

CHALLENGE

A Herff Jones IMPACT Resource For Students November, 2004

November CHALLENGE

Teamwork Works

TEAMWORK

Teamwork is not something that happens automatically. Each member of the group must contribute to the process if a team is going to develop and work at peak performance levels. Teams working in harmony and cooperation can accomplish more than any group of individuals. Building a team is not an easy task but the rewards make it worth the effort.

Some of the rewards of teamwork include:

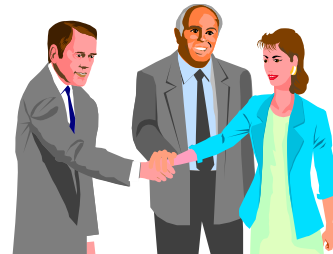
1. Realistic and achievable goals can be established by the team.
2. The members commit to supporting one another and providing effective feedback.
3. Members value each other and support each other when needed.
4. Communication is uninhibited.
5. Creative thinking is enhanced by individual perspectives and experiences.

6. Performance feedback is better because the team members are honest and positive.
7. Recognition is provided to the team for outstanding results.
8. Teamwork and productivity go together.

Successful teamwork involves:

1. **Trust:** "Trust men and they will be true to you; treat them greatly and they will show themselves great." *Ralph Waldo Emerson*
2. **Tolerance:** "Tolerance is the oil which takes friction out of life." *Wilbert E. Scheer*
3. **Tact:** "Tact consists in knowing how far to go too far." *Jean Cocteau*
4. **Sharing:** "Many ideas grow better when transplanted into another mind than in the one where they sprung up." *Oliver Wendell Holmes*

5. **Work:** "Work is the meat of life, pleasure the dessert." *Bertie Charles Forbes*
6. **Vision:** "Where there is no vision the people perish." *Proverbs 29:18*
7. **Respect:** "I must respect the opinions of others even if I disagree with them." *Herbert H. Lehman*



TO BE A TEAM PLAYER

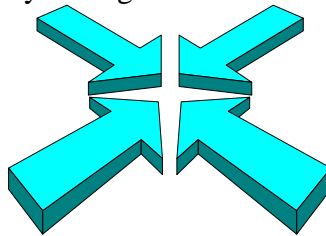
1. **Understand the team goals.** Know what is to be accomplished by the team. Also inform other team members of the goals if they do not understand them.

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2. **Help direct team goals.** **Get involved in** determining how goals should be accomplished. Your contribution is important.
3. **Show respect.** Mutual respect of each team member is vital. You have to be willing to trust the skill and expertise of the other team members.
4. **Share ideas.** To be a team member is a responsibility. Always share your creativity, new ideas and thoughts.
5. **Share glory.** You will be a poor team member if you try to take all the glory for the ideas that work and distance yourself from the ideas that fail. A good team member shares the successes and the failures.
6. **Have a positive attitude.** A positive attitude will always create upbeat working conditions even when faced with long hours and tight deadlines.
7. **Be yourself.** You were elected or became a member of the team because of special talents that you have. Let those talents be a part of everything that you do.
8. **Always be honest.** Make a pledge to always be honest with yourself, honest with the team, and honest with your advisers.
9. **Uphold the team image.** Each person must respect

and follow the guidelines that the team has set.

10. **Enjoy your commitment.** Above all, the success of the team will be determined by the personal commitment of each person on the team. Be committed to your goals, be committed to hard work, committed to service, and committed to your organization.



STUDENT RECOGNITION: THE PRIDE WALL

The PRIDE WALL recognizes students for their positive attitude and contributions that exceed the expected. Teachers are asked to choose students whom they feel have gone “above and beyond.” The names of these students are placed on “bricks” and together they form the PRIDE WALL.

In constructing the Wall, the first thing to do is find a location for the wall where it can be seen but not damaged. Choose the layout by using large pieces of paper which is divided into bricks. The names can be done on the computer, laminated, and hung on the “bricks”. Use your school colors. Next you

need to prepare a form for the teachers to use to nominate students. Keep it simple! Decide how often a teacher can nominate a student.

Teachers could be divided into groups by departments. In the beginning, send each teacher a letter of explanation with the criteria. Then decide how often to add the new names to the wall. It would also be nice to give each student a computer-generated certificate for their honor. This is an easy project to do and a great way to recognize students for their accomplishments. A common response from students has been, “I hope my name will be on the PRIDE WALL”.

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“A competent leader can get efficient service from poor troops, while an incapable leader can demoralize the best of troops.”
~General John J Pershing



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