Things First (work before we play) has helped me to use my agenda after a teacher says it is homework. Habit 2, Begin with the End in Mind, (think for the future) has helped me by, last year we did a letter to a college. It had to be the college you wanted. They sent back a letter to us. These are the perfect tools for my school and for everyone. These will inspire my life today and in the future.

1st Grade Student

We do good deeds in the Good Deeds Club. One time we packed stuff for people who did not have a home. We put socks, underwear, wipes, hand sanitizer and candy in bags. I love the Crafting Club because we do crafts for our American Girl Dolls. One time we made sleeping bags. I'm glad we have clubs at school.

4th Grade Student

Before we had Leader in Me, I was late to school. Then when we got Leader in Me, I can get my homework done on time. I got a job and now I am at school on time. I use "Begin with the End in Mind" all the time when I do my job. I use "Sharpen the Saw" when I eat, it helps me be healthy. I also use "Seek First to Understand then to be Understood" when my family is playing a game I don't know and then I understand what they are doing. I am glad we have the Leader in me at our school.

2nd Grade Student

Before we had Leader in Me, I didn't keep up with my binder or have goals. I didn't have a job. It is giving me a habit of reading then playing. I set goals and meet them.

One of my favorite things is my job. I greet people in the morning by saying "Good morning". I learned to be responsible and not be late for it. It has changed our school.

Cumberland Trace

My friend had an idea to do a service project for people who don't have enough food. She asked one of our friends and me to help her. We decided to do a project that would put others before ourselves and "Put First Things First," by collecting canned food for Hope House. We asked our principal for permission and she said it was fine. We worked with my dad in his garage to build a "house" with shelves painted in bright colors, using left over paint. The house is on wheels so we can roll it into our gym once a week to collect the cans of food. Each Wednesday we are proactive and remind students during our Morning Meeting that the next day is "Thankful Thursday," the day to bring canned food for hungry people. Thursday morning we roll the house down the hallway from the Family Resource Center, where it is stored, into the gym. Students get cans of food out of their backpacks and put it on the shelves. We noticed that students weren't bringing in many cans so we decided to reward the student who had brought the most food the week before by giving out a healthy snack the next Wednesday. This makes it a win-win. Students bring food for hungry people and get a treat for helping! (4th Grader)

Jody Richards-

The seven habits have made me a better student because they teach you to be a better person. For example, Habit 4 Think Win-Win helps with friends. If I win a game with friends, I don't brag or rub it in. I say good job and better luck next time.

The Habit 5 Seek First to Understand Then to be understood has taught me to be patient when someone is talking instead interrupting them when I wasn't to talk.

Habit 7 Sharpen the Saw, helps me by knowing that I don't have to work all day and I can take a break and hang out with friends.

Finally, Habit 3 puts first things first has also helped me by teaching me to do homework before playing video games or sports. So you see the seven habits not only make you a better student but also a better person. (Student)

Lost River-

Leader In Me changed my life because it made me so smart, and it has taught me how to be a good student. I have learned to be nice and good to others. When I get home from school I "put first things first" and do my homework, then I help my sister. This is how Leader in Me has changed my life. (Student)

Leader in Me has changed my life. I used to be so reactive. I didn't care about anything, I didn't listen, and I was just a bad student. Now that I'm more mature and older, I've been proactive and doing well as a student. I'm now on the leadership news program at my school Lost River Elementary. I'm also the president of the beta club. For a while I gave up but my teachers and family pushed me to keep trying. This is how Leader in Me has changed my life. (Student)

Leader In Me has changed my life. I feel like I am anew person. I am much more responsible, more organized, and nicer. I do my work first, and then I play. I work well with others in order to accomplish a goal. I begin with the end in mind by thinking ahead, for example, I pack my backpack the night before school, so I don't have to waste time packing it in the morning. Leader in Me has made be a better person, and I am thankful for it. (Student)

Leader in Me has changed my life. When I was younger I would try to do group projects by myself, I wouldn't synergize with other kids. Now I do synergize with others. I begin with the end in mind .1 always try to plan ahead my activities after school in fourth grade I had after school activities but I wouldn't have time. The leader in me has changed, I am glad to be a part of it. (Student)

McNeil-

Habit 5 has helped me be a better second grader. First, Habit 5 has helped me solve problems. For Example, when I see a problem I ask what the problem is and solve it. Next, it helped me listen to people's ideas. (Student)

Habit three has really helped me this year. First, it helps me work faster. For example, since I know I can't watch TV until my work is finished. I just forget about TV and do my work. Next, I have to do my chores first then play. (Student)

Natcher-

The 7 Habits a Leader in Me has helped me and many others at Natcher in life greatly. They help us become hard workers and leaders. Being a leader and harder will make you successful in life.

