

Ownership

As I step back and evaluate the difference between those who are successful in life and those who struggle through life it many times breaks down to individuals owning their circumstances. We all have different circumstances that affect our lives in positive and negative ways. How we approach and own those circumstances truly determines our success.

From the school perspective, it is vitally important to develop ownership in our students for their own education. We see student's motivation for education transitioning from working for teacher approval, parent approval or pressure and then hopefully owning their education. When I talk about owning their education I mean that they pay attention, complete and hand in their work because they want to learn the material and want the knowledge that school offers. This transition happens at all different ages, some come to school hungry to learn as much as they can, for some it is the transition from elementary school to junior high school, for some it is when they start high school and their GPA for college begins to count and for some it may come sometime after high school. Each child is an individual and they develop at different rates and not always on the schedule that we as parents want them to. We can model and teach ownership to our children as life throws lessons our way. As parents, educators and role models for the children in our community we need to hold ourselves responsible to model ownership in our responsibilities in life.

I have had the opportunity to work with multiple students who have made poor choices throughout my years as an administrator. Some who have come before me have felt the need to stretch the truth or try to deflect the responsibility. They received a consistent message from me that they needed to own what they did or did not do. I tell them that what happened would not define them but how they take responsibility, learn from and change their choices from this point forward will.

As a school district and community, it is our responsibility to raise our children to be as successful in life as they can be. If they hear the consistent message of ownership from us I am confident we can help them reach their potential.

Daren Christianson

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