

The following commentary really hit home with me. I've always wanted to be the type of person who finds the time and energy for the "personal touches" that let others know how much I appreciate them and their successes, or just to let them know I care and am thinking of them.

...a good example of the responsibility pillar...  
- Jennifer Unroe

Five Birds and Good Intentions

Five birds are sitting on a telephone wire. Two decide to fly south. How many are left? Most people would say three. Actually all five are left. You see, deciding to fly isn't the same as doing it.

If a bird really wants to go somewhere, it's got to point itself in the right direction, jump off the wire, flap its wings, and keep flapping until it gets there.

So it is with most things. Good intentions aren't enough. It's not what we want, say, or think that makes things happen; it's what we do.

I frequently think of writing thank-you, birthday, and congratulatory notes. Unfortunately, only a sad few of these good sentiments ever make it to paper. Still, if I don't look too closely, I can delude myself into thinking that based on my good thoughts I'm a gracious and grateful person. A truer and less admirable picture of my character is drawn by my actions.

In the end, we either do or don't do. We either make the time to do the things we want to and should do or we make excuses. As Alfred Adler said, "Life happens at the level of events, not of words. Trust movement."



What do you want to do? Do you want to take a course, change your job, lose weight, make new friends, or spend more time with and appreciate more the ones you have?

What's stopping you from jumping off the wire and flapping your wings?

- Michael Josephson

3rd Six Week  
Period  
2009-10  
School Year

# RESPONSIBILITY

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<p><b>A CHARACTER COUNTS!™ resource for Alleghany County and Covington City Public Schools</b></p> 		<p>NOVEMBER 11</p> <p>12</p> <p>"You can't escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today." - Abraham Lincoln</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Accept the consequences of your actions.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>"Those who are unwilling to invest in the future haven't earned one." - H. W. Lewis</p>
<p>16</p> <p>"The value of life is not in the length of days, but in the use we make of them; a man may live long yet very little." - Michel de Montaigne</p>	<p>17</p> <p>"We must restore the full meaning of that old word, duty. It is the other side of rights." - Pearl Buck</p>	<p>18</p> <p>"We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future." - George Bernard Shaw</p>	<p>19</p> <p>"To protect those who are not able to protect themselves is a duty which every one owes to society." - Edward Macnaghten</p>	<p>20</p> <p>A responsible person thinks about how his choices will affect other people.</p>
<p>23</p> <p>"Take your life in your own hands, and what happens? A terrible thing: no one to blame." - Erica Jong</p>	<p>24</p> <p>It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. - Chinese proverb</p>	<p>25</p> <p>"Responsibility is to keep the ability to respond." - Robert Duncan</p>		
<p>30</p> <p>"Duty is what one expects from others." - Oscar Wilde</p>	<p>DECEMBER 1</p> <p>When we are responsible, others trust and count on us.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>"We cannot do everything at once, but we can do something at once." - Calvin Coolidge</p>	<p>3</p> <p>We all make mistakes! It is important to admit your mistakes when you make them.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>"No man was ever endowed with a right without being at the same time saddled with a responsibility." - Gerald W. Johnson</p>
<p>7</p> <p>"I must do something' always solves more problems than 'Something must be done.'" - Author Unknown</p>	<p>8</p> <p>When we make promises to others, it's important to keep them!</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Don't make promises that cannot be kept!</p>	<p>10</p> <p>"Action springs not from thought, but from a readiness for responsibility." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer</p>	<p>11</p> <p>"With every civil right there has to be a corresponding civil obligation." - Edison Haines</p>
<p>14</p> <p>"Most of us can read the writing on the wall; we just assume it's addressed to someone else." - Ivern Ball</p>	<p>15</p> <p>"Any mans life will be filled with constant and unexpected encouragement if he make up his mind to do his level best each day." - Booker T. Washington</p>	<p>16</p> <p>A responsible person thinks ahead to possible outcomes of his actions.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>"When you blame others, you give up your power to change." - Author Unknown</p>	<p>18</p> <p>"Unless you change how you are, you will always have what you've got." - Jim Rohn</p>
<p>JANUARY 4</p> <p>"When a man points a finger at someone else, he should remember that four of his fingers are pointing at himself." - Louis Nizer.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>"We have the Bill of Rights. What we need is a Bill of Responsibilities." - Bill Maher</p>	<p>6</p> <p>"When a man points a finger at someone else, he should remember that four of his fingers are pointing at himself." - Louis Nizer</p>	<p>7</p> <p>"A new position of responsibility will usually show a man to be a far stronger creature than was supposed." - William James</p>	<p>8</p> <p>A responsible person doesn't blame others.</p>
<p>11</p> <p>"What it lies in our power to do, it lies in our power not to do." - Aristotle</p>	<p>12</p> <p>"We should be too big to take offense and too noble to give it." - Abraham Lincoln</p>	<p>13</p> <p>"We can have more than we've got because we can become more than we are." - Jim Rohn</p>	<p>Compiled and prepared by Jennifer Unroe 4-H Extension Agent November, 2009 (540) 862-0369 junroe@vt.edu <a href="http://offices.ext.vt.edu/alleghany">http://offices.ext.vt.edu/alleghany</a></p>	