HEMPSTEAD
City of Character

"Building On a Solid Foundation"

Time is money; but once spent, time cannot be regained.

Punctuality
vs. Tardiness

"Showing esteem for others by doing the right thing at the right time."

I will:

- " Not wait until the last minute.
- " Be on time.
- " Allow extra time for delays.
- " Not keep others waiting.
- " Remember deadlines.

Permission to use granted by Character First

Developing Punctuality

- Set realistic goals for the time you have.
- Break your task into smaller parts and begin work early.
- Order your priorities.
- Make a schedule and keep it.
- Don't let distractions keep you from your goals. Distinguish between the urgent and the important. Don't allow the urgent to pull you off track.
- Plan ahead for appointments, gather what you will need, and get directions in advance.
- Be a little in order to be on time.

Something to think about~

The average American watches up to 4 hours of television a day-or 2 months out of one year!

Learn from nature. The cliff swallow arrives to its same nesting place punctually each year, within one or two days of its arrival date the year before. See Just for Kids page for details.

For gears in a clock to run smoothly, it is important that each mesh with others in precise timing. Likewise, we should synchronize punctually with others for a group to run smoothly.

The Pony Express

The pony express existed only a short time (from 1860 to 1861), but it is a model even today of punctuality and efficiency. Working as "relay teams," riders and fresh horses were saddled up , waiting, and ready to take off with the mail pouch as soon as the incoming rider arrived. The mail was sorted, re-loaded and sent off with the new rider after only a fifteen-second to two-minute transfer time.

Whereas mail in those days usually took months to travel from Missouri to California, the Pony Express was able to deliver it in less than ten days! It became obsolete when the telegraph lines were completed in 1861.

--concept from Character First

Prime Meridian

In the mid-1800's, leaders met from all over the world and agreed on a line going north and south through Greenwich, England, as 0 degrees longitude, the Prime Meridian. This enabled time to be standardized around the world. Most progress in science and transportation could not have taken place without this standard for time.

Questions for Group Discussion

1. How can our group more effectively plan our schedules of projects or activity?
2. What are some distractions in our family or organizational environment?
3. How can we reduce distractions to our major goals?
4. How can we pace ourselves with projects and set intermediate deadlines so that the final deadline is met with ease?
5. How can we balance punctuality for deadlines with sensitivity to others' feelings and needs?

Planning ahead can avoid stress over deadlines!

Where you spend your time shows your priorities.

Be balanced!

Parents - Click here for "Tips for Parents" in Teaching punctuality n your children.

Check out the Just for Kids pages for an animal analogy and a biographic sketch illustrating punctuality.

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