The 7 Habits and Leader in Me help us become hard workers and leaders by reminding us with the habits. Habits remind us to be in charge of ourselves, and be a leader. Habit 2 reminds us to set goals and plans, so we ca be responsible. Habit 3 reminds us to make out work our first priority, and then we can play anything else. Habit 4 reminds us to work together and consider that someone else wants. Habit 5 reminds us to listen to others, and respect them when they are talking. Habit 6 reminds us to work together nicely and teaming up to help. Habit 7 reminds us to balance our work time and playtime, and relieve out stress. Altogether, Leader and Me has things like the 7 habits, and leadership note book keeps u organized, balanced, able, and a better person. When you put this together, it helps us students become successful in life. The 7 Habits and Leader in Me have really helped everyone. We are lucky to have this program (Student).

North Warren-

Ever since we started working the "SEVEN HABITS" into our daily school lives I have seen great improvement in our school. The students including myself have become better people by using the "SEVEN HABITS" not just that our academic life has grown and grown and grown to higher levels than I have ever seen before, and trust me I have been here for 7 years now! Our school is so PROACTIVE that we are always prepared for the worst or for the best! Our school is always BEGINNING WITH THE END IN MIND by sending out information for events, also by telling us how we can get to college.

Our school is always thinking FIRST THINGS FIRST by giving us all the extra things we need to become leader. Of course our school uses the habit SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD by having a guidance counselor we can talk to about our feelings Also by are teacher listening to our teachers when their talking! We use SYNERGIZE every day of course because the students in are school need to work together so we can create a safe happy environment!

My personnel favorite is SHARPEN THE SAW which is very important because it lds you take in what you learned. Most important it lets you have fun! (Student)

I like the 7 habits because I want to be a leader. (Kindergarten Student)

Plano-

I believe that Leader in Me means to show kids how to be good leaders. Leader in Me helps me in my classroom because, we use seek first to understand then be understood. We use it to listen to students ideas. Then they listen to the idea you have. We use it in our school by, reply back. Leader in Me is helping me become a leader in the future, by teaching me how to synergize with others if I get a job. To teach me how to be proactive in the future if I had errands to do. Leader in Me is teaching me 7 habits to be successful in college and in life. (Student)

We think that Leader in Me helps people understand how people feel and act. We use it in our classroom when we're synergizing, when we're working on group projects. We use leader in me when it comes to following the school rules and some of them are no bringing writing utensils into the bathroom, and listening to what our teacher says without back talking. That's how we use leader in me in our classroom, and in our school. (Student)

Richardsville-

The Leader in Me and the Student Lighthouse Team have changed my life. It has also changed my actions. At my previous school, I was rebellious and defiant since practicing The 7 Habits at Richardsville Elementary; my attitude has become more positive. My favorite habit to practice is "Put First Things First." I like this habit because I have to use it every day at home and at school. For example, when I am home, I have to do my chores before I play. Before I started practicing "Put First Things First", I did not do my chores and then my mom and I would argue about me not doing them. Now that I "Put First Things First", my mom am proud of me for doing my chores and we do not argue as much. As a member of the Student Lighthouse Team, I feel more confident and have made more positive choices because I

am a leader at my school. By being a leader, I know that other students and teachers look up to me and will follow my actions. By learning The 7 Habits, I have become more responsible. The 7 Habits are important skills that I will continue to use throughout my life. (Student)

Rockfield-

I am a sixth grader at Rockfield Elementary School. I am writing to you on the subject of "The Leader in Me" program. I would like to inform you on how this program has not only changed my life, but my peers and school as well. First, after starting this program, discipline referrals have definitely decreased. Next, our school now knows where they have to be in life, and the steps they need to take in order to get there. Finally, the students here are always reminded of what they need to do. Now, let's talk about leadership.

First, discipline referrals have decreased. Our school started "The Leader in Me" program in 2011. From 2011-2012 our school had a total of 312 discipline referrals. The next school year we had 183 discipline referrals. THAT is a change. In the first 6 months of this school year (2013-14) we have had only 77 discipline referrals. These statistics show in fact that our school has made a big change in behavior with "The Leader in Me" program.

Next, goals are a very important part of your whole life. But, as "The Leader in Me" shows, it all starts now. Being a leader starts now. Getting a good education starts now. Personally, before my school started this program, I wasn't thinking about the future. Most kids at our school didn't. This program made me really find the leader in me. In every kid, somewhere inside them they are a leader. "The Leader in Me" helped me and many other children find where my inner leadership qualities are. So, I set goals because I know where I need to be in life.

Finally, the "Leader in Me" always reminds me what I need to do all the time. Whether it is a poster of "The Seven Habits of Happy Kids" or just a teacher telling us about this program. Speaking of "The Seven Habits of Happy Kids..." I think they are absolutely incredible. Every single of the seven habits mean something. If you are always reminded of these habits, I assure you will succeed in life. To me, these habits are like the 7 keys to life. They remind me that I am in charge of my own actions, I should plan ahead and set goals, do work before play, try to make a win-win situation, listen before I talk, synergize, and lastly, balancing my life is best.

Thank you so much for taking time to read this letter. I hope you understand how much "The Leader in Me" means to not only me, but my school too. After all, our discipline referrals have decreased, our school knows where we want to be in life, and "The Leader in Me" always reminds us of what to do. So, I would like to personally thank you for all your input in this program. Your money has been put to good use. You are greatly appreciated. (Student)

Warren East Middle School-

The Leader in Me means a lot to me. It has taught me to be more positive. For example, last year I was very negative about my grades. I was getting to the point where I was giving up. When I got into the

Lighthouse Team, though, it was like a weight was lifted off my shoulders. I was in something, so it pushed me to do better in grades, and more came to me. Now I am helping people if they need me, and that is The Leader in Me! (Student)

The Leader in Me has taught me not to judge people. Last year, I would judge people and wasn't very positive, but after being involved with Leader in Me, I am. Also, the program has taught me to have a better attitude. Last year, I was getting write-ups left and right. This year I'm not. The Leader in Me has also made a bigger impact on my life. It has taught me to be a better person. For example, last year when I saw a person that wasn't quite like me I would sit there and make fun of them. This year I helped them fit in. I'm so glad I have experienced the role of being a leader, because I would get nowhere in life without it. Teachers have said that they have seen a drastic change in me this year and that I am doing well. In fact, I'm doing so good I feel like a gold medalist. I'm so glad that I have grown up this year and have stood up for my actions instead of denying them like last year. This is what The Leader in Me has done for my life. (Student)

Leader in Me has allowed me to make more goals and accomplish them. It has taught habits about being more responsible at school, and how to better manage time between sports and school work. (Student)

Drake Creek-

The leader in me influences my life in many ways. Every day I try to use the 7 habits in daily life. Whenever, I have homework, I remember to be proactive. The 7 habits carry over in middle school. In elementary school we had to do special hand motions in songs to remember the 7 habits. It seemed very childish. Here we incorporate the 7 habits in everything we do we synergize by doing group activities. We seek first to understand then to be understood all the time! We middle schoolers are mature enough to know that if a teacher or peer is speaking, the respectful thing to do is listen and not interrupt. Even when we don't realize it, we are using the 7 habits all the time! We sharpen the saw during 3rd or 7th period. We can express ourselves in 3rd period with all music, physical education, or technology talents. During 7th period we can express ourselves in many creative ways. I and others should think win-win. Encouragement can really help some people. By helping other people win, you are not hurting yourself. You are helping yourself. The 7 habits are part of my daily life and they should be a part of yours too! Every day, be a leader and make the school a better place. That could one day make a country or world a better place. (Student)

The leader in me program is about students achieving goals (school/life). It inspires me to help others become a leader by getting good grades, studying, stop bullying. You don't have to do this at school, you can be a leader in your neighborhood, mall, and with friends. If you want to be a leader, you have to stand up for what's right and wrong, you need to follow the path you want to achieve, make a legacy, and everyone will follow you. But most of all use the 7 habits daily. You can do this at any age as long as you make a good impact for others. I know most of you can do this, so I challenge you to go out today and be a leader. (Student)

It has an influence on a lot of things you do. One of the big ways it influences me is the way I act, and my goals. Now that I have been in leadership about my goals I really want to accomplish them. I work as

hard as I can to reach my goals, and ever body should feel that way about their dreams, goals. It has taught me to never quit and believe in myself no matter what obstacles get in my way of becoming a good leader. (Student)

Bowling Green Jr High-

Leader in Me has taught me to complete my priorities first because it will benefit me later on. The 7 Habits has impacted my actions in a positive way and will continue to for the rest of my life. (Student)

Leader in Me, along with the 7 Habits have created a positive learning environment throughout the school in which I have strived to do well in. Leader in Me has opened me up to new opportunities such as jobs throughout the school and teacher aiding. (Student)

Leader in Me has taught me how to better manage my time. It has also taught me to learn how to put first things first, such as putting academics first. (Student